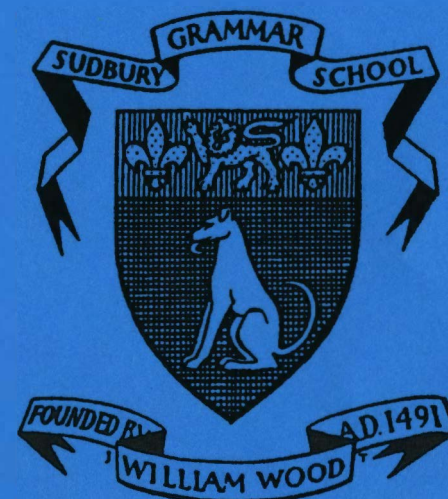


SUDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



MAGAZINE  
January 2021

## Dates

**AGM:** Friday 26th March 2021, 1200 for 12.30pm.  
This meeting will be held either face-to-face at the Masonic Hall, North St, Sudbury or by Zoom on the same date

**May Event** at Great War Huts, Hawstead. Friday 14th May 2021 Buffet Lunch £7.50

.....  
*Copy and comments are always welcome. But please remember, that insufficient copy may mean only one magazine per year.*

*Copy for the July 2021 issue should be sent to the Editor. If you prefer, send the copy electronically to [rob-in.farbridge15@gmail.com](mailto:rob-in.farbridge15@gmail.com)  
Deadline is June 20th 2021*

The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this magazine are those of the writers, who are responsible for the accuracy of the information contained within them.

## SUDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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### OBA News

The activities of the Association continue to be constrained and you will appreciate that it is not entirely clear what government restrictions on movement and gathering will remain in place in 2021. We held a members Zoom meeting in September and the committee has twice met by Zoom since then.

We note the passing of the following Old Boys: Colin P Wright 1940-45, Roger J Powell 1949-54, Peter Stonebridge 1954-55, Michael R Hills 1944-50, Alec C Chenery 1942-47, Brian R Howe 1945-49.

Meanwhile, for health reasons, the Chairman has taken a leave of absence and Michael Wheeler has agreed to be Acting Chairman.

### AGM

We plan to hold the 2021 AGM on Friday 26th March. This meeting will be held either face-to-face at the Masonic Hall, North St, Sudbury or by Zoom on the same date. We cannot know which alternative is possible at the time of printing of this magazine; when we do know, we will advise members accordingly. Should the AGM be by face-to-face meeting, the Registrar has also proposed that the meeting could also be ZOOM-ed. The business of the 2021 AGM will include:

- Committee changes; committee elections
- Proposed changes to the Constitution [page 20]
- Approval of accounts
- Annual subscriptions; last raised from £10 to £15 in 2012.
- Membership & new member recruitment
- Proposals to celebrate the 50th anniversary of SGS closure

At this AGM, we hope that the position of Chairman can be clarified.



Should Ian Brewster advise that he will not be able to resume as Chairman, we will at the AGM welcome nominations for this role.

### **Visits**

A visit to the Great War Huts Hawstead, postponed in 2020, has now been booked for May 14th 2021; afterwards, there will be a buffet lunch at the Great War Huts, cost £7.50. We must all very much hope that by that time, we can move and socialise normally.

### **Membership & Connections**

You will all have received a missive concerning the decline in numbers of Old Boys in the Association, and efforts by the Committee to maintain a viable membership; paid-up membership is currently 120. To repeat, it is hoped to increase membership in several ways;

- through contact with 'younger' Old Boys
- networking contacts between existing members and their school friends
- production of a twice yearly magazine
- promotion of an up-rated and useful website
- the use of virtual Zoom meetings.

We urge members to consider an Internet connection, to allow their participation in virtual meetings and use of the OBA website. The registrar reports that this recruitment effort has already had some modest success; we do hope that more Old Boys will join and connect.

### **Magazine**

Despite the emphasis on Zoom meetings and use of our website, the OBA magazine continues. We are pleased that there has been sufficient copy for this current magazine. Colin Garwood has continued his investigations into Old Boys who served in WW2 while Charlie Barber has researched a lesser known master, Joe Roughley. Mike Laflin has contributed a rather astonishing tale about his school visit to Italy, an unusual purchase there and subsequently, untroubled passage through the Italian and British frontiers. And an interesting fundraising letter from Alec Strahan has emerged from the Editor's collection of papers. You will also find further mutterings about current word use from the Editor.

