### Past Presidents

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Past Presidents

Review of the year by the President

An interview with our Vice-President Andy Thomas

Rugby 7’s

News of recent leavers

Charitable Trust and O.C’s Bursaries

The Foundation, an update by the Headmaster

Golf Society

Every Day an Open Day

O.C’s Cricket Tournament

Old Colstonians Rugby Club

New Road Development

P.I.E. Awards and Society Sponsorship

The Bharatanatyam Arangetram of Meera Bhadresa

A young O.C’s return - Josh Nowak

Colston’s Hockey Tour to Italy

Colston’s Tour to South Africa

News of Overseas O.C’s

O.C / Rotary Design Award

Annual Dinner

‘Calling all young Entrepreneurs’

Obituaries

News from the Parents Society

Acknowledgements

Officers / Committee / Contacts
Following the celebrations organised as part of the School’s Tercentenary in 2010, this year has been somewhat quieter by comparison. Nonetheless the OCs have organised and participated in a Rugby 7s Tournament, a 20/20 Cricket Tournament and a Golf day which marked the 40th anniversary of the Old Colstonian Golf Society. Throughout the winter the OC Rugby Club fielded a regular first team who enjoyed modest success and also an occasional 2nd XV. This year with a number of OCs returning from University, they expect to fulfil a regular 2nd XV fixture list.

Off the sports field your society has continued its charitable and benevolent activities. The Old Colstonian Charitable Trust, which benefited from the sale of part of the OC’s sports ground at Mile straight, currently provides bursaries for 4 pupils attending Colston’s School. From September next year, the Trustees have committed to providing an additional 4 bursaries and hope to increase this further in future years as financial conditions allow. This very important activity is part of the OC’s commitment to the Colston’s Foundation which I commend to you all.

During the year the Society has sought to strengthen its links with the School and has sponsored a School Hockey trip to Italy and a Rugby/Hockey trip to South Africa which included a memorable excursion to Robben Island. We have also supported individual students in a range of extracurricular activities through our long standing PIE awards. And finally the Society has agreed to make a major financial contribution to the refurbishment of the Arches changing rooms which have sadly fallen into disrepair.

In all these activities we are greatly indebted to OCs, such as Fred Forse, Doug Lodge, John Wright, David Mace, Nigel Hurley, Dave Shaw and others, all of whom have committed their energies to OC affairs over many years. But it is now time to relieve these stalwarts and to introduce new faces and new ideas into OC activities and to make our Society more relevant to younger generations of OCs. Included in Cribsheet is a suggested programme of events for 2012 but we would really appreciate your suggestions, especially from the girls, as to the events you would like to participate in.

In the past the OCs have thrived because we always had enough people to cut the grass, mark out the pitches or serve behind the bar. But there are always those who “do” and those who “watch”. I was remined of this when I was in Canada this summer and visited Prince Edward Island. Prince William and Kate visited PEI on their trip to Canada shortly after they were married and they stayed in the Deputy Governor’s residence, a magnificent colonial style mansion on the sea shore. Running alongside this part of the shore line is a pathway for Joggers, cyclists and walkers and spaced out periodically a number of park benches. I don’t know about you, but I can never resist reading the plaques on benches. One such inscription remains in my memory -

When you get the option to sit it out or to dance – I hope you choose to dance

If you would like to become involved in organising an OC event or simply to use the OC Pavilion for your reunion please contact Fred Forse. email: tforse@blueyonder.co.uk

Ian H A Gunn

President of Old Colstonian Society
This year our profile focuses on our Vice-President, Andrew Thomas, and takes the form of an interview that he gave to a former pupil at Colston’s, Andy Thomas.

Printed below are extracts of their conversation. A full version can be found on a BBC Podcast from the Cures For Insomnia collection, recorded for Radio 4 as part of the BBC’s summer of medical self-help series.

AT
Andrew or do you prefer Andy

ACT
I really have no preference. I am usually Andrew to family members and Andy to everyone else, although a few call me Tom for obvious reasons and one person in the whole world knows me as Harold (pronounced ‘arold!)

AT
Harold?

ACT
That’s Parksy - don’t ask me why but it can have its benefits.

AT
In what way?

