

CAIUS OLD BOYS AND GIRLS ASSOCIATION



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REUNION MARCH 2014

It was, for my part, another very enjoyable reunion commencing in the afternoon at the school followed in the evening at The Langford's Hotel. It was a good turnout in spite of it being Mothering Sunday. I would like to thank all those who attended, especially those who had travelled from Las Vegas, Denmark, Italy, France and Spain. Namely, Peter Prager, Jon Harris, Rose Mari Hald, Gilles Mosseri, John Mobey, Not forgetting the long distance travellers from around the U.K. I thought that this would be the last reunion taking into account that the school shut in 1968 and Anno Domini taking its toll. However, after being encouraged, browbeaten and many offers of help it looks as if there will be a reunion next year. I have booked the 21st March 2015. These dates avoid Easter (3rd to 6th April) and Mothering Sunday). So please annotate your diaries.

We did have a minor problem with the dessert which was virtually inedible. This was brought to the attention of the management at the time and afterwards with the Events department. I am hoping to receive recompense for the failure. Thanks to Alan Gibson and Philip Emanuel for organising the Tombola and to those who donated prizes. £200 was added to the funds to assist with expenses. Gilles Mosseri from Italy has circulated a series of photographs via the email. If you have not received it then please contact me.

Barry Simons School 1963-1967

Much has changed for Alicia and I since last we spoke....Oh that was a bit prosy! After returning to Toronto in 2006 we watched as our teenagers became 20+ which was probably sufficient to give me the minor heart attack that I suffered in 2010. That was enough impetus to say "it's our time now". We left the kids in the house, packed up the old Mini Cooper and drove for six days from Toronto to the beautiful Yucatan in Mexico.

We settled in the most spectacular city of Merida which in its current form was founded in 1540. It is called "the White City" as it was torn down by the Spaniards and rebuilt using the existing white stone of the Mayan City Tola. We enjoy a house that is known as a "Poriforio" after the 19th century President Porfirio Diaz who conducted a huge building campaign to bring Mexico into the 20th Century based on the style of the French buildings of the time.

At one time (late 1800's) due to the Henequen that was made into sisal rope there were more millionaires per capita in Merida than anywhere else in the world so the "Paseo de Montejo", the Meridian equivalent of the Champs d'Elysee, has some stunning architectural palaces. Merida is an extraordinarily safe city with little or no crime due in part to the existing gentle nature of the Maya people and the huge if unobtrusive police force. We are incredibly happy here and would welcome any of our old school friends to visit particularly if they are in Cancun or visiting the official seventh wonder of the world at Chichen Itza.

I was so very saddened to hear of the death of Richard Morris following so soon after his brother. Richard was the light at the end of the tunnel for those of us in Miss Gladwys class! Didn't he have the little blue 3 wheeler that parked outside the common room? He was one of the chaperones when we went to Austria skiing. No broken anything's until the last day when someone decided to ride down the hill standing on the back of someone else's skis. If memory serves (and often it doesn't) we got stuck in an avalanche that closed the train tracks on the way home and had to be bussed out making us hours and hours late retuning to Gatwick. Barry Morris of course was our football coach and in those days we had quite a team with Gibbs, Michael Slade, and Michael Palmer (whom I believe was a better goalie than his brother). I think it was Xaverian College who were a School for the Deaf that we used to have great games against. As you may recall you sent Alicia pictures of those teams which she had mounted and now they are proudly displayed in my office.

I have one question though. What happened to all the 1000's of pictures that used to be online? Is there any way of getting them uploaded once again? It was a joy to plod through them and recognize a face or two or

sometimes even one's own. My favourite was one of the beginnings of the annual cross country race up the Downs. Some of us knew we would never be photographed returning as a leader so we sprinted out at the beginning to make sure we were at least in that photo! And there is photographic proof that at one time I was an egg and spoon champion....my children are so proud. Anyway retirement calls and I must go and hang some draperies as my daughter and mother in law visit next week. As they say here...go with God...vaya con dios.

Best regards Barry Simmons. Re the Photographs we are trying to get them back but Kevin Thompson /Robbins blacked out the web site and removed them. **M.D.**

Robert Dyke (1953-59)

I commenced employment with the Prudential in 1961 and on promotion I moved to Manchester, then York and finally to Glasgow. Many years ago we holidayed at Port of Menteith and we became friends with the owners of the small-holding. Thereafter for 2 fortnights a year we looked after their small-holding while they visited their family down South. We absolutely loved these holidays and learnt to milk and feed cows and goats, and to look after the various breeds of poultry.

