



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

Old Westcliffian Newsletter

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ISSUE 2 / SUMMER 2025

WHSB remembers and commemorates the 80th anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2025



FIDE ET FORTITUDINE

Welcome from Our Secretary

Welcome to the summer edition of the Old Westcliffian Newsletter. As you will recall, the OWA merged into the School three years ago. The transition is complete and I am sure all alumni are enjoying this School produced Newsletter.

As the integration into the School progressed, it became clear to the OWA Steering Group, which advises the School, as to the strength of the wider alumni network, although possibly the various strands of the network are not as cohesive as they could be. The more cohesive, the greater the benefit to the School, its pupils, current and recent leavers and the more seasoned OWs. However cohesion must not and cannot diminish the independence or unique characteristics of each strand.

I thought it would be helpful to expand on this and explain elements of the wider alumni network in addition to the OWA.

Many of the alumni organisations are a result of relationships built from the School's extensive extra-curricular programme. The largest of these currently include former members of the Combined Cadet Force (this is now a tripartite CCF, with Royal Navy, Army and Royal Airforce sections) – this is a considerable body, despite the CCF only having been established by the Headmaster in 2012, and with wonderful, sustained support from the Governing Board, the Headmaster, and committed staff who volunteer. With around 250 pupils in the CCF at any one time, this alumni body will grow swiftly and with a deep sense of camaraderie, shared experiences and bond. We were pleased to see many return to last year's CCF Annual Dinner, which also provided an opportunity to say farewell to Jonathan Bleakley, Assistant Head and former commander of the School's CCF contingent, he himself having made such a major contribution to the setting up, growth, and success of the CCF in the early years.

Other strong alumni bodies include those who were, when at School, involved with Drama and Music, and those former pupils who studied at Oxbridge, amongst others.

In addition, very many alumnus return to the School to advise current pupils on careers, to lecture on their specialisms or simply to meet with the Headmaster and tour the School.

Of course, there are so many informal alumni groups, who meet as friends to socialise with perhaps not always realising that they are yet another alumni strand.



Next year marks the centenary of the Old Westcliffian Association. This is a considerable landmark and one which the School will celebrate. However, now is the time for the OWA and its relatively small number of active members to consider how it, and indeed they, fit into the wider School alumni network. Clearly and significantly the OWA was the first and founding strand of the alumni network. Despite much effort in recent years it is clear that other strands have much more resonance with recent leavers. Sadly, whatever your Steering Group has attempted in an effort to boost attendance over the past few years, numbers remain low with around 30 OWs and guests attending, excluding those from School and friends and guests of the Steering Group. Therefore, the difficult decision has been made that a reunion dinner will not be held this year, but with a view to holding a special celebratory dinner in 2026, and with a view to that relaunching our annual reunion dinners.

We hope that with cohesion of the various alumni strands, the celebration of the centenary of the OWA as the founder of the Schools alumni organisations will be a huge success. The School will announce more on the plans in coming months.

Jon Gershinson
Secretary

secretary@oldwestcliffianassociation.org



Pupils, parents, staff, OW cadets, and guests attended the CCF Annual Dinner following the Passing Off Parade to celebrate the Cadets' Awards and Promotions



Presidents Message

Fellow Old Westcliffians, in an uncertain world, and a country which seems uncertain of its global role, it is comforting to belong to a community such as WHSB, which offers cohesiveness and stability.

The School under the Headmaster and his talented team is reaching new heights of excellence since WHSB was once again rated in the top forty state schools nationally. This is a superb achievement and one in which we can all be justly proud.

Last December, I was delighted to be at the annual presentation by the OWA, to the school, of a magnificent Christmas tree. I was also honoured to be present at a moving flag raising ceremony on the eightieth anniversary of VE day, accompanied by an impressive parade by the school CCF. My thoughts were dominated by all those OW's who had selflessly laid down their lives for their country.

There will not be a reunion dinner this year as we continue to contemplate our centenary next year. This is a tremendous achievement for any institution, and one which we look forward to celebrating wholeheartedly.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their support previously as OWA Vice Presidents: Honorary Alderman David Norman, MBE, MA (Oxon), M Univ (Open), Arthur R Millman, FCA and Colin R N Taylor, FCA.

I wish you all good health and happiness and a splendid Summer.

Terry Birdseye, JP, President OWA



Commemorating VE Day: The Headmaster and CCF Cadets pictured with Mrs Sam Ghauri (Chair of the Parents Association), Mr Terry Birdseye (President OWA), and Mrs Jemima Clarke (Community Development Assistant)

OUR CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

I would like to join our Secretary and President in welcoming you to the summer edition of our new look Old Westcliffian Newsletter, and hope you have enjoyed a restful break during the weeks throughout the summer.

As our President, Terry Birdseye has noted in his welcome message, there will be no OW Reunion Dinner this September as it was decided that our attentions should now be directed towards our very special forthcoming Centenary celebration. In 2026, it will be 100 years since the Old Westcliffians formed an Association and, whilst its structure and constitution may have changed since its inception, a strong OW network is fundamental both to the School's Alumni, and to the enrichment of the educational experience offered to pupils attending our School.

We have much to celebrate, and are planning a special OW Centenary Dinner during an extended few hours of wonderful activities to mark this important occasion in the School's history and development. Our planned date for this celebration is Saturday 12 September 2026. Please keep this date in your diary and, during this academic year, we shall be contacting OWs with further details of that event, which will be held at the School.

The decision concerning our proposed venue and timings have been arrived at having reviewed the feedback from OWs through a survey carried out last year, and we hope to see as many OWs as possible joining us for that event. We have noticed that numbers attending the annual OW Reunion Dinner decline year on year, and therefore hope a different format and timings for this occasion will make attendance easier for many. We plan to mark the occasion through contributions from OWs, current pupils, and members of staff at WHSB, and therefore your support in attending would be very much appreciated. Equally, we are happy for OWs to bring their family members with them, and we know that, in some cases, this may include two or three generations of OWs!



OW Professor Timothy Gocher OBE DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, returns to WHSB as Guest of Honour for the CCF Pass Off Parade and Annual Dinner, July 2025



We have enjoyed another highly successful academic year at WHSB and I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful staff for their support, commitment, and dedication towards providing our pupils with an outstanding educational offer, both in terms of teaching, and the extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities our pupils enjoy. I would also like to acknowledge the determination and impressive achievements of our talented pupils, and to congratulate those students who have taken public examinations this year on their excellent GCSE and A Level results. The superb results achieved by our A Level students mean the overwhelming majority of them will be undertaking courses at prestigious Russell Group Universities, including Oxbridge, and taking up degree apprenticeships with national and international corporations. The students will be taking a variety of courses including Medicine, Economics, Engineering, Computing Science, Music, and Law.

I would also like to record my thanks to my fellow Governors at WHSB for their outstanding support, and to the many OWs who give generously of their time to enrich our educational provision, through contributions towards events such as our Careers offer, and our Sixth Form Lecture Series. We have worked hard at building a strong community at WHSB, reflecting our values through our Learner Profile, and through encouraging the active engagement of our wider community, including OWs. We all understand that WHSB is about more than examinations, and we continue to work hard to build a culture in which OWs support in providing breadth of opportunity for our pupils and, in that regard, we would greatly value your contribution.

Through these pages you will see some examples of the work of OWs in supporting our provision during the last academic year, and also some wonderful reports of OWs in the Medical and Dentistry professions returning to the School to offer valuable input, and of OWs returning to join our School-led Teaching Internship Programme. We were delighted to welcome OW Professor Timothy Gocher OBE DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, as our Guest of Honour at our CCF Pass Off Parade and Annual Dinner in July, and wish to thank him, and all the other OWs (former CCF Cadets) who also attended the Dinner. WO1 Carter Bray, one of our 2025 leavers and a model CCF Cadet during his time at WHSB, having been recognised by the Army as possessing exceptional leadership potential and achieving an Army Officer Sixth Form Scholarship, has secured a place to train as an Army Officer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and we wish him well.