ACT
On my stag night he and I arrived back at my house in the early hours. I had got back earlier than he and had promptly fallen asleep. Being a sound sleeper (when less than sober) I hadn’t heard him, some-time later, imploring to be let in, as the shed was cold for a night’s sleep. The following day I was apprehended by an ageing neighbour who had had his beauty sleep disturbed in the wee hours not only by his prostate but also by some delinquent shouting to be let in. Obviously, he was in the wrong place as he had been beseeching Harold to let him in! Parksy and I were off the hook although I’m not sure Parksy escaped entirely from the tone of his wife’s voice over the telephone when she called to ascertain his whereabouts.

AT
So you and he go back along way?

ACT
Indeed. I started at Crib in 1966 in the old P2. He had started the year earlier in P1. In those days you were only considered a true Colstonian if you came in at 7 years old so I was a latecomer.
An interview with the President – Elect Andy Thomas

AT
Do you have memories of those days?

ACT
Other than the bullying, which inevitably took place. The Dayboy/boarder conflict. The more senior boys determined to establish their seniority in many unsubtle and sometimes brutal ways made you tougher and in my case drove me to prove that I was as good educationally and at sport as any of them. It’s surprising how things evened themselves up when you grew bigger and they didn’t.

AT
So you don’t think it was unhealthy?

ACT
Some of it was excessive but that was dealt with and the rest defines your character. I found that sport really helped and as I became established at the school I ended up playing sport with people from those age groups so I earned their respect (although in some cases I suspect grudgingly). All the time, because of the size of the school, I had close friends in my year group with whom competition in all aspects of school were intense. In fact, as we moved from Prep to Upper School our sporting ties grew stronger and our desire to outdo each other must have had a beneficial impact on school teams. Andy Bromley, Glyn Evans, Chris Broad and myself were always vying to be top dog in the cricket and rugby teams - in fact much to Chris’s disgust I won the Prep School Cricket prize in our final year although I think he just about outdid me from then onwards. Man of the Series in an Ashes series away from home only just shades it! He was a good rugby player but cricket was his first love and an obviously correct choice-although those who saw some of his tantrums on a school playing-field would have been amazed to see him as an ICC official today. The four of us also went to Downend CC as juniors having been persuaded along by Boyan Wells. In the case of myself, Andy and Glyn these years in the sporting arena have forged close friendship as we have stayed in Bristol and along with Steve Tucker we still see each other regularly and our families have grown up together. In fact, myself and Andy have or have had both a son and a daughter at school and Glyn has had a son there so we have done our bit to swell the numbers of OCs.

AT
You mention your children but haven’t mentioned your wife.

ACT
Yes, Verity. We met in my last year at Colston’s. It was love at first sight-or so she tells me. Seriously, though, the first time we met she was going out with Broady. That came to an end and a short while afterwards I met her at an OC’s disco back in the days of the OC’s at Mile Strait when the old Clubhouse with a gas-light on the ceiling, hosted discos for all and sundry from the local rugby community. I had been with a few friends to a Disco earlier in the evening at Badminton School and had consumed a few rough ciders, as was our wont in those days, so I am not entirely clear about the events of the evening but she headed off with some friends to another party and Parksy and I got lost getting there. I had managed to get her number and we duly met up after a school cricket match against B.G.S. the following weekend at the old Way Inn on College Green. We have been together ever since, although, I am sure there have been plenty of times when she has wondered why? She is a primary school teacher who knows how to deal with the awkward and unruly. So I
An interview with the President – Elect Andy Thomas

suppose that helps. Also, she loves her rugby and that has been a large part of our life. For some reason though, her stress levels seem to increase to greater levels now that my son George plays than it did when I was playing. My daughter Olivia’s boyfriend is another Old Colstonian, Luke Eves. So Verity is surrounded by O.Cs and rugby. She feels that she qualifies as an honorary O.C herself after all the hours spent at school watching rugby (as well as hockey, netball and cricket) from my schooldays through to Olivia’s and George’s. She has done well to tolerate it all for this long, as we have been together over 35 years. Had she given in to the temptation to kill me she would have been a free woman again by now!!

AT

Were you always looking to go to Oxford?