On transferring to Glasgow I started looking for a small-holding and we were lucky enough to find a former farm and mill-house, dated 1540, set in the Carron Valley, 8 miles from Stirling. Such a picturesque setting and yet not cut off, being only 7 miles from the motorway. The farm had been reduced in terms of land to 7 acres. However during the years there it was a very enjoyable hobby farm on which we had 4 breeding cows, from which we had many beautiful calves that we sold at market, over a dozen goats, and poultry - including ducks, geese and chicken.

The Prudential axed their Divisional offices and I qualified for a reduced pension at 51. I was able to spend more time on the holding, it was absorbing and enjoyable work, and we have a wealth of very happy memories of the 27 years we spent on the farm. Ultimately, age and ill health caught up with us and it was deemed sensible to look for a smaller retirement house. We moved to a lovely bungalow in North Yorkshire, the village of Hunmanby, Nr Filey, at the end of August 2013 and we are very happy here. During my years at Caius (1953-59) I had many friends, the closest of which were Ron Royce, Tony Thomson, and Barry Morris. I wish you all a very happy reunion and you have my admiration for the splendid work you do as secretary.

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NEW ADDRESSES

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CLOCKWISEWEST@BTINTERNET.COM ++ **Bob Dyke** 2 High St, Hunmanby, Nr Filey. North Yorks, YO14 0JZ ++ **Barry Simons** Calle 72, #432D, Cally 47, Centro Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, 97000.++ **Colin Grassick**, 41 Honeydew Place, Mindery, Queensland, 4561, Aus. 6129983 9762. ++ **Clive Hamblin** New Email:- Clivehamblin123@btinternet.com. **Robert Delacour**. 132 Marina Crescent, Goring on Sea. Sussex 01903502022. **Asgar Patel** (known as Cascar at school) asgar_patel@hotmail.com;

IN MEMORIAM Brian Ely Died of a heart attack in 2008 at the age of 68 in Rottingdean to where he had retired. I am sorry for the delay but I have only just heard from his partner who had difficulty finding my address in his papers. He did attend earlier reunions but, like those of his era, did not find many of his peers attending.

ERIC LEVILLE

I have someone who can duplicate the Caius School badge I gave her my old badge for duplication, unfortunately the first sample was made on white instead of deep blue, she will make another sample. Now I would like to know if the "Old boys" are interested by such, this in order to estimate the cost per unit. Anyhow I will send you the sample so you can have an accurate estimation of the work. Would anyone interested in a badge please let me know ASAP. Malcolm Dunne.

ASGAR PATEL. Known as Cascar at school has recently contacted us from his home in Dubai.

I was very excited to make contact with Claude Mosseri and Alan Gibson. I was married at 22 and celebrated our 50th two years ago and have three children. I took over the family business and we did well. It is now an international company with offices in Canada, USA, New York, London, Dubai, India, Hong Kong, Oz and Singapore. At 75 I look after my health with golf and walking. I live in a tax haven of Dubai but still have family and friends etc. in India. I love Dubai but none of my family wanted to leave India. There are 14 flights a day so they either come here or I go there on a monthly basis. Yes I have had a thrilling life full of ups and downs. I am an avid golfer but work quite hard, about 6 hours a day. My day consists of half day golf and the rest for business. I am supported by a good team of professionals I am happy man but do miss my family.

I am very often in the UK and would relish meeting up with any ex-pupils. I have noted next year's date for the reunion and God willing I will be there. I will also contact my brother AKBAR PATEL (Caesar) who you may recall was a prefect and who may be interested in tying up with the Old Boys again.

Peter Prager

I found Peter again after almost 50 years. I had lost one of his changes of address and had been unable to trace him. Fortunately another Caiusian, Stewart Goodings 'AKA Copperknob' at school, who attended a Reunion, was living at that time in Vancouver and managed to contact Peter's brother, Conrad, in California. He had moved from California to Las Vegas, Nevada after his wife had tragically died at fifty five from a brain tumour leaving three sons and a daughter. Since that time with his partner Cathy they have travelled the furthest distance than anyone else to the reunions. Five return trips from Las Vegas in the last 8 years!! Not only are they great company but bring with them a dozen or so Polo shirts that have been great for our Tombola. They love football and follow the Premier League trying to attend a big game whilst in England.