The Editor wishes to thank all contributors.

## **Covid-19: Busting National Stereotypes during Lockdown**

The British are usually considered to be a pretty law-abiding bunch. Yes, we are champion grumblers forever whingeing about the government, Babergh, HM Revenue & Customs, even that lot on the parish council, but in the end we tend to do what is required of us. Or so the conventional wisdom would have it.

The Italians, in contrast, are tax-dodgers and queue-jumpers who ignore building regulations and see a red traffic light as a mere suggestion. I am not in the habit of quoting Benito Mussolini but it is often said that despite all the tripe that he habitually spouted he actually got it right when he said: 'Governing the Italians isn't difficult; it's useless.' Whatever a government tries to impose, the irredeemably anarchic Italians will do what they want. Or so the conventional wisdom would have it.

Then along came Covid-19 and these national stereotypes were turned on their head. Italy, particularly the northern region of Lombardy, was hit earlier and harder than other European countries, and the government acted swiftly. A state of emergency was declared as early as 31st January 2020, then in February the 'red zones', those municipalities with high infection rates, were quarantined. The prime minister, Giuseppe Conte, and the minister of health, Roberto Speranza, made it clear that nationwide measures would follow.

On Saturday 7th March my wife and I went to the cinema to see *Parasite* and on the way home we stopped at a restaurant. The next day I spent a demoralising afternoon in a football stadium (being an Ipswich Town fan has been bad enough in recent years but the suffering is doubled if your second team is Cagliari). By Monday 9th March such reckless behaviour was no longer possible as two months of strict lockdown began. I dutifully downloaded and printed the forms that we had to fill in and hand over to any inquisitive police officer if we wanted to go outside our municipality. I also went to the nearest supermarket, the only one we were allowed to shop at.



It was quite a spectacle to see allegedly ill-disciplined Italians all wearing face masks and plastic gloves as they waited outside the supermarket until a member of staff gave them the okay to enter (only four people were allowed in at a time). The pharmacies had quickly sold out of surgical masks and many people were wearing home-made alternatives, while all respected the recommendation to stay two metres from one another. When it was my turn to enter the first thing I noticed was that toilet paper was in plentiful supply, the only empty shelves being those on which bottles of bleach and surgical spirit had stood. When I approached the checkout I saw that bright yellow floor markings indicated to us exactly where we had to stand as we awaited our turn. Thanks to *Filmon.com* I could watch UK television, so I knew how the pandemic was being handled - or mishandled - in Britain. For Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson it should have been his Churchill moment, a national emergency to give him an opportunity to display his strong leadership qualities and stirring rhetoric. Instead he dithered and waffled, was contradicted by his own ministers, and when lockdown was belatedly introduced, too much was left to people's good will and common sense. That Stanley Johnson and Dominic Cummings blithely assumed that the rules did not apply to them did little to encourage the general public to behave responsibly.

I was also in regular contact with an Italian living in London who, in the spring of 2020, was horrified at the Brits' failure to appreciate the gravity of the situation. When Martina was still my student I told her that there was a shortage of language teachers in England and that if she did a PGCE course she would easily get a full-time job in a state school. As it happened she secured a post as teacher of Spanish before she had even completed her training and now has Qualified Teacher Status, which means that she will have guaranteed employment in UK schools for as long as she can cope with the stress of the job. Martina told me how people stared at her as if she were an extraterrestrial when she put on her surgical mask, and many smirked when she took her bottle of hand sanitiser out of her handbag. Until, when much valuable time and many lives had been lost, it finally sunk in that the Italians had not overreacted.

If Boris Johnson had worried that imposing lockdown earlier would

have made him unpopular, it was a serious error of judgement. At the time of writing (3rd August) polls show that Giuseppe Conte has approval ratings of around 60%, which makes him by far the most trusted political figure in the country. People cite his firm handling of the Covid crisis, and Conte himself has repeatedly expressed his gratitude to the Italian public for their patience and responsibility. Whether this mutual appreciation would survive a renewed surge of infections and the reimposition of lockdown is far from certain, and my observation is that young people in particular are beginning to abuse the partial easing of restrictions. Up to now, however, the Italians have refused to live down to their reputation as an unruly bunch of law-breakers and Conte has shown that you don't have to puff out your chest and wear a uniform to be a convincing leader.

A great deal can happen between August 2020 and January 2021 when the *Old Boys'* magazine is due to be published. The best-case scenario is that we will have a vaccine by then but it is just as likely, perhaps more likely, that things will get worse before they start to get better. Further pressures upon the British and Italian populations could spark off reactions that render everything written above just so much codswallop!