Once again, our talented Junior and Inter Boys Athletics Teams both secured places to compete in the National Final of the English Schools' Athletic Association's (ESAA) Track & Field Cup, with the Junior Boys achieving a podium place. The School continues to excel at Athletics, and we are proud that OW Ken Burkett holds a senior role with the ESAA. On the stage, WHSB's Drama Troupe performed their production of *Much Ado About Pirates* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August this year, an outstanding piece of theatre written and directed by Mr Jeffreys, our brilliant Director of Drama. Having had the privilege of attending the production myself on two occasions during that week, I can assure you their performances were very well received by audiences and reviewers alike. We are indebted to all the staff and volunteers who give their time during their summer break to accompany the pupils to Edinburgh, and I am delighted that this year we were joined by OW Liam Pike who not only supported voluntarily with some supervision of the pupils, but also provided the sound and lighting for the productions during the week.



Treading the Boards at the Edinburgh Fringe: Pupils and Staff are joined by volunteer OWs Harry Tresidder (teacher) and Liam Pike (Pikelights - Sound and Lighting Engineer)

Throughout wider School activities we continue to see the influence of OWs on our School community. Our Duke of Edinburgh programme, for example, is superbly delivered by OW Harry Tresidder (teacher of Physics and Lower School Progress Leader), and this September we once again welcome OWs new to our staff, who join the increasingly large number of OWs who now teach at WHSB. We are also grateful to those OWs who make return visits to the School to join our musicians in playing in the orchestra and bands (OWs such as George Jefferson, and Charlie Gershinson) on a regular basis, as they continue to provide inspiration to our pupils.



You will be aware that we have circulated a number of communications during recent years outlining the funding challenges faced by the School, and seeking support from OWs in raising much needed funds to enable us to continue to provide an excellent standard of facilities and provision for our pupils. In circumstances where many other schools have found their selves with deficit budgets, WHSB continues to manage its funding carefully. However, sacrifices must be made – for example, in some circumstances it is has been necessary to take decisions not to replace members of staff who leave, including reducing the size of my Senior Team. Despite those sacrifices, we work hard to ensure our pupils do not feel the impact of those choices, but we cannot achieve the impossible and we need support from our OWs. I would like to draw to your attention the pages in this edition outlining the details of our targeted appeals, and to please ask you to consider whether you are in a position to assist.

During the summer the School Hall has been undergoing much needed refurbishment, including painting after many years. On the matter of fundraising, there remain many associated costs to cover in relation to the Hall project in order to provide pupils and staff with an excellent, fit-for-purpose space for use day to day, and for the range of events held in the School Hall. For example, we need financial support in order to provide a good standard of sound and lighting, and to replace the large number of curtains in that space. Thank you for any support you are able to provide.

I look forward to another academic year in which I hope we shall, again, welcome many OWs back to WHSB and, if you have not already done so, please do make contact with us, join our mailing list, arrange a visit, and let us know if you would like to contribute to a future edition of our Old Westcliffian Newsletter.

Once again, thank you, and I give you my very best wishes.

OW Chairman (Headmaster)

REMEMBERING AND COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE AND VJ DAY IN 2025



The country came together this summer on the 80th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day, to remember and commemorate the end of World War II, those who served their country, and the many sacrifices made. The two key dates are Thursday 8 May, Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), when the German forces surrendered to the Allied Powers, and Friday 15 August, Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day), the day on which Imperial Japan surrendered, in effect bringing World War II to an end.

WHSB joined other organisations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and UK Overseas Territories at 9.00am on 8 May, raising a commemorative flag in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, which marked the end of the war in Europe, and the end of World War II.

Mrs J Clarke,
Community Development Assistant

EVACUATION OF WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS TO BELPER DURING WORLD WAR II

As we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day in 2025, we look back at WHSB during World War Two. Alan White, in his book *Westcliff High School for Boys A Centenary History*, wrote in detail about the political and social history, both at home and abroad, in the run-up to, during, and after the war, and the impact it had upon the School's community at the time.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939, when a catastrophic bombing war with Germany was anticipated, the Government had drawn up extensive plans to minimise casualties, including the evacuation of 'non-essential persons' from areas deemed at high risk of attack. According to Dr White, "the evacuation of school children and others in the Second World War has been described as the biggest mass movement of people in Britain's history". The entire country was classified into three different categories: evacuating areas (which the 'non-essential' would leave), reception areas (to which those evacuated would be sent), and neutral areas (which would be neither evacuated nor receive evacuees). In 1939, Southend - being neither a port nor an industrial area and therefore not a priority Luftwaffe target - was classified as neutral.

The 'phoney war' period from the outbreak of war in September 1939 to April 1940, is described by Dr White as being "eight months of uneasy calm". Life at WHSB continued, with the School providing an education for its pupils, although both staff and pupil numbers were dwindling as teachers left to sign up, and apprehensive



Evacuation day, 2 June 1940: WHSB pupils leaving Southend Central Station for Belper

families left Southend for areas deemed to be safer. In April 1940, with the war in Europe gaining pace and the coastline of south-eastern England seen as a 'defence area' under threat of an invasion, the coastal towns evacuation order was scheduled for implementation on 2 June 1940. This meant compulsory evacuation for the eight thousand children remaining in the Southend area. WHSB was the first school to be evacuated, its pupils leaving on a 7.00am train from Southend Central station, headed for Belper in Derbyshire, a small mill town in the Derwent Valley, seven miles north of Derby, 170 miles away.

The evacuated Westcliff High School for Boys, now numbering 484 pupils and 40% down on its pre-war roll, was to share the same premises as Belper's Herbert Strutt School (named after its early twentieth century mill-owning benefactor).

Strutt's pupils were taught in the mornings on weekdays, and WHSB's during the afternoons and on Saturday mornings, with pupils from WHSB billeted with families in and around the Belper area. WHSB staff worked tirelessly to fill pupils' free time whilst away from home, with activities which included establishing an Air Training Corps, the continuation of the Debating Society, and the new formation of the remarkably successful 10th Belper (Westcliff High School for Boys) Scout Troop, which had recruited 126 members by 1941. By mid-1941, with the German air offensive receding at the end of the Blitz, the threat of invasion had subsided.

Southend's secondary schools re-opened in autumn 1942, with WHSB pupils and staff returning from Belper in October. It was not until 1948 that the School was able to formally record its thanks to the staff and pupils of the Herbert Strutt School for accommodating them during the early years of the war. As reported in the School magazine "The Quest" in 1947, a collection fund was established and a donation made to the



Herbert Strutt School



WHSB pupils assembled in the Hall at Herbert Strutt School

Herbert Strutt School, enabling the school to purchase an oak lectern. At a formal presentation service in Belper, attended by WHSB's then Headmaster, E Ayres, and Second Master, H S Smith, seven years following the evacuation, the School formally recorded their thanks. The lectern, with the inscription "I was a stranger and ye took me in" was a tangible reflection of their gratitude.