ACT

Not really, but I knew a few that had gone up and having watched my cousin playing in the Varsity match the lure of playing rugby there and emulating him persuaded me to have a go. A few of the staff were less than supportive but the people I respected like Martin Tayler and the Head at the time, Graham Searle, gave me the confidence to try and it paid off. Martin had taken me under his wing and it was through him driving me up to the OC’s every Saturday that my connection with the Old Boys began. From being a hesitant 3rd team fly-half/centre for them I developed into a (slightly over-) confident 1st team player by the time I was in the Upper Sixth at school. Playing against men hastened my growing up, both on and off the field, so that when I was asked by Bristol to trial for them I was prepared for adult rugby which can’t happen in today’s era where there is a literal division between men and boys.

AT

So did you stop playing rugby for the OC’s then?

ACT

Not entirely. I played on and off for them whilst at Uni. (where after playing every match for the first two years I missed out on a Blue but was rewarded by achieving my goal in my final year) and again when I moved from Bath (having fallen out with the coach at Bristol a year after coming down from Oxford) I played for them before eventually moving to Clifton with the advent of competitive League rugby.

AT

So what was your next involvement with the OC’s?

ACT

I always kept in touch with them from a distance-looking out for their results and following the school’s progress but any direct contact came when I joined the Golf Society which led to a number of trips to Carlyon Bay for our bi-annual May Bank holiday excursion and of course the 3 meetings a year. My son George attended Colston’s from Year 7 and left in 2010 having thoroughly enjoyed himself both on the sports field and academically. His sister, Olivia, who is three years his senior, spent her time from Year 7 to 11 at an all-girls school but saw sense and went to Crib for Sixth form-‘the 2 happiest years of her life’. Since then my involvement with the School and the OC’s has grown deeper to the extent that a couple of years ago Ian Gunn got fed up with all the advice I was giving on golf days and weekends and suggested that as I had so many opinions I might like to put them to good use on the OC’s Committee.
Furthermore, he suggested, as there were no other candidates–dead or alive who had the remotest interest in following him into the President’s chair (hotseat after he has occupied it!) that I might like to be his V.P. and subsequently become El Presidente. Having always been a succour to anyone pandering to my ego I acquiesced.

**AT**

So if that was a couple of years ago why did you not become President last year?

**ACT**

Well Gunner made such a good job of it and as his year had been mainly consumed by running the Tercentenary events I thought that standing down after 1 year made little sense. We wanted to make some real progress in evolving the OC’s in to a society more relevant to all OC’s not just the old codgers. The idea was that with his drive and enthusiasm (and being of advanced years having greater time on his hands) we needed to stop the process whereby the President was changed every year just for the sake of it. I felt it important that we had greater continuity in office and that as we want to make real and lasting attempts to engage a far wider body of OC’s that it could only be achieved if those on the ‘outside’ perceived that the OC’s society took itself seriously. I didn’t feel this was the case if we were always looking for new people at the top. The Presidency had almost become a job that no-one wanted. So why look to change if the man at the top wants to be there and is making a success of it?

**AT**

So you foresee a bright future for the Society?

**ACT**

Yes I do. We are looking to increase the strength of the Rugby Club which, traditionally, has been the powerbase of the Society and has provided most of the Committee down the years. To this end we are encouraging school-leavers and those returning to Bristol to join O.C.R.F.C. by paying their subscription for the first year. We are continuing with a number of events on an annual basis to encourage O.C.s to return more regularly in the hope that they may feel more disposed towards the Society and maybe play a more active role than they may have done otherwise. We are keen to encourage our female O.C.’s to help with the organisation and the running of events in which they would want to participate. To that end we are hoping to run both Hockey and Rugby days for them next year. A few have shown an interest so I am hoping that others will lend their support and encouragement. Another initiative that was launched last year was a recent leaver’s Christmas get together in the Pavilion. We are repeating it this year and hope that through Facebook and other social networking media we will attract good numbers. I am confident that we are slowly putting the building blocks in place to have a worthwhile Old Colstonians Society which will provide support and opportunities to Old Colstonians of all generations. Hard work will be necessary but the more people we engage the workload on each individual will be reduced. The benefits to the Society and the School will be tangible and can only help to reinforce the overall feeling of being part of the Colston’s family.