*Update 09.12.20* : Like the UK Italy has adopted a regional approach to deal with the second wave: our equivalent of Tiers 1, 2 and 3 are yellow, orange and red zones. A setback has been the technical failure of the Italian track and trace app. Wearing masks is not optional. Quite simply, without a mask you cannot enter shops, cafés or public offices and your temperature may also be checked before you are allowed in. At the entrance hand sanitiser is provided and practically everyone uses it. Travel restrictions have been announced to prevent big family get-togethers at Christmas and New Year. The infection rate is dropping but the mortality rate among those who do contract the virus remains high, largely because Italy has one of the oldest populations in the world.

We have our share of Covid deniers, anti-vaxxers and flat-earthers, and irresponsible politicians who encourage their tommyrot, but for moment the sensible majority are remaining vigilant and patient.

*Steve Buckledee [SGS 1965-72]*



## Joe Roughley; a lesser known SGS master

Joe Roughley attended St Helens Catholic Grammar School from 1922–1929 and then took a teaching qualification at St Mary's Training College Strawberry Hill, Twickenham between 1930–1933. He completed higher education with a Northern Universities HSC in 1929 and in 1933, a BSc (External) from London University in physics, pure & applied maths. Roughley then took a series of teaching posts: St Mary's College, Trinidad, WI, (1933–1934); Supply Teacher under LCC (Feb 1935–Nov 1935); St Francis School, Tottenham (Dec 1935 - Dec 1938); and the RAF Education Service (Jan 1938–Dec 1945). On leaving RAF service, he was appointed to the SGS staff, on probation, on Jan 1st 1946; his appointment was confirmed on 7th May 1946. Joe Roughley taught at SGS for 8 years, leaving at the end of December 1953 for a new post as Senior Physics Master at Holywell GS in Flintshire. At SGS, Joe took physics in the 6th form, general science in forms 1 & 2 and mathematics in forms 2 & 3.

We do not know much more about Joe. In July 2014, John Deathe wrote: 'I think we called Mr Roughly 'Joe' but I have no idea if that was his real given name. He taught science and chemistry for my first and second forms in 1946 and 1947. He was popular and a very friendly quiet fellow...' In 1951, when W H Martin was Headmaster, Joe joined Stanley Kay at the 65th Annual Athletic Sports on Thursday July 26th; they no doubt functioned as most efficient race starters.

*Based on information compiled by Charlie Barber*

## Bank Fracture

In October, Netherlands-based Old Boy Mike Farrant told us about a banking problem, a likely consequence of Brexit and the uncertainty associated with leaving the EU (a 'seamless transition' I believe we were told).

Lloyds, his bank of 60 years, advised him without explanation that they were closing all accounts of British citizens who live in the Netherlands and, if there was no non-Netherlands address given to them by November 1st 2020, the accounts would be closed and a cheque sent to the account holder for the balance in the accounts.

The Lloyds Help Line proved to be the most unhelpful that he had ever experienced; the fully briefed Help Line person just said that 'it was because of Brexit' and 'I only know that we are closing accounts at this bank because of Brexit'.

Mike's sister, who worked at Lloyds for many years but is now retired, was able to discover that all UK banks have a licence to operate within the EU and those licences will expire on December 31st 2020 but banks do have the option to renew if they so wish, an option that Lloyds has decided not to take up.

Let us hope that Mike, and other UK nationals living in the EU, can quickly solve their banking difficulties.

## A letter from Alec Strahan

*[In 1974, The Editor was working in Saudi Arabia and this letter from Alec reached me there. Subsequently, I did send him some news and a donation]*

[header] SUDBURY UPPER SCHOOL

Tudor Road  
Sudbury,  
Suffolk CO10 6NW

Mr A J Strahan  
Headmaster

22 September 1974

Dear Robin

Probably the last thing you were expecting was a letter from me. I have two motives in writing to you. The first is plain curiosity. I recently met two old boys who had passed through the Sixth form of the Grammar School in my time. One had passed his degree and was a foundry worker; the second had failed his degree and was running a newspaper. Both seemed equally prosperous and contented.