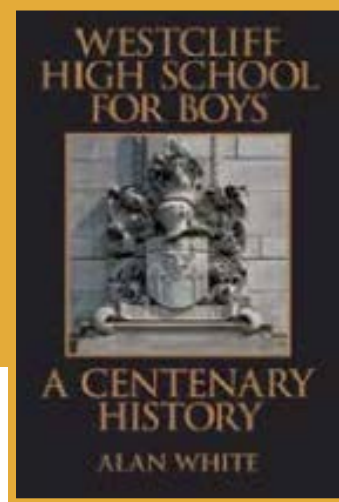
The Herbert Strutt School in Belper, no longer an educational establishment, is now a community centre run by volunteers for the benefit of local people. WHSB's donated lectern remains in situ and we thank Strutt's Trustee, Ms Cynthia Maddock, for kindly sending us photographs of both the lectern and the 10th Belper (Westcliff High School for Boys) Scout Group, formed during the evacuation in 1940. We also thank the Strutt's Centre for donating to our School Archive a copy of the DVD "Reflections 1909 to 2009", containing commentaries and footage of some of the pupils from WHSB who were evacuated to Belper between 1940 and 1942.

"Westcliff High School for Boys A Centenary History" can be purchased from the School's online shop <https://whsforboys.shoptill-e.com/>

Mrs J Clarke,
Community Development Assistant



In 1948, WHSB formally record its thanks to the staff and pupils of the Herbert Strutt School



10th Belper (Westcliff High School for Boys) Scout Troop, 1941

WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JOHN HOLMES MBE

After a 50-year career at the BBC, an Honorary Doctorate and an MBE John Holmes (OW 1958 to 1965) puts a lot of his success down to his childhood in Southend, and most especially his time at school.

My formative years at Westleigh School and seven years at Westcliff High School for Boys were pivotal in my life and I owe much of that to my headmasters, Mr Gibbs and Mr Henry Cloke, who were so supportive. Part of that encouragement included a shock at the end of my very first term at senior school. My continual larking about led to Mr Cloke relegating me to the lowest stream in the school. After that jolt, I took school life more seriously, representing the school in rugby and athletics, and by the time I was in the sixth form I was helping to run extra school club activities, including becoming a regular in the annual school plays. This pastime included mixing with the girls' school next door, which was appreciated very much.

I have never forgotten my teachers who have inspired me throughout my career: Mr Gridley, who looked after those school plays, and my form master in the geography room, Mr. Coyte. Physics teacher, Mr Lay, from English Mr Dickinson, from Maths Bunny Welch and Dave Roberts and music teacher Mr Bates.

It was Mr Cloke who encouraged me to successfully apply for a National Coal Board Scholarship, which resulted in a degree in Mining Engineering. How I ended up leaving the NCB and moving to the BBC is a long story but it led me to produce such Radio 4 favourites as 'Down Your Way', 'Any Questions?', 'Any Answers?' and 'The Natural History Programme'.

When I first joined the Corporation in 1969 in Broadcasting House, London, I worked for the Music and Light Entertainment Department. I then spent a short time in Birmingham on Broad Street. This work included spot effects on 'The Archers'. This was before the days of Pebble Mill. Next stop was with the fledgling local radio network at BBC Radio Nottingham. It was perfect timing, especially with regards to sport. I was in Munich to report on Nottingham Forest's European cup success, and with Torvill and Dean during their triumphant reign. I even reported from Lord's when Essex were beaten in the last ball of the innings by a Notts team lead by Clive Rice and Richard Hadlee.

My TV work began on 'Look! Hear!' a youth show with Toyah Wilcox, promoting new bands of that time - The Specials, Dexy's Midnight Runners and Black Sabbath. I also presented one of the BBC's first consumer series; BBC2's Inside Information, and hosted many shows for Midlands TV.

Moving to Bristol to work for Radio 4, I produced Down Your Way, presented by star names such as Spike Milligan and Nigel Hawthorne. Nigel's programme included a visit to 10 Downing Street and an interview with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. I produced Any Questions? with Jonathan Dimbleby, and launched Any Answers? as a phone-in. I also had a satisfying spell working in the world-famous Natural History Unit.

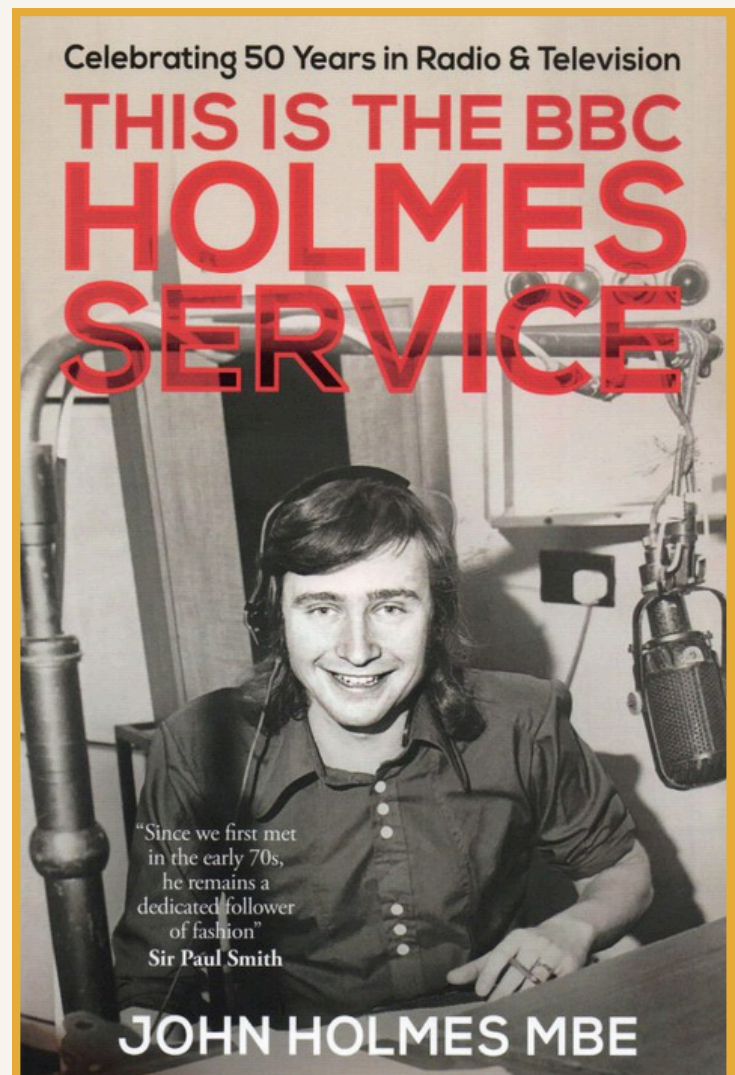
When I returned to BBC Radio Nottingham, I hosted my own Sunday morning show. My special guests included Dame Stella Rimington of MI5, Sir Paul Smith, the Nobel Prize Winner Sir Peter Mansfield who invented the MRI Scanner, Ibruprofen developer, Stuart Adams, Lord Falconer, Sir Peter Bazalgette, Jasper Carrot and Joan Collins.

So why did I never work at BBC Radio Essex! Well, I applied but was turned down.



Away from work, I have been married to Kate for almost 57 years and my three children have so far produced seven granddaughters and a grandson. I am a vice-president of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and chairman and founder member of the Karen Clifford Skin Cancer charity; SKCIN.