I had been at Caius for a year when Peter, the first and only German boy, came to the school in 1950. His family wanted to emigrate to America and being the eldest of three sons he was sent to England to learn the language. The family had fled the Russian advance from their home in Leipzig and now lived in Idstein near Frankfurt. It's a lovely town just off the autobahn that runs close to the Rhine River down from Cologne to Munich. The centre of the town has a castle, witch's tower and many fine wooden decorated houses. Fortunately, it suffered no war damage and became a place I loved on my very many visits.

Peter loved football and we soon became friends. On learning he was unable to go home for the Christmas School holidays I told my mother who said she was sure we could find a room for him. My parents had a twenty five room Guest House in the centre of Brighton. We got on fine and when the Easter holidays came around again he stayed with us. Peter was going home for the summer holidays and his family invited me to stay with them. I was delighted to accept. We were both only 12 years old at that time.

When the time came we travelled by train via London to Dover by ferry to Calais and the overnight trip from there to Mainz took about 12 hours. At the German frontier at Aachen police boarded the train and we were checked that we were not carrying any more than a pound of coffee or tea which was the allowance at that time. We also took in cornflakes which were unavailable in Germany. Pete's Father collected us in Mainz and we drove the 25 Kms or so to Idstein. The trip was quite an adventure, how many parents would let 12 year olds take such a journey these days!

The flat was spacious, the family very friendly and food great. It was there that I first came across bed duvets. These were very thick and such a change from the blankets I was used too. We played lots of football on a cinders pitch. You avoided making low tackles or falling over! If you did the black sharp cinders dug into your skin and you would painfully have to pick it out of your skin! A boy, called Dieter, who lived next door, was a great footballer and athlete. We also became firm friends and we still keep in touch. He became Godfather to our son Matthew. The sun seemed to shine every day, it was hot and I remember getting very sunburnt. I had a very happy time there. I had thought I was going to learn the language but everyone wanted to improve their English! I have re-visited Idstein at least five times. Peter stayed with us all the school holidays and I went to Idstein the following year but this time for a month. Jacky (Coe) had come into my life by then and I wanted to see her rather than travel. As you will all know it wasn't easy to get together at school particularly as a boarder? No communication with the opposite sex! Was the watchword of the Lewis's. Jacky and I became the first of three couples who met at Caius and were married.

Peter and Cathy I think you are stars and I look forward to seeing you next year. ALAN GIBSON.

Hi Malcolm,

I read your email with alarm. This Association has been there for the second last generation of COBA. There is a whole generation of us who came to Caius after it became exclusively boys right up to the time it became Shoreham Grammar and even beyond that. It's time for that generation to stand up or Caius will be just a memory.

I'm sure that the joy I got seeing an eight year old, me, in the egg and spoon or naming everyone in the 1964 School photo, or contacting the famous Buster Sherman is not an uncommon joy. And as we all get older our reminiscences are hugely valuable. There are a few of my generation still on the site.....Kevin Palmer, Aki, Eddie Murad, Jacques Eisenstein to name a few and I know I have seen others like Michael Slade, the Maskell brothers, Paul Gillat around the web somewhere. I am out of the Country in Mexico and so co-ordinating reunions etc. would be very difficult but let me throw these ideas out.

There are over 100 people on this email. If each donated a minimum of ten pounds then the diminishing funds would be taken care of immediately. Those who can and are willing could donate more. Once financial stability has been established we would need to undertake an aggressive recruiting drive to get the "next" generation involved. I think we would need an executive group that represented all the decades including the ladies of Caius with sub groups charged with specific tasks. This cannot be left to a prior generation only to save the memories of the next generation. Not only is it unfair but it's unrealistic.

We would need access to as much documentation as possible including photographs; old newsletters etc. which I know are out there somewhere. Establishing a place where ex- students can buy pictures of themselves or their friends or a framed House Tie with a photo would be fabulous. I am willing on both counts, donation and to work if you and the existing Board think this makes sense. Let me know what you think. As always best personal regards

Barry Simons.

Thank you for your sentiments and I agree with many and I would like nothing better than for the younger element to take over. I have tried. **M.D.**

I wish you all a great summer may your God go with you always.

Malcolm

EARLY WARNING FOR NEXT YEARS REUNION NOW ON

**SATURDAY 21ST MARCH
2015**

DO NOT SAY YOU DID NOT GET ENOUGH WARNING
I am taking bookings now.