And I thought that now that Sudbury Upper School is well and truly launched, it would be interesting to find out what has happened to the generations who passed through the school from 1960 to 1972. Some have kept touch for a while; I hear of others through their parents who still live in the district; others have disappeared like balloons over the horizon and I have no idea where they have landed up. And so you will find a form enclosed - I apologise for the form but it makes it much easier to sort this end and I am being optimistic and expecting a large return - on which you can put down some details of your career since leaving school.

Please attach your life story in greater detail if you have time. I am writing initially to all who entered the Sixth form. Later I hope to cover the others.

My second motive is self-interest (on behalf of the new school). We have in the new Upper School which has succeeded Sudbury Grammar

School, The High School and the Boys Secondary School (more of that later) a swimming pool. It wasn't included in the original plans; they gave us a fine Sports Hall instead. But I felt we must have a pool at all costs in our new school or there would be no swimming at all. So we went ahead on our own. The Education Committee agreed to pay half the cost if we would raise the other half.

We now have our pool, a 25-metre outdoor, heated pool, somewhat smaller than the town pool, but our own. After school and at weekends, however, it becomes available to the general public as part of the Sudbury Sports Centre. Half of the cost came to about £6,900. We have already raised some £4,250 which leaves us still with a debt of over £2,500.

Will you help us to clear that debt? Old Boys that I have spoken to recently have led me to believe that many of you still feel sufficiently benevolent to the memory of Sudbury Grammar School to give a helping hand to its successor, Sudbury Upper School.

And we do feel like the legitimate heirs. Almost to a man (and woman) the staff of the Grammar School transferred to the Upper School. (more than half the High School Staff came too). There has of course been an infusion of new blood from outside to help us through our revolution but in the main it has been a home-made revolution and I think the changes are ones that most of you would have approved of. Come and visit us and see for yourself what a mixed Sixth form of 215 feels like in a total population of 950.

But before that please do two things: give us details of your career since leaving school and then, if you are feeling generous, put your hand in your pocket and make us a donation to the swimming pool. Please write soon, don't leave it till Christmas!

With best wishes, yours sincerely [signed A J Strahan]

PS This morning I swam 20-lengths of the pool in a sponsored Swim. You see how desperate we are!

## John Alexander Geddes: An Appreciation

We can only know fragments of a friend's life so this is written with some caution or trepidation, since it is neither a life story, nor an obituary and is hardly a valedictory address either. Fragments will have to do.

While maintaining connections with East Anglia and his family, our dynamic OBA Chairman spent his working life in Europe where he married a French wife, brought up two sons and acquired Dutch (Flemish) language to complement the German and French that he learnt at SGS.

It was out of Belgium that he worked in Africa, saw Africa style accountancy, crazy audits and dust storms in Senegal; and he still managed the odd postcard to school friends, a postcard habit that never left him. In Brussels, he ran his own accountancy partnership; focussed it seems upon assisting troubled tiny businesses and advancing others' careers, including that of an immigrant accountant, at a time of much discrimination; many of his clients remained affectionate friends.

An interest in steam trains, from Sudbury days, migrated to the continent where JAG seemed to know of many preserved steam railways in Europe, in particular in Germany where he visited his favourite, the Harz Mountain railway, several times.

And in JAG, the Royal Brussels Cricket Club acquired a long term enthusiastic member, with modest cricket talent but with enormous social and organising skills; here he made many long term friendships. And the rather dormant OBA connection was refurbished by a Belgium Cricket Tour, organised by RJE and by JAG at the Belgium end, with downpours, 2 matches at the BCC pitch near Waterloo and wheat beer.

A divorce failed to kill his real liking for female company and travel and cricket. Travel allowed his long term connections with old friends from school and from his profession; it was also driven by a strong interest in foreign places, from Australia-NZ, to Easter Island, Scotland, Hong Kong, Iceland, Spain, Portugal and latterly, the Czech Republic and rural France. A visit to Alsace exposed his real interest in language since there, only 30 km from Basel, he enthusiastically tried to decipher the Alsace dialect from its German-French mixing.

On Brexit, he disagreed fundamentally with the OBA Editor's views on that



subject. Why in his time in Belgium, he acquired a deep dislike of the EU apparatus in Brussels, the ethos of EU bureaucrats, and the whole Common Market idea, remains to me a complete mystery. And continuing the Brexit debate, the Editor can remember, while sitting in a café at the foot of Mont Ventoux, a heated JAG debating the EU in Flemish and English and French with a table full of Dutch and Belgium cyclists. Actually, it is also a mystery to me why he had a deep dislike of cyclists since, while a fast driver of French cars, he was a safe driver.