My book 'This Is the BBC Holmes Service' is in hardback and, for copies of my book purchased directly from me, the cost will be £15 with a £5 donation being made to the School. To order, please email johnholmes116@outlook.com



WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

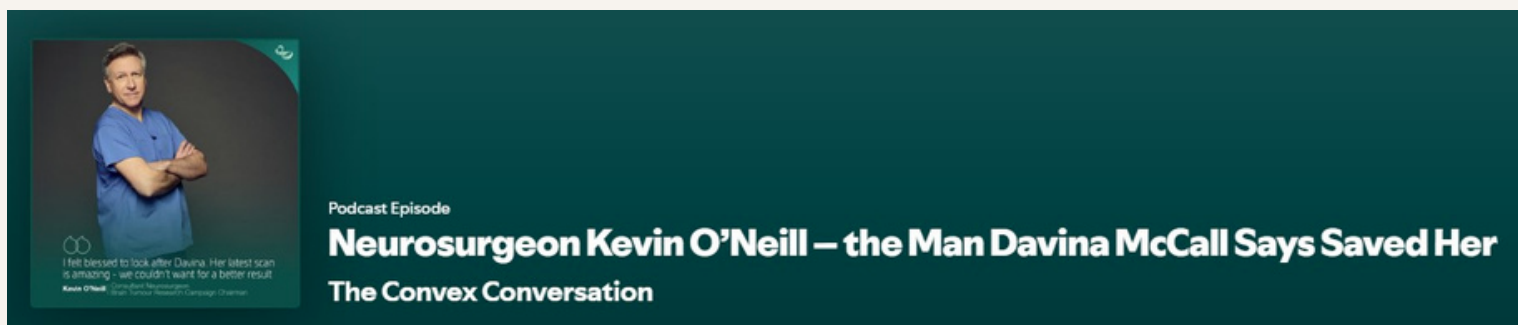
KEVIN O'NEILL

Kevin O'Neill, Head of Neurosurgery at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in London and Old Westcliffian (1974 to 1981), is one of the country's leading brain surgeons.

He is passionate about the ground-breaking research he leads with the Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BRTC), a charity he co-founded more than 20 years ago.

In November 2024 Kevin operated on TV presenter Davina McCall and in a podcast this June he gives a fascinating insight into the five-hour surgery he carried out on the TV star, navigating his way between the brain's two hemispheres to successfully remove a rare colloidal cyst Davina nick-named 'Jeffrey':

<https://convex.podbean.com/e/neurosurgeon-kevin-o-neill-%E2%80%93-the-man-davina-mccall-says-saved-her/>



WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JAMIE HITEL

Jamie Hitel (OW 1978-1985) has built an impressive international career in church music since leaving Southend. After winning an organ scholarship to Cambridge, where he studied with renowned organists including David Sanger and Peter Hurford, Jamie's first major appointment was as Director of Chapel Music at Robinson College, Cambridge, directing the chapel choir and leading international tours.

His career took an interesting turn when he moved to Norway to work as an organist and choir director in the Lutheran Church, traveling between remote communities by boat. During this period, he also wrote and recorded two stage musicals. Returning to England, Jamie became Director of Music at the historic Waltham Abbey, following in the footsteps of Thomas Tallis and expanding the music program significantly.

Jamie's solo career flourished during this time - he performed recitals across the UK and Europe and reached the finals of the Franz Liszt International Organ Competition in Budapest, with his performance of Poulenc's Organ Concerto broadcast live on Hungarian Radio.



In 2000, Jamie relocated to the United States, taking up the position of Director of Music at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio. There he directed multiple choirs and founded a mixed-voice auditioned ensemble, producing several commercial CD recordings and leading tours to major English cathedrals. His album "Sounds Messianic," featuring works by Messiaen and Franck, was notable as one of the few available recordings of Messiaen's complete "Les Corps Glorieux" cycle.

Since 2008, Jamie has served as Director of Music at Christ Church Greenwich in Connecticut, where he runs a comprehensive program with multiple ensembles and choirs. He became an American citizen in 2009 and obtained Hungarian citizenship in 2020.

Jamie would be delighted to hear from any Old Westcliffians from his time at WHSB!

WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**JAY SURAGH**

I was a student at WHSB from 2011 to 2018. After leaving Westcliff, I went on to study German at the University of Kent; a decision that shaped not only my academic journey but the direction of my life. My fascination with languages and cultures developed into a deeper interest in communication, identity, and education. After completing my degree, I moved to Hamburg, Germany, where I have spent the past three years working as an English Language Teacher in a comprehensive state school in the south of the city.

What began as a placement to support in English lessons quickly grew into something more substantial. I initially assisted in lessons, ran speaking sessions to help students improve their pronunciation and fluency, and supported pupils of all abilities with grammar and accuracy, exactly like the MFL Language Assistants that WHSB employ each year. But I wanted more responsibility, and the school recognised that. After discussions with the Head of Sixth Form and the Headmaster, I was offered a second contract that allowed me to plan and deliver my own lessons, manage full classes independently, and contribute more widely to the school community.

Teaching in Germany has been both challenging and rewarding. Navigating a foreign school system, adapting to different classroom expectations, and building rapport in a second language has tested me in ways I hadn't anticipated. But it's also taught me resilience, cultural sensitivity, and a lot about myself. I've taught everything from Year 5 to Sixth Form, including students preparing for English language qualifications and those new to English entirely. Seeing my students' confidence grow over time has been one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

Outside the classroom, I have also taken part in international exchange programmes the school runs with Spain, France and the Netherlands. As a cultural representative, I've helped design activities that promote global awareness and intercultural dialogue; something that feels especially meaningful in a school as diverse as ours. One of the areas of which I am most proud of has been reviving international school exchanges in a post-Brexit climate. In recent years, opportunities for UK-Germany partnerships have diminished due to political and logistical barriers, and many schools across Europe have scaled back their involvement. Determined to keep these connections alive, I worked closely with senior staff to ensure our students could still experience international travel, dialogue, and cultural immersion. Last year, I organised a full school trip to London. It was a huge undertaking, but it taught me a lot about leadership and organisation, and it was incredibly fulfilling to give students from Hamburg a chance to experience the UK firsthand.

Living abroad has shaped me in countless ways. Hamburg has become a second home, and I have fallen in love with the pace of life, the city and nature, and the everyday moments of cultural exchange that happen in a classroom full of different perspectives. The work has pushed me outside of my comfort zone in the best possible way, and shown me how education can open doors and build bridges, not just academically, but socially and globally.

This summer, I will be moving to Shanghai to begin a new chapter at a language education centre. It is a big step, but I feel well prepared for it; professionally, personally, and culturally. The last three years in Germany have taught me the importance of being adaptable, open to opportunity, and ready to learn from every environment. Looking back, I see just how much of the Westcliff Learner Profile has stayed with me. Intellectual curiosity drives me to keep developing as a teacher and linguist. Global awareness is something I live every day, working in international classrooms and navigating cross-cultural exchanges. And lifelong learning is more than a motto, especially for teachers, it has become part of who I am. I am especially grateful to my former language teachers – Mrs Niedziela, Mrs Williams, Dr Francis, and Miss Bellinghausen – who sparked my passion for languages and gave me the tools to pursue a life I had not imagined at the time. Their influence continues to shape me, and I carry those lessons with me into every classroom I enter.

**WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?****DHILAN PATEL**

We congratulate Dhilan (OW 2013 to 2020) on his graduation this summer from the University of Cambridge following his completion of an MPhil in Advanced Chemical Engineering. This follows on from him graduating from University College London with a Bachelors in Chemical Engineering, First Class Honours in 2024.



WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ASH SOMAN

Ash Soman (OW 1979 to 1986) left WHSB to study medicine at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel from 1986 to 1991. Working for the NHS, he became a member of the Royal College of Physicians. In 2001 he moved into research and development within the biopharmaceutical industry, in both the UK and then in Australia to where he moved in 2006. Gaining experience working for companies such as AstraZeneca, where he was Medical Director for the Australia-NZ business, Roche and Sanofi, as well as for smaller listed biotech companies Ash is now freelancing, consulting to biotech companies.