**AT**

Thanks Andy. It’s been good to get some background on you and to find out what prompted your greater involvement in the OC’s. Let’s hope that others are encouraged to do the same.
Sunday May 1st saw the second incarnation of the Old Colstonians Rugby 7 a side tournament following on from its inauguration during last year’s Tercentenary programme. Again the wider Colstonian family was out in force as people of all ages turned out in numbers to play in or just to support an Old Colstonian sporting initiative (at this point it may be better if boarders and anyone with a short attention span or low pain threshold should pass straight to Martin Tayler’s splendid photographic depiction of the events of the day: in any case I suspect they will make more sense and give a greater understanding of everyone’s enjoyment of the event than my rambling, sketchy prose!).

As last year we had 8 teams entered for the main event although due to insufficient numbers we were unable to offer as part of the entertainment, a game between the members of the fairer sex. Girls please note same time, same place, next year - you have been warned!! We need your support on the field of play as well as on the sidelines and in the bar.

The staff and the OCRFC also entered squads. The other 6 squads were made up of varying age groups; from the recent school-leavers, to the not quite departed, to those who should just about know better than to attempt a day’s worth of contact sport on a hot May Bank holiday on firm pitches. No doubt the last couple of days have been spent by some reviewing the wisdom of that decision! In the main the squad captains tried to comply with the tournament stipulation of only 2 ‘ringers’ per squad and no doubt some had their hands forced by late withdrawals. In any case it was good to have the odd Old Bristolian and Old Elizabethan about to show them what the Old Colstonian spirit is about - thankfully I don’t think we had to suffer any Old Cliftonians!

Two pools of four had been drawn in advance and in secret. There did appear to be one pool that at first glance had the majority of the stronger squads in it. Surprisingly, it wasn’t the group containing the squad of the tournament organiser - who didn’t appear desperate to test his ageing legs, or those of his no doubt thankful friends, against the exuberance of youth or the strength of the combined Clifton and Dings RFC squad.

As the day progressed and the crowd’s desire for beer and burgers grew stronger - after no small amount of prompting from Pete Thornley who put in a long shift on the tannoy- (Thank you Dave, Linda and Nigel on food and Fred, Helen, etc on beverages) the agility, strength and stamina of the players was put to the test. The group winners and runners up were decided upon in a series of mainly entertaining and in the odd case, feisty, encounters.

The semi-finals saw the experience of Colston’s Sages pitted against Henry Mace’s National Division 2 South Combination and the tiring legs of Rich Bryan’s squad take on the Burfords’ Mortlake Old Boys. As expected, youth held sway and the final was a re-run of an earlier pool game between Henry’s and Jack/Joe’s squads. Possibly against the odds, but to the delight of those wanting a mainly Colstonian-based winner, the former Boarders reversed the result of the earlier game and emerged victorious after an entertaining concluding match.

Throughout the day the games were played in an excellent spirit, refereed expertly - those who know me will know how difficult I found it to put those few words into black and white - and cheered enthusiastically by a large and cognisant band of Old Colstonians and their families and
friends. A wide range of different eras were represented both on and off the pitch and as with all family gatherings we had prodigal sons and daughters as well as the odd black sheep. I know of at least one OC who hadn’t been back to the school for 30 years - good to see you Phil (Hill)! Hopefully some Colstonians of the future were present as well. Rugby was truly the winner and still plays and should continue to play, a significant role in both the School’s and Old Colstonians’ future.

The day was given a degree of poignancy as the winner’s trophy had recently been engraved ‘In Memory of Jim Tolman’ as a small token of the esteem and affection with which Jim was regarded. Jan, Joe, Katie and Rachel were there to see the Trophy presented for the first time. I thank them for that, as I am sure that it would not have been easy so to do.

Thank you to the captains for their assistance in making the day possible. It’s great that younger generations can put in the effort to get an event like this up and running. Thank you to the ground-staff for all their hard work in preparing the pitches. Thank you to the OCRFC for organising the Bar and the Picture House and thank you to all of you spectators for taking the time to come along to show your support.

Please make a note in your diary for the same weekend next year. I promise next year that we will have a celebrity presenting the Trophy!!

Keep a look out for details of the Golf and Cricket which will be circulating shortly.

Andy Thomas
**Tom Mannion:**

“Receiving my results a year ago now seemed like full confirmation that my Colston’s career was over, and although this certainly seemed like a daunting idea to begin with, I quickly realised that it also meant the start of my university life.