Around retirement, JAG moved back to the Sudbury area and those subsequent years showed other sides of the man. It became clear that he loved East Anglia (he was adamant that he had always planned to return!) and certainly was an enthusiastic guzzler of real beer. He was gregarious, public spirited and enthusiastic and active in several organisations; he supported the OBA, his Parish Council, several local history Societies and a bowls club while keeping church accounts.

During his time as Committee member and Chairman of the OBA, it became obvious how effective and active he was; we remember his fast decisions followed by prompt actions which could include liaison with Ormiston, the SGS successor school. He was innovative at promoting the Old Boys' May time events and, as food was important to him, skilled at the negotiation of special lunch deals. Having to give up his car, due to an operation that rendered his eyesight inadequate, was a huge blow to him.

In his later years, he was sociable and hospitable. He maintained his dislike of the EU, poor English usage, banking changes (he rejected internet banking which did lead him to considerable extra trouble when banking), service delay in restaurants, and plants. I mention plants as when he moved to his last house, he immediately savaged a fine Wisteria. In this later life, he spent ages on researching his family history, one result of which was a stonemason ancestor from west Scotland. His father's WW1 experience also exercised him, particularly the idea that Dad threw bombs over the side of a pitching biplane.

At his simple funeral, a filled Crematorium was indicative of a greatly loved, admired and much faceted and gregarious man.

*Robin Farbridge (SGS.1953-60)*

## Word Use: Rant & Retraction

The following words and phrases are or have been objected to by various magazine contributors:

<i>Footfall is on the uptick</i>	numbers of customers have increased
<i>Absolutely</i>	out of control! Probably means yes. Seems to be mandatory in all sentences where it is largely meaningless or else it just means <i>yes</i> . [original meaning perhaps 'without condition or limitation']
<i>Decimate</i>	battle lost. Originally meant one tenth but now means significant to enormous damage
<i>Ordinance</i>	generally ecclesiastical use; an authoritative dispensation, direction, regulation. Misused recently in a BBC programme about mapping & GIS where the presenter clearly didn't know his ordnance from his ordinance.
<i>Ordnance</i>	Has the distinction with ordinance been lost? of artillery, guns; maps were useful for artillery distance estimates. Mapping in the UK is by the Ordnance Survey
<i>Like</i>	out of control! The main constituent of 'like-speak' in which the word is used many times in the sentence as a joining word between largely incoherent fragments of wisdom.

Most of these words have been grumbled about in earlier magazines (July 2012 and July 2015) yet they have persisted and must somehow be useful and apparently have entered the language. Maybe criticisms should now be withdrawn.

*The Editor*

## Laflin Breaches UK Security

*Mike Laflin was in a party of SGS boys that went to Italy during the Easter Holiday in April 1956. Below, Mike tells what happened in Rome and afterwards, an astonishing tale which is perhaps indicative of more relaxed and trusting times:*

As you might know, I was always into shooting from a very young age and was taught how to handle a gun when I was 5 or 6. Whatever would the politically correct say about that today.

Anyway, I went to Italy with the party from SGS in April 1956. When walking down a street in Rome, I saw a gunshop and thought that I would like to buy some boxes of Italian 12 Bore Cartridges to try but of course the language defeated me. All was not lost. I remembered that one of the masters, a Mr Petherbridge (Birdy) who was with us, was doing a correspondence course in Italian so when we arrived back at the hotel, I located him and dragged him back to the shop where, with the aid of his Italian/English dictionary, the purchase was made. Of course I had forgotten how heavy they would be to carry across Italy and Europe to get home. The enthusiasm of youth!

I think that I still have one somewhere. You think what would happen if I had done it today, they would have soon be detected and straight off to gaol as a terrorist.

While on the subject of guns, Bryan Argent and I regularly used to go shooting together and we used to ride our bicycles through the local villages with guns across the handlebars. We really would be in trouble if we did that today!.

*Mike Laflin {SGS 1953-60}*

## Marching On In Firm Endeavour: 1941

**Flight Lieutenant James Henderson Whitfield Dunn**  
**39970 RAF 100 Squadron Died 9<sup>th</sup> January 1941**



James Henderson Whitfield Dunn (SGS1929-37) the son of Alexander Dunn (a corn and coal merchant's clerk) and Ann Johnston Whitfield Dunn, had been born in County Durham 20th January 1919. His primary education was at a prep school in Clare run by his mother. His time at SGS overlapped both his brothers. The elder Alexander (SGS1928-33) went on to study theology, the younger David Livingstone (SGS1932-37) became an apprentice at Marconi Chelmsford. James gained a scholarship to SGS, unlike his brothers who were 'fee payers'. At school he gained colours in football and cricket and became a pre-

fect. His card shows he passed the Cambridge School Certificate in June 1934 and matriculated in December 1934.