Married to Kat with two teenage daughters Allegra and Serafina, he lived in Sydney until 2022. He has since moved to Adelaide which he describes as having lots of native koalas and also the occasional venomous snake. Ash still believes "80s music is far and away the best" and he is increasingly impressed with the quality of coffee on Leigh Broadway every time he visits. Finally, he says "yes" he does support England in the Ashes!



WHSB ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CHRIS BUTLER-COLE

Since leaving WHSB, where he achieved four A* grades in music, biology, maths and history (in which he achieved the highest recorded grade for any Westcliffian), Chris Butler-Cole (OW 2015 to 2022) continued his outstanding academic progress at Durham University where he read Music (2022-2025).

Chris worked exceptionally hard and diligently through the three year degree, where his efforts resulted in the award of the Michael James Scholarship for excellence at the end of the first year and culminated with the award of a first class honours degree for which he was also awarded the Rosalind Dickinson Prize (to the outstanding candidate in the Final Honours Examination in Music) and the Eva Myra Kisch Prize (awarded for proficiency in music to a student in the school of music) for achieving the highest results for his year.

Since graduating, Chris has continued to pursue his interest in music, having one of his pieces 'Read after I'm gone' selected for premiere at the Penarth Chamber Music Festival (July 2025) where the piece was performed by David Adams (ENO, Halle, Welsh Symphony Orchestra) and Alice Neary (Welsh Symphony Orchestra, Halle). In October 2025 he will commence a Master's in Music Composition at Oxford University under the tutorage of Professor Jennifer Walshe.

Chris' music, both classical and contemporary, and intellectual progress can be viewed on his social media platforms [@colebutlermusic](#) and website [cole-butler.com](#)



Chris (far left) at the Penarth Chamber Musical Festival with Professor Robert Fokkens, Alice Neary and David Adams (third, fourth and fifth from left respectively)

OLD WESTCLIFFIANS RETURNING TO SCHOOL: DR ALEX BAKER

In January, we welcomed back to the School Old Westcliffian Dr Alex Baker, award-winning research chemist and inventor at the University of Warwick. He is not only a scientist with a growing international reputation, but also an experienced public speaker on the national stage, who has a passion for engaging the public in all things Chemistry and Science. His work with the BBC and other media outlets has reached tens of millions of people globally.

Through his award-winning research, he has developed cryoprotectants and invented new lateral flow devices for COVID-19. He believes passionately that everyone should have access to high quality science, so has founded conferences and events targeted at students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds. Dr Baker is determined to make Chemistry an engaging and modern topic of discussion in every coffee shop and classroom in the UK and beyond.

A Level Chemistry students at WHSB were given two presentations by Dr Baker; the first, "Why Chemistry is More than just Chemicals", explored the history of medical diagnostics, how medical diagnostics were used in the Covid-19 pandemic, and how the virus itself provides opportunities to develop new medical diagnostics. The second, entitled "Not All Doctors Have a Medical Degree", explored the lives of Nobel prize winning scientists who had considered studying Medicine at University but did not, and explored the impact scientists have outside of medical careers.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Dr Baker for his continued support for his old school, returning to WHSB again this year for the benefit of our current students.



MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND VETERINARY (MDV) SOCIETY AT WHSB

During the Summer Term, we were delighted to welcome back nine Old Westcliffians, all of whom are studying either Medicine or Dentistry at university, as part of a Question and Answer panel for the Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary (MDV) Society. A significant number of our Sixth Form students aspire to study Medicine or Dentistry at university and we have a comprehensive programme in place to support them within the MDV Society. As part of the programme, we invite Old Westcliffians to share their insight with our students, ensuring they are making informed and strategic choices for their university applications. We are grateful to all members of the panel, who were very supportive and honest about their journey and experiences, for volunteering their time to give back to the WHSB community. The MDV Society would welcome offers of assistance from others within our Alumni Community who have an MDV background. If you can help, please email Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant community@whsb.essex.sch.uk



SCHOOL-LED TEACHING INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME SUMMER 2025

Following another successful recruitment campaign, we were delighted to welcome back to WHSB this summer nine Old Westcliffians to complete the School-led Teaching Internship Programme, part of a Department for Education initiative. Targeted at undergraduates studying for a degree in STEM-related subjects or languages, the aim of this three-week summer Internship Programme is to give those participating a taste of teaching before considering it as a career.

Our interns this year: Adam, Lakshan, Harry, Noah, Teddy, James, Ismail, Shabaa, and Sebastian are studying for degrees in Computer Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, and Physics. During the three-week programme, they shadowed experienced teachers, observed lessons, and gained experience of what school life is like for a teacher outside the classroom. We are pleased they chose to participate in the programme and wish them well. We are grateful to Mrs Lo-Whitford and Mrs Williams for facilitating the programme, and to Mr Steel, Mr Madrid-Arranz, Miss James, Mr Rahman, Mrs Hammond, Mr Lo, Mr Huntington, Mr Dalby and Mr Hudson for mentoring the interns.

I am always delighted to hear from Old Westcliffians who may wish to discuss the benefits of a career in teaching, and there may be ways in which WHSB can support them in this regard. If you have thought about teaching as a career and would like to visit the School to meet with me, please contact Mrs D Holley, my Personal Assistant and she will arrange a visit in my diary office@whsb.essex.sch.uk

Headmaster



SUPPORTING WHSB'S CAREERS PROGRAMME

We are grateful to so many Old Westcliffians for giving their time, energy and support towards ensuring pupils at WHSB access the very best provision in relation to the School's Careers Programme. In this limited space we are able to acknowledge only some of those Old Westcliffians who lend their support to enhance the educational and extra-curricular provision we offer at WHSB, but we are grateful to all those who take the opportunity to give something back to their School community by participating in the multitude of Careers and higher educational events that take place throughout the year. Thank you.



SIXTH FORM LECTURE SERIES

During the Spring Term 2025, as part of the Sixth Form Lecture Series, we were delighted to welcome back to WHSB former School Captain, Alan Davey (OW 1966 to 1973) to speak to Sixth Form students about his career within the petroleum industry with a talk entitled "From School Captain to CEO". His talk covered a range of topics including technology, management, economics and politics combined with the experience of working abroad within a global organisation. Our thanks also to fellow Old Westcliffians George Mula, Rory Keeble, Graham Chapman KC and Chris Poel for taking time out of their busy schedules to present to our students as part of this year's programme of Sixth Form Lectures.

The Sixth Form Lecture Series takes place on Wednesday afternoons during term time when approximately 40 Sixth Form students attend an academic lecture to help develop their intellectual curiosity, broaden their knowledge and widen their horizons. The lectures start at 1.50pm and last for approximately 60 minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers at the end. Our preference is for in-person lectures, however we appreciate that is not always possible and we can arrange online provision if necessary. Previous lectures have addressed a wide range of topics, including: "From Vitamin C to Vaccines: how clinical trials give us new medicines - and shape history", "Has the Church passed its sell-by date?", "Computational Chemistry", "The Warsaw Uprising", "How to Become a Cardiothoracic Surgeon", "Trade Unions and Industrial Action", "Starting a Career at the Bar" and "Confidence." We are always delighted to receive visits from Old Westcliffians and if you would like to contribute to the Spring 2026 programme of Sixth Form Lectures, please contact Mrs J Clarke community@whsb.essex.sch.uk



KING'S CORONATION MEDAL AWARDED TO CCF STAFF

Staff Volunteers in Westcliff High School for Boys' Combined Cadet Force (CCF) have been awarded the prestigious King's Coronation Medal, in recognition of their longstanding commitment to the CCF and their respective services. The King's Coronation Medal is the first medal issued during the reign of King Charles III, celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6 May 2023. Awarding medals marking Royal celebrations as a token of the Nation's thanks has a long history, the first being awarded in 1887 to mark the 50th year of Queen Victoria's reign.