I started at Royal Holloway, a college of the University of London, in late September and the first thing that struck me was that I would be going into the experience completely alone, which was an odd feeling considering the tight knit environment that I had grown used to at school. Despite these original fears I soon settled in and my first year of university has certainly been one to remember.

After joining the cricket team, something of a staple from my time at Colston’s, I made the 1st XI and after a good year both on and off the field was voted onto the committee as social secretary for my second year.

Balancing sport, a busy social life and academic work is a common issue for an old Colstonian, but I feel as if I have adjusted to university life well, and this year as even more of my friends leave for university, it certainly seems as if life after Colston’s has begun well for many of us.”

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**Simon Rendell:**

“Having left Colston’s in the summer of 2010 I took a job working for family ski company Ski Esprit, in the French Ski Resort of Les Arc. Having spent 6 months in the Alps experiencing the season-aire lifestyle I returned to Bristol to earn money before university and to catch up with friends from school. In September I am going to the University of Nottingham to study Politics”

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**Shaun Malone:**

“Well after A levels I moved to London for gym. In April we went to the world cup in Belgium where we won team gold with GB and an individual all around bronze medal.

Now I’m at Queen Mary Uni London studying law.”
**News of recent leavers**

**Oliver Lynch:**

“I started off my gap year with no intention of going to University and immediately after we broke up for the summer I was on holiday in the French/Swiss alps for a month. When i got back the plan was to get a job and get some sort of income. I didn't find work up until about Christmas due to there not being much work available. I eventually found some work through a job agency which was not enjoyable at all. It involved some factory work and labouring. The work gave me some good insights and thoughts about my future and I last minute applied for University because I knew I didn't want to stay in a job like I had anymore and wanted to open my opportunities and expand my possibilities of where I could live and work.

My holiday came round and I left at the beginning of June with 7 other friends from in and outside Colston's School. We did the summer season out there but did the equivalent to what you would do in the winter and use the chairlift to ski down the mountain but I would ride my mountain bike. As this was my main sport and hobby for the past few years going to Whistler is a dream holiday for downhill mountain bikers like myself. I did weekly competitive racing out in Canada in mountain bike races and also not having been there before I saw another side of the world which was very fascinating with spectacular views and meeting people who had different lifestyles.

Now today I have my place at Sheffield Hallam University and I am studying Sports Technology which is a Design/Engineering based course which I am enjoying thoroughly because I have a big mechanical/design side to me and I intend to find my career along the lines of what I am doing in my course.”

**Becky Hughes:**


In England's 7s Development Squad training, hoping to break into team for this year's 7s circuit Dubai, Vegas, Hongkong etc. Gap year 2 woops! Living the dream!

Working saving money for uni want to do Physio at Cardiff then specialise in Sports Physio hopefully at a Premiership Rugby Club.”
News of recent leavers

Emily White:
“When I finished school I had no idea what I wanted to do next! The only thing I was sure of was that I wanted a break from full time education. I decided I wanted to go and help children who live in poverty as well as travelling around a few countries. Me and Busta went to Cape Town in South Africa to a township called Capricorn.

We worked in a school which consisted of a shed house and a metal climbing frame. The amount the children smile you would have thought they’d won the lottery, it was such an inspirational place!

We then travelled through Asia where we met up with Sam Mizen, and then went on to Australia. Travelling was the best 4 months of my life. It allows you to appreciate what you have at home, see the weird and the wonderful and party as much as you like regardless of what you parents say!

When I came home started working for an nursing agency as a health care assistant, and after a few months I realised I wanted to become a paramedic! It had always been something I was interested in but I had never really paid much attention to it. Since then I have continued to work for this agency and am now working in Clevedon Hospital. They have given me training and opportunities to help me with my application for university”

Matt Evans:
“ Took a year out to work and save money to travel to New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Thailand and Laos over 4 months.

In New Zealand went to both North and South Island, Was in Christchurch only days after earthquake - helped clear up. Bungee jumped at Nevis in Queenstown, same one as England Rugby players did, it was 134 metres.

Skydived in Taupo 12,000 feet. White water rafted in river valley, glacier hike in Fraz Josef. Thailand, went Elephant trekking with 1st team Rugby Captain Thomas Baker. East coast of oz, Sydney to Cairns, Scuba dived in the Great Barrier Reef, in Fiji I played rugby with locals”

Also played rugby for Hereford RFC and Cricket for Wormelow CC during my gap year.
Currently studying Ancient History at Cardiff University.”