Leaving the school from the VI Form in July 1937, he gained a temporary commission in the RAF. He is listed as Acting Pilot Officer, under instruction at No 4 Flying Training School in Egypt at Abu Sueir. In January 1939 he is listed as a Pilot Officer with 27 Bomber Squadron at Kohat in India. On May 5th 1939 when making a heavy landing in a Wapiti K2295 he crashed due to the undercarriage collapsing, but no injury was reported. After service with No 4 Anti-Aircraft Cooperation Unit at RAF Seletar Singapore, he was transferred on October 23rd to A Flight No 100 Squadron based at the same airfield flying the obsolete single engined Vickers Vildebeest Mk III torpedo bomber biplane. His promotion to Flying Officer (with effect from 31st December 1939) was recorded in the London Gazette of January 9th 1940.

Although war against Germany had been declared in September 1939, the operations record book records just one sortie to look for an armed German



merchant cruiser. Although the Japanese were working southward the only mention of this is a lecture on their Navy. Life consisted of training exercises, dropping dummy torpedoes and bombs at sea, attacking ships including HMS Durban, gunnery (the Vildebeest observer had a Lewis gun, while the pilot had a Vickers) by day and night.

'Operations Record Book No.100 Squadron Summary of Events: 9/1/41 V Vildebeest K2934 took off at 1010 hours piloted by F/O J.H.W Dunn accompanied by Sergt. Powell R. Air Obs. To tow a drogue for air firing. At 1105 hours an aircraft of No 36 Squadron landed at Seletar and reported that at approximately 1045 hours fire appeared to break out at the extremity of the exhaust tail pipe which developed into a sheet of yellow flame. The fabric was seen to be on fire. (Although the aircraft had a metal fuselage the wings and tail plane were fabric.) The aircraft immediately dived towards the sea. No one actually saw the aircraft hit the water. The bodies were recovered the same day'.

'27/1/41 Promotions Flying Officer J H W Dunn (39970) (deceased) promoted Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 31/12/40.' (This was confirmed in the London Gazette January 21st 1941). Sergt. Powell was later confirmed in the rank of Sergeant Air Observer and was entitled to wear the 'Observer' badge from 1/8/40!

They are buried in Kranji Cemetery Singapore. On James' headstone (grave 37A10) the dedication is 'Jimmy'" Of Clare, Suffolk, England. Jimmy was obviously a name of endearment used by his family. The picture of him was found on an Ancestry family Tree captioned Uncle Jimmy.



A Vildebeest (shown left) from the same batch which included the one piloted by James on his fatal flight. Originally named "wildebeest" from

the Afrikaans for Gnu, a spelling error in official correspondence renamed it Vildebeeste.



He is commemorated in St Peter and Paul's Church, Clare and on the War Memorial in the Market Square which has recently been cleaned. The photograph is of the lower section of the side facing the Bell Hotel

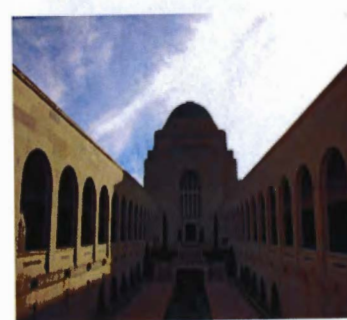
## Sgt Jack Edwards QX1530 Australian Army Ordnance Corps Died 23 April 1941

This man has been extremely difficult to trace. Searches of the 1911 census have not found him or his parents. The first paragraph below was written by the late John Geddes based on Jack's SGS record card.

Jack Edwards was born on 22nd Oct 1908. His parents had been in Dorking where he attended the High School. The family moved to Long Melford running the Black Lion Hotel and Jack joined SGS on 13th Sept 1921 as a boarder and a fee payer. His parents were 'unable to pay boarding fees' and he left to become a clerk in a City Office. Emigrated to Australia (date not noted) and took up farming. Enlisted in AEF at the outbreak of war and died of wounds in Libya 23rd April 1941.