The King's Coronation Medal is awarded to individuals who have shown outstanding dedication to the Cadet Forces across the UK, its cadets, and its values. They were required to have had five full years of service within the organisation and to have been in active service on 6 May 2023. The medal recognises sustained excellence, leadership, and the ability to inspire and mentor young people within the cadet movement. Those in receipt are: Lt Col A Baggs, Capt K Allard, Capt J Bleakley, Lt H Tresidder and SLt P Sell. We are proud of their outstanding and dedicated service to our CCF, and offer our congratulations to all!



REPORT FROM THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN LODGE

The Old Westcliffian Lodge continues to prosper, with a number of new members and joining members from other Lodges, adding to the camaraderie that our Lodge has enjoyed for many years. It is recognised as one of the most successful Lodges in the Province of Essex. This year's Worshipful Master is WBro Sam Dansey, who has maintained the Lodge's reputation for performing Masonic ceremonies to the highest of standards, whilst encouraging the continuance of the fraternal bond amongst its members and guests.

Being charitable is one of the main principles of Freemasonry. Throughout the year the Lodge has donated money to both local and national charities, including a donation to the School's Cadet Force. In December this year, The Old Westcliffian Lodge, together with Tabula Rotunda Lodge, will be sponsoring a concert at Saxon Hall, to be given by The Global Ambassadors of The Music Man Project, which is based in Southend. The Music Man Project received the King's Award for Voluntary Service (equivalent to an MBE for groups) for providing music education and performance services, for people with learning disabilities. Your support for this event would be most appreciated.

The undoubted highlight of the year was our meeting in December 2024, when WBro Brian Scarsbrook was presented with a 60 year certificate, signed by The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Essex, RWBro Paul Tarrant, an Old Westcliffian. Brian was initiated into Freemasonry in Bermuda in 1964 and was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1976 and again in 1997.



WBro Colin Bott

OLD WESTCLIFFIANS RAISING MONEY FOR THE AARON LEWIS FOUNDATION

On the 15th December 2008, Old Westcliffian Lieutenant Aaron Lewis of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, was killed in action in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. He was just 26 and on his first operational deployment.

Two years after his death, the Aaron Lewis Foundation (ALF) <https://aaronlewisfoundation.org.uk/> was established by his family, friends and former service colleagues to continue to make a difference in his memory. With unity and teamwork at its core, Foundation volunteers and supporters deliver life-changing outcomes to a variety of causes close to Aaron's heart throughout Essex and nationally for the service and ex-service community.

In order to raise money for the Foundation, in April 2026 Aaron's brother Brett (and fellow Old Westcliffian), is preparing to tackle one of the toughest races in the world, the Marathon des Sables: 257 km across the Sahara Desert in 40-50 degree heat. Brett has been working with specialist trainers from MyRaceKit, a previous sponsor for a race he did across Jordan in 2024. He is also planning to run across Peru this year and to complete the ATM Arc of Attrition (a series of trail races in Cornwall) next January, all in memory of his brother to raise funds for ALF.

If you wish to make a donation, Brett's fundraiser can be found at: www.justgiving.com/page/brett-lewis-1

Also fundraising for the Aaron Lewis Foundation were Old Westcliffians Henry Marrant, Ryley Thomas, Max Pitkin and Brendan Burgess who played in the ALF 10s Rugby Tournament (representing the ALF Team), the largest Charity Rugby Tournament in Essex, which they won. Well done to all!



URGENT TARGETED APPEAL FOR NEW ATHLETICS TRACK AND FACILITIES

You will have read in the previous OWA Newsletter that the School needs to replace its 'tartan' athletics track and facilities. The current track has served our pupils well but has reached the end of its lifespan and no longer meets the needs of our growing athletics programme. Fundraising to replace it began last September with Old Westcliffian Max Cole, and his father Anthony, Co-Chair of Governors at WHSB, taking on the ambitious challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Northeastern Tanzania and reaching its summit. We thank them for their efforts on behalf of the School for completing this most difficult challenge and to those who have donated so far. The response so far, however, has been rather disappointing.

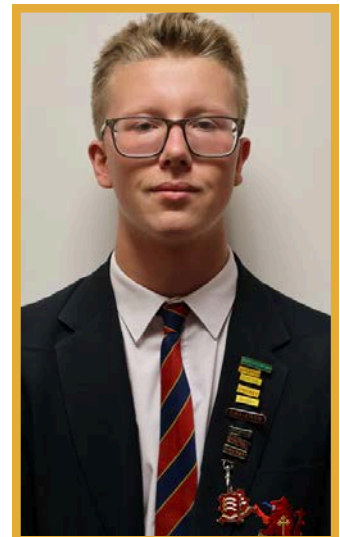
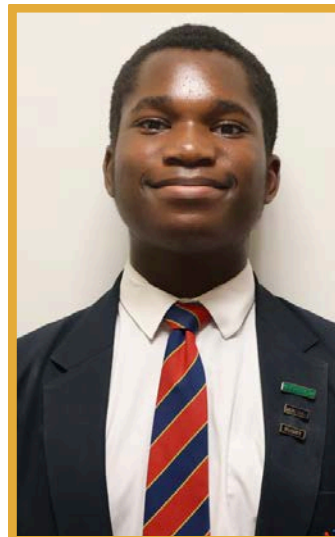


A sum has recently been left to the School in the will of an Old Westcliffian. The bequest is a significant sum and the School has decided to allocate it to this particular appeal. This leaves the School still needing to raise £50,000 to fund the construction of the track and for the provision of associated new equipment. A new track will provide all our students with a safe, modern facility, fostering a culture of health and wellness for all. It will also meet the more specific needs of those athletes competing in local, and indeed national, track and field events. The School naturally wishes to maintain its position among some of the best junior and intermediate athletes in England. New sports facilities will boost morale, provide a source of pride for the entire School community, and can also be a powerful recruitment tool for those looking to join the School in Years 7 and 12.



Real-terms funding for schools has been in serious decline for over 10 years. Whilst we continue to manage our budgets carefully, without this additional support though fundraising efforts such as this, it is increasingly difficult to maintain facilities such as the athletics track, to the standard required. There are simply too many competing pressures on our finances. We are confident that with the support of both our current School Community and our dedicated alumni, we can reach this goal and would be immensely grateful for your contribution to this important project. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a difference.

Mark Fitcher, Director of Sport at WHSB appeals to our alumni and wider School community: "having an athletics track and jump areas is not just about sport—it is a powerful tool for education, talent development, health promotion, and competitive success. It equips students with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive in School and beyond, including on national platforms. If you are able to help the pupils and the School with them in any way, it would be greatly appreciated."



Our current Junior and Intermediate Athletics Captains, Taseen and Favour in Year 8 and Joshua and Charles in Year 10:

You can donate now online at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/whsb-athletics-track-appeal> or please contact Mr Stephen Rothern, Director of Finance at WHSB, rothons@whsb.essex.sch.uk to discuss alternative arrangements by which donations to the School can be made. These may include future sponsorship of WHSB Athletics Teams or Corporate Sponsorship whereby advertising in our termly School Magazine "The Westcliff Diary" (both in hard copy and digitised versions), bi-annual "Old Westcliffian Association Newsletter" (digital distribution) and programmes for the multitude of events which take place throughout the School Year. Our publications reach thousands of individuals. Should you prefer to contact the Headmaster, he can be reached through his Personal Assistant, Mrs D Holley office@whsb.essex.sch.uk. All enquiries are treated in strictest confidence, and any donations can be respectfully publicised, or kept anonymous, as the donor may wish. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this new track will have on our current students and the lasting legacy it will leave for future generations in the years to come. Thank you for your continued support for the School.



FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE FIRST SCHOOL MINIBUS 1973

The Summer 1973 issue of the School's Magazine "The Westcliffian", included an article by Mr R Peel, Chairman of the Parents' Association. After the Association's two years in existence he wrote about achieving their first major goal: "presenting the School with the minibus they had requested." He described it as "A fifteen-seat deluxe vehicle which cost over fifteen hundred pounds." He went on to say "we hope the boys get a great deal of use and pleasure from the bus and the extra activities in which they will be able to participate through its availability." This was indeed the case as evidenced in the April 1974 issue of "The Westcliffian" in an article entitled "The School Camp 1973" by C B Jackson. We hope these images will make interesting reading and jog some memories. Do get in touch if you remember the GJN 822L.

Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant



Parents' Association

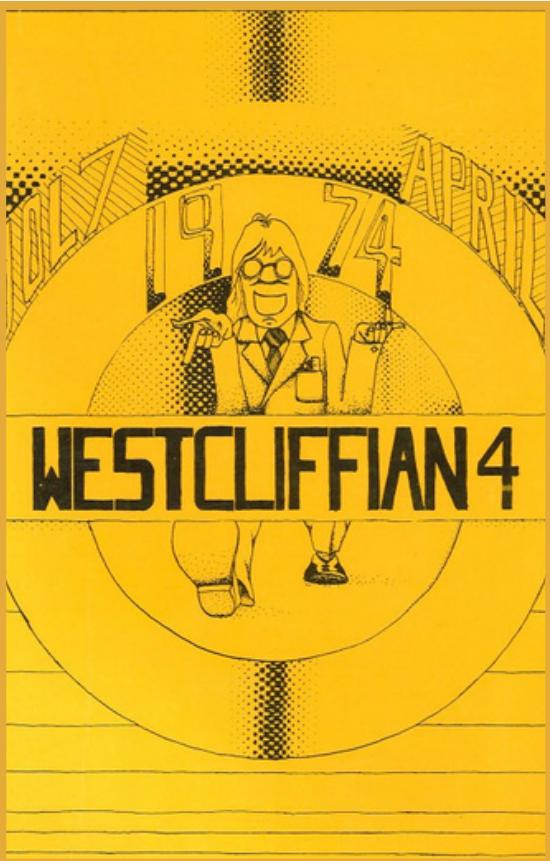
The Association has now been in existence for just about two years, and, although we are moderately pleased with our success to date, we realise that there is much work still to be done.

We have recently achieved our first major goal by presenting the school with the minibus they had requested. It is a fifteen-seat de luxe vehicle and cost over fifteen hundred pounds. We hope the boys get a great deal of use and pleasure from the bus and the extra activities in which they will be able to participate through its availability.

We have also provided a garage for the mini-bus in which it can be housed when not in use; this is costing around three hundred pounds.



Friday, January 19, 1973 - The Chairman of the Parents' Association (Mr. R. Peel) Presents the Minibus to the school captain (A. Davey) - (Photo by permission of the "Evening Echo", Southend).



The School Camp, 1973

The fact that it meant missing a whole week of school probably accounted for a full mini-bus at 5.30 on the unexciting morning of Saturday July 7th.

However as we stumbled up the M1 a certain Mr. John Starling was singing verses from the Messiah, and it promised to be a happy camp.

Progress on the journey was only impaired by the mini-bus's terrific thirst as it dragged its full load (the afore-mentioned party leader, two sixth formers and a retinue of fourth years), from service station to service station. But at least this enabled the immediate rush to the book counter to occur more than once.

Keswick eventually arrived. We established that the stables, adjacent to the warden's house, were to be our home for the following seven days.



School Camp, 1973. Photo By C. B. Jackson, 5J

But first impressions are always the worst. It became quite comfortable by the time we had shaken the fleas out of the mattresses, and they had at least removed the horses before we arrived (very decent of them!)

Despite the minor faults we soon settled in, and Mr. Starling's cookery was up to its usual standard. Only trouble was, too much quality and not enough quantity, if you see what I mean.

We were situated a mere 200 ft from the lapping waters of Derwent Water, which pleased the early morning splashers and the fishermen of the party, especially when it was discovered that it was possible to hire rowing boats.

The camp progressed very well with frequent (too frequent) trips out into the local countryside, to walk up this hill and down that one (a rather fast inverted descent of one of these was made by two idiots – no names). There were excursions to ascend such challenging peaks as Scafell Pike (3,210 ft), which gave rise to opportunities for great mirth as over-enthusiastic fourth formers appeared in the most ridiculous climbing gear to be seen.

We visited all the local towns, Ambleside, Buttermere, and Cockermouth.

These journeys were not a bit hampered by the fact that the mini-bus is 6 ft 5½ in wide and some of the Cumbrian lanes were often a magnificent 6 ft 6 ins wide between jutting rocks. Mind you this became slightly awkward when we discovered that the Ford could not pull us up 1 in 3 hills.

Humour throughout the camp was provided by an infinitely stupid sixth former, known as Chunky, whose tomfoolery never ceased.

But we all survived (even his jokes) and the week passed all too quickly.

I would like to thank J. S. for all his efforts to produce the best camp yet.

C. B. Jackson

FROM THE ARCHIVES: VE DAY 8 MAY 1945

Having commemorated in School the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2025, we searched the School Archive for references to what happened on VE Day in 1945. Unfortunately, the School Magazines spanning the date make no reference to this significant event in terms of how School communicated the news to pupils. We were however lucky enough to be contacted by Dr Niall Mackinnon (OW 1969 to 1976) who referenced the recollections of his late father Kenneth (OW 1944 to 1951), a pupil at the School during the last year of World War II. Niall had compiled his father's obituary for the 2022 edition of the OWA Newsletter and in it he wrote about how his father had described the School buildings after the army occupation in the early years of the War and what he remembered upon hearing the news that Victory in Europe had been declared on 8 May 1945:

"The school building bore the marks of army occupation during the recent war years, when the pupils had been evacuated to Belper. Lewd words and phrases still adorned the walls of our classrooms. Lessons were interrupted by air raids, which I for one always hoped would coincide with maths lessons. We would then all repair to the underground air raid shelters excavated into the upper terracing between the school and the playing fields. I had always promised myself that I would throw my cap in the air when war finally ended. The news of the final victory in Europe came during afternoon lessons on 8th May 1945, and I imagine we were let out of school early. I was one of the first out, and promptly threw my cap in the air."

With thanks to Dr MacKinnon for this contribution.

Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

R A B CROWE OBE, OLD WESTCLIFFIAN (1932-1939)

On 8 May this year, the School commemorated and joined in the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. We know from the School Archives that many Old Westcliffians served in the Second World War, one of whom was the late Ronald Arthur Braybrooke Crowe OBE (Old Westcliffian 1932-1939).

Known widely as Jim, born in 1921 and a Westcliff boy through and through, he attended first Chalkwell Hall School where he passed the 11 plus securing a place at the local grammar school. Joining Westcliff High School for Boys in 1932, he enjoyed both sporting and academic success: being awarded School Colours for cricket and rugby, appointed School Captain in 1939 and securing a place at the University of Cambridge to study Modern Languages.

The last School Captain prior to the outbreak of the Second World, Mr Crowe's education was cut short along with many others, when conscription and war service drastically reduced student numbers. Instead of going up to Cambridge, Mr Crowe joined the Royal Navy as a Coder, where his language skills were put to good use. During World War II, the Royal Navy employed "Coders" to decipher and encrypt radio communications, playing a crucial role in naval intelligence and operations. These individuals, some of whom were conscripted as "Special Service Linguists," were trained to learn and use various coding systems to protect and understand critical information. Information gathered was used for understanding enemy movements, planning attacks, and coordinating defence strategies. At the end of the war, Mr Crowe joined Customs and Excise as an Executive Officer, a career taking him through to his retirement in 1981. His significant contribution to this area of public service was recognised by him being awarded an OBE in 1981.