Tom Baker:
“Since school I have been involved with the Scotland U20 training camps and got approached by Worcester. Trained there for a few months until getting injured with hamstring which put me out. I decided to then go travelling where I went to Thailand, Australia New Zealand and Fiji.

Currently at Birmingham City University and plan on making my way back to train full time at Worcester Warriors.”
News of recent leavers

**David Poole:**

“After leaving school in June, I traveled to South America, where I successfully trained to become a snowboard instructor, gaining a BASI level 2 instructor certification. After returning home I spent a brief spell instructing snowboarding in the Swiss Alps. I then returned home and spent time working in order to raise money towards a trip to South East Asia, visiting Vietnam Laos and Thailand with a fellow Old Colstonian. Having reappeared to uni, after exceeding my expectations at A levels, I have recently commenced my university degree, BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, at the London School of Economics. I am boxing, playing rugby and as an Army Scholar Bursar am an active member of the University of London Officer Training Corps.”

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**George Thomas:**

“After leaving Colston’s I started work at a computer software company to get money for a bit of travelling and university. I worked there for 9 months before finishing in March. Whilst still living in Bristol, I played Rugby for Gloucestershire U20s where I got the chance to play at Twickenham in the final of the County Championship which we won. I then went Skiing for a few weeks first stay with a fellow OC who was working as a seasonaire in Les Arcs and then joined up with my family and other friends as they had also booked a holiday in the same ski area. A few months later I went to America where I went to L.A, Las Vegas, San Diego and Palm Springs. I then returned home and began pre-season training with Loughborough University, where I am currently reading Sports Science with Management.”

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**Ross Denton:**

“Since leaving Colston’s I went on to Southampton Uni to do History. Upon discovering the University Rowing Club and cheap beer, my year was pretty much set. Competitive Indoor Rowing back at Colston’s with what seemed like just the biggest First Team forwards was a nice introduction to rowing, and so far at Uni I have set the club record on the 2 kms row and came second on the 5 kms. Currently considering trials for the national team next year, but the degree is probably more important! It has also been nice to connect with OC’s at the university, and keep in contact with the school I have spent the majority of my life so far in.”
**News of recent leavers**

**Sam Mizen:**

“During my gap year I spent the first 3 months recovering from an ACL reconstruction whilst working at Tesco to raise money for traveling. On the 31st Jan I left for Borneo with Operation Raleigh, spending 7 weeks doing charity work...the first 3 1/2 weeks were spent on an island populated by 14 people on the Northern tip of Borneo; where I helped build compost toilets and other useful things...the next 3 1/2 weeks were spent trekking through the jungle and diving. After the 7 weeks I traveled to Kuala Lumpur to meet to other Colston’s friends where we traveled around KL, Penang and up into Thailand. I spent around a month in Thailand moving around the different islands and eventually up to Bangkok to fly home.”

**Alex McBride:**

“After A Levels I took a gap year and decided to try and gain some work experience in the financial sector, and this resulted in me securing a position on an internship scheme with an accountancy firm in London. Suffice to say accountancy wasn’t as exciting as I had perhaps imagined it might be, but the experience of living in London more than compensated for this. Subsequently, I returned home and I have since moved to Exeter University where I am studying PPE: this has been fantastic thus far and I’m looking forward to everything that university has to offer in the coming years.”
Last summer, after completing her A’Levels at Colston’s School, Emily Quilter spent two weeks’ in Eldoret, Kenya, volunteering with the Charity, ‘Open Arms International’. The following is a report of her experience.

Open Arms is a humanitarian organisation dedicated to improving the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS and other tragedies. In one of the poorest areas of Kenya, the Charity is building the Open Arms village which is currently home to over 60 orphaned or abandoned children. These children are raised and cared for by Kenyan house parents, who bring the children up as their own. It is a real privilege getting to know these wonderful children and to see them thriving in such a caring and loving environment. The Village sits on 52 rural acres outside Eldoret and is a beautiful and tranquil place for the children to live. The Open Arms school currently teaches the village children only but it is hoped that in time, children from outside the village will also attend. This was my second trip with Open Arms and this year the Open Arms baby home was opened which is currently home to 9 gorgeous babies who have all been abandoned by their parents.