Despite repeated trawls of the internet, Ancestry, and the British Newspaper Archive, little has been found. However, in the Suffolk Free Press of 26th April 1923, Boardman and Oliver announced an auction of household furniture and effects at the Black Lion for Mrs Edwards who was leaving the district. Had Mr Edwards died? Jack is shown leaving SGS on 1st Apr 1924 suggesting that he stayed on after his mother moved

The Australian Archives show that he enlisted on November 3rd 1939 at Hughenden, Queensland giving his date of birth as 22 Oct 1913 (he did not need to fake his age as he under the age limit) and said his birth place was London. He became a sergeant in the Australian Army Ordnance Corps with 2/1 Army Field Workshop. He died of wounds



during the Siege of Tobruk in Libya on 23 April 1941. He is buried in Tobruk War cemetery in grave 3M8. The cemetery register shows he was aged 27, the son of Mrs H Rule of Bick-erly, Kent. Florence Ed-wards had married Harry



Rule in Quarter3 of 1935.

Jack's name is recorded on Panel 91, supplementary panel 10 of the Australian War Memorial at Canberra, is pictured above; on the adjacent plan, the red poppy shows where Jack is commemorated. His name will be projected on the exterior of the Hall Of Memory March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 04.33am. (approximately 17.33 GMT March 2<sup>nd</sup>)



His name is sixth from the top on the righthand face of the Hughenden, Queensland War Memorial.

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**Sergeant Bernard Caldwell Culy Harpur 929132 77 Squadron  
RAF Died 29/06/1941**

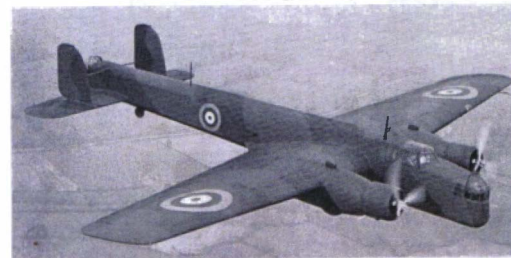
Bernard Caldwell Culy Harpur was born 6th October 1921 the son of Alexander Caldwell Harpur and Constance née Foster of Acton Vicarage. He attended a private prep school in Acton before joining the Grammar School 15th September 1931 as a fee-paying day pupil. His brothers were both at SGS; Alexander (Alec) William Culy from 1923-30, and John Fellowes Culy 1928-34, Culy being the maiden name of their paternal grandmother. Bernard passed the Cambridge School Certificate in July 1937 leaving on 29th March 1938 to study at the College of Estate Management and Chartered Surveyors in London. He be-



came articulated to Bidwell and Son of Cambridge.

Unsuccessfully volunteering for the Fleet Air Arm, Bernard enlisted in the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve at the earliest opportunity after his 18th birthday in the Autumn of 1939

Details of his training are not available; the date he joined 77 Squadron is believed to be April 1941. He had attained the rank of Sergeant; a good proportion of the pilots in the squadron were Sergeants who quite often captained aircraft with one or two officers in the crew. He was shown as Second Pilot on a raid from RAF Topcliffe (Lincolnshire) on 17th April 1941 to bomb Berlin. Again, as Second Pilot he was in-



*Armstrong Whitworth Whitley 1*

involved in raids to Hamburg 6th May and Bremen 8th May and raids in June to Brest 10th, Schwerte 12th, and Dusseldorf on the 18th when the aircraft was hit by flak (anti-aircraft fire) and had to land at Bircham Newton near Kings Lynn.

Graduating to aircraft captain he flew on missions on 21st June to Dusseldorf and 24th June to Koln (Cologne). His final raid was on 27th June flying a Whitley KN-B Z6568 to bomb Bremen. The squadron record reports: 'The aircraft force landed in the sea. Sgt. Harpur killed, other members of the crew rescued'. The aircraft was hit by flak over the target and came down in the sea near the Dutch Friesian Islands about 100 miles east of Flamborough Head. The only eyewitness report is from Flying Officer D F E C Dean on his first trip as second pilot. The survivors spent 4 days in a waterlogged dinghy, being strafed during day light by Me 109 fighters preventing a pickup by Air Sea Rescue launches. Royal Navy Motor Gun Boats managed to pick them up at night and landed at Felixstowe. He fails to mention Bernard at all.