Aside from his wartime and life in public service, Mr Crowe's first love was rugby. As a boy, he joined his local rugby club, then the Old Westcliffians RFC (now the Westcliff Rugby Club), where he excelled on the field. In the late 1940's injury prevented him from playing but driven by his passion for the sport, Mr Crowe turned his attention to refereeing. Although unusual at the time for someone in their late twenties, stellar achievements followed, with him rising quickly through the ranks to become a top international rugby referee. Mr Crowe's son Nick (Old Westcliffian 1969 to 1976) said that "Most of the glittering prizes in refereeing soon followed for him, including being in charge of one Wallabies and two All Blacks' matches and officiating in France, Belgium and Spain. For sixteen consecutive years he was in the middle at the Middlesex Sevens and his crowning glory was running the line at Cardiff Arms Park when England beat Wales in 1963." Mr Crowe's last match as a referee was in 1980, aged 60. He remained on the Rugby Football Union's Laws Panel well into his eighties, continuing to assess the capabilities of other referees. A regular at the Old Westcliffians RFC (now the Westcliff Rugby Club) for most of his life, where he was a Former President and Honorary Life member. In addition to his local rugby club roles, he was a Privilege member of the Rugby Football Union, a Former President of the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees, an Honorary life member of both Essex and Eastern Counties Rugby Football Unions. Alongside rugby, throughout his life he remained an exceptionally good linguist and enjoyed classical music.

Mrs J Clarke,
Community Development Assistant

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD BRIGGS

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of Howard Briggs' passing: Howard left us on Monday 30 December 2024. On 7 February, the School's flags flew at half-mast to honour and show respect for Howard (Old Westcliffian 1951 to 1958), on the day his family and friends gathered for his funeral service to commemorate his remarkable life. Many will know Howard as one of the School's most eminent Old Westcliffians. During an illustrious career in local politics, he served as Council Leader and as Mayor. In both roles he did enormous good for his community, most notably raising vast sums of money for local charities and establishing the Southend Fund. The Southend Fund has supported, and continues to support, a large number of local charities. Howard was no less generous when it came to his old School. He was a member of the School's Governing Board for the better part of two decades. During this time, he was actively involved in many School developments, including our successful conversion to Academy status. Howard also served as President of the Old Westcliffian Association from 2004-2007 and did much to foster closer links between the School and its Alumni. Howard's service to his Community and School provides an inspirational example to us all, especially the current and future generations of Westcliffians. We shall miss him greatly.

Fide et Fortitudine



LEAVING A LEGACY TO WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

SUPPORTING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WESTCLIFFIANS

We recognise that Friends of the School, particularly Old Westcliffians may feel that they would like to 'give something back' to the School and that this is not always easy during one's lifetime. Leaving a legacy to WHSB in your will is a way of supporting the School after you have left us.

Legacies are usually unrestricted gifts, allowing the School to support current priorities; however, we will always try to meet a donor's wishes if they have a specific area of interest in the School. Current priorities include refurbishment of aged sporting facilities, investment in outdoor seating & shelter facilities, and continued support of enriching extra-curricular activities. Longer term areas for development concern theatre and stage facilities to support the School's excellent Music & Drama activities.

The 1920 Society has been established as a means by which we can thank, during their lifetime, those who have left a gift in their will to the School. By confirming to the Headmaster that you have made a bequest to the School, you will automatically become a member of The 1920 Society.

Members will receive a special gift bearing the School and 1920 logo, and may also receive invitations to School events.

A gift in your will can be a simple way of making a significant donation to the School that is unaffordable during one's lifetime, and one which allows many people to make a meaningful contribution to future generations of WHSB students.

Making a bequest is simple: it can be included in a new will or added as a codicil to an existing will.

We recommend that you obtain legal advice before deciding to include a legacy in your will, or adding a codicil to an existing will, to ensure your interests are protected and your wishes recorded accurately.

We understand that leaving a legacy is a private matter but if you feel able to inform us of your intention it would help the School plan for the future. Publicity around your legacy can range from entirely unannounced to full details published; there may be some benefit to the School in publicising the existence of legacies but any publicity would be in line with your own wishes.

The form can be found here www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/owa or by scanning the QR code below.

This form enables you to submit your intention to include a legacy to Westcliff High School for Boys in your will.

The form is merely a statement of intention, it does not legally commit you. It will be treated in the strictest confidence, and if you wish to remain anonymous please let us know.

Contact: Mr S Rothon, Director of Finance and Accounting, rothons@whsb.essex.sch.uk



BROWN, R.D. *Scholarship for Piano forte at the Royal Academy of Music.*
 SAYERS, A.T. *State Scholarship.*
 1953 COBHAM, I.M. *State Scholarship.*
 DOUST, T.F. *Exhibition in Modern Languages. St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.*
 BERG, E. *State Scholarship. Exhibition in Modern History. University College, Leicester.*
 EGGINS, H.O.W. *State Scholarship.*
 HAMMOND, P.R. *State Scholarship.*
 HEWSON-BROWNE, R.C. *State Scholarship.*
 MAXWELL, R.C. *State Scholarship.*
 MILLS, M.R. *State Scholarship.*
 RIDDLE, J. *State Scholarship.*
 1954 ROSE, P.L. *State Scholarship.*
 UPSON, M.V. *State Scholarship.*
 1955 CELNICK, I.W. *State Scholarship.*
 CHAPMAN, R. *State Scholarship.*
 COTGROVE, P.C. *State Scholarship.*
 HOGG, A.E. *State Scholarship.*
 LEAVER, K.D. *State Scholarship.*
 LEVENE, B.C. *State Scholarship.*
 MASTIN, B.A. *Minor Scholarship in History, Peterhouse, Cambridge.*
 MERRIMAN, D. *State Scholarship.*
 RICKARD, B.W. *State Scholarship.*
 1956 CARR, D.W. *State Scholarship.*

A.W. REEVE
 C.E. BOWY
 1969 P. CROUCH
 S. KURT
 1970 C.R. GREEN
 G.M. SPOTT
 1971 A.D. LEACH
 L.S. TILLET
 S. WELLS
 R. BOWYER
 A. SEAGER
 1972 N.J. ELCOCK
 M.V. WOODING
 1973 J.A.P. MCGLOTHLIN
 O.S. FORDER
 1974 G. COOMBS
 1975 A.C. WOODING
 M.L. CONSTANT
 1976 N.A. MACKER
 N.A. BRISCOE
 1977 G. BATTERSBY
 J.W. PARKER
 S.M. ROZARIO
 1978 P.D. ALLEN
 G.W. CLARE
 P.S. COLLIER
 J.A. JIMORSAL
 1979 P.V.E. WOOD
 1980 D.C. HORNSBY
 J.M. PAUL
 T.P. UNDERHILL
 D.J. WILKINS
 1981 J. PANDIT
 H.H.R. TOWLER
 1982 D.C. HUTCHINGS
 D.N. PETHER
 1983 S.H. KEEN
 R.J. PANDIT
 K.A. WINSTON

Please follow Westcliff High School for Boys on Facebook and LinkedIn where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. We would be delighted to welcome you back to the School to see what is going on.

We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions. Please contact Mrs Clarke in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

Tel: 01702 475443 Email: office@whsb.essex.sch.uk Web: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

FIDE ET FORTITUDINE