Probate records say he was 'believed to have been killed through war operations on 30th June 1941 and whose dead body was found in the North Sea 30th June 1941'. His death was registered at Yarmouth in July, suggesting his body was landed there. The death was reported in



the Daily Telegraph on the 4th July as 'killed in action, July'. His funeral, conducted by his godfather, was held at Glemsford St Mary's Church, where his father was the incumbent. Mr R L Gillingham attended the service. Bernard, by remaining at the controls of the crippled aircraft, allowed his crew escape but at the loss of his own life.



The gravestone at Glemsford includes the words 'Died at sea on St Peters Day 1941 giving his life for the crew he captained'.

### Captain Kenneth Wilfred Nunn 833872 and 165394 RA

Kenneth Wilfred Nunn was born 8th April 1915 to a farming family from Grove Farm Edwardstone. He joined SGS 28th April 1925 as a fee-paying Day pupil after attending a private prep school in Sudbury. He left 22nd March 1929 from Form IV to work for his father. He tried to join the Police Force but failed the height specification. He joined the Royal Artillery for 3 years reaching the rank of Bombardier and was placed on reserve. Returning to the family farm he was mobilised when War was declared. He had married Victoria Joy Hobbs before going to France, she was living at Grove Farm in September 1939. He was evacuated from Dunkirk.

The London Gazette of 28th January 1941 shows he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (no 165394). Further promotions cannot

be traced but the Suffolk Free Press of 26th July 1943 records a daughter Rosemary Ursula born at Hertford to Victoria Joy (née Hobbs) and Captain Kenneth Nunn RA of Woodthorpes Farm Assington. The Army List of 1944 shows him as a Temporary Captain and War Substantive Second Lieutenant. There are lots of gaps in Kenneth's story. Did he take part in D-Day, or did he serve in another theatre of war? He came back to Suffolk to farm. The London Gazette shows that the partnership between Kenneth and David Southcott, farmers of Severalls Farm Assington, was dissolved on 11th October 1952. Some sources show that he emigrated to South Africa and died in 1995, having worked as a shark mesher and telephone operator.

*Can anyone help with further information on Kenneth Nunn or other Old Boys and Masters who served between 1939-45? I am grateful to all members who have contacted me; your information will be featured in due course. Thanks also to Charlie Barber who has helped with the search for John (Joe) Roughley, whose story will be featured in a future edition. My contact details are shown in the Magazine.*

Colin Garwood (SGS 1954-59)

### Old Boy Published



'The Language of Brexit' by Steve Buckledee was published in 2018. [Bloomsbury ISBN 978-1-3500-4796-9] Sub-titled 'How Britain talked its way out of the European Union', it deals with the role language and the mass media played in the Brexit debate and the impact it had on voters.

In 2020, he has had published 'Tabloiding the Truth; It's the pun wot won it' [Palgrave Macmillan ISBN 978-3-030-47276-4]. This is an exploration of the British tabloid newspapers from the 1960s to the present day and examines what skills journalists exhibit in sensationalising, exaggerating and otherwise 'tabloiding' the truth, while usually stopping short of stating unambiguous falsehoods.



# Sudbury Grammar School Old Boys Association

## CONSTITUTION [*proposed revisions in italic*]

Object: To form a connecting link among Old Boys of the School.

Rules:

1. Membership is open to any Old Boy of the School, on payment of an annual subscription.
2. Former members of the staff of the School, and the Principal of Ormiston Academy (or such school that might succeed Ormiston) or a nominated deputy shall be honorary non-voting members. [*allows for successor schools*]
3. The Association's year shall end on 31st December.
4. Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January and must be paid by April 30th.
5. An Annual General Meeting shall be held by April 30th.
6. The Association shall be administered by the following officers, elected each year at the AGM; Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar. [*Archivist post deleted from Constitution; the archive is now at Ormiston so no Archivist role*]. Each officer shall present a Report at the AGM. And up to six Committee Members, including the Editor and the Social Secretary. An Independent Examiner (approved by the members annually) shall be appointed to audit the Annual accounts. The Association shall have a President. When a vacancy occurs, the Committee will nominate a candidate for the position for approval by members at the AGM. The President will attend Committee meetings ex officio. [*rationalises earlier Chairman-President confusion; the members of the committee value the input of our current president*]
7. The Treasurer shall present audited accounts at the Annual General Meeting
8. The Officers and Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members of the Committee
9. The Quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be ten members, and for Committee Meetings five members.
10. Meetings may take place via digital methods where circumstances prevent personal contact. Arrangements will be made for voting by post or via the internet when at such meeting, motions are proposed for members approval. [*allows for lockdowns, social distancing, Zoom meetings*]