The Open Arms village is in stark contrast to the poverty and deprivation which exists on the streets of Eldoret where hundreds of children and young people live in the local rubbish dump. Children as young as four spend their days foraging in the rubbish for food to eat and bits of plastic and metal to sell. Nothing prepared me for the horrors of what I witnessed. Most are addicted to glue which they sniff through bottles to numb their physical hunger and emotional pain; the older children teaching the younger ones what to do. The poverty and plight of these desperate children was very disturbing and it is these children Open Arms have a passion to help.

Open Arms is involved in a number of projects in Eldoret. I worked in the temporary medical clinic set up in the slums of Kambi Teso. The aim of the clinic is to treat and vaccinate as many people as possible. I worked as part of a team of doctors, paediatric nurses and other volunteers from the medical profession from the UK, America and Kenya. One of my
News of recent leavers

roles was to work in the triage tent where I took temperatures and helped bandage superficial wounds. I was also able to help in the pharmacy tent where vast quantities of vitamins were handed out. I was initially quite overwhelmed by the need for medical assistance and by the second day was amazed to see at least 500 Kenyans queuing up in the hope to be seen by a doctor. There was a huge range of illnesses, from malaria to T.B and many suffered from malnutrition. Whilst the people queued patiently, we tried to occupy the children by playing ball games and making crafts; attempting to communicate, despite our limited Swahili.

I found the story of one woman particularly awe-inspiring. She arrived at the medical tent incredibly weak with severe chest pain and in a dehydrated state. The doctors thought she might have T.B., malaria or pneumonia and Open Arms arranged for her to be taken to the local hospital for treatment. Amazingly, this lady had risked her life by walking nearly 150km from the border of Uganda to Kambi Teso with her very young daughter, in order to seek medical attention; such is the desperate need for medical help.

During the two weeks’ the clinic was running, about 4000 people received help and medical advice from the doctors, all of which were given specific medicine from the pharmacy. A typical day would start at 8am with planning and preparation; the medical clinic opened between 10.00am and 4pm. As we travelled by bus from the Open Arms village to Kambi Teso, our bus would frequently become stuck in thick mud following torrential rain. There was nothing we could do other than pile out and push - much to the amusement of the locals!

Another one of the main projects that Open Arms run is the feeding programme in Kambi Teso. The 120 malnourished children that are fed receive a hot, nutritious meal, which is often their only meal of the day. I was fortunate enough to help serve these meals and witnessed children as young as 6 carrying their younger siblings on their back and sharing food with them.

Volunteering in Africa has been an amazing experience and a real privilege. I am very grateful to ‘The Old Colstonian Society’ and others for their kind and generous support. I am planning to return to Africa for 3 months in April, as part of my Gap Year, before starting my degree at Bristol University.

Emily Quilter and friends
The Old Colstonian’s Charitable Trust and O.C’s Bursaries

The Old Colstonian Charitable Trust was formed in 1993. The Trustees of the OCCT are the President, Treasurer and Secretary for the time being of the Old Colstonian Society plus John Wright and Nigel Bacon. The Trustees have wide powers of discretion both as regards the investment of Trust assets and the charitable causes it supports.

Shortly after the formation of the Charitable Trust, the Society gifted it 25% of the sports ground at Mile Straight, Filton and this remained its principal asset until part of the ground was sold for housing development. The resulting proceeds, plus a further gift from the Society, have been invested partly in a loan to the School and partly in a portfolio of lower risk mutual funds managed by Hargreaves Lansdown, the Trust’s investment advisers.

As part of the loan agreement with the School, the Trustees have committed to recycle the loan interest received back to the school to support OC bursaries. Currently the Trust provides bursarial support to four pupils attending the School and has recently undertaken to provide a further four bursaries from the start of the academic year 2012.

All applications for bursaries should be sent to the Headmaster. He will consult with the Trustees before they agree to make an award.

The Colston’s Foundation

Summer Telethon 2011

Following the launch of the Colston’s Foundation in the Tercentenary year active fundraising has begun to build a Bursary endowment.

The aim is to maintain and extend the social diversity of Colston’s, enabling boys and girls from modest families to access educational opportunities which would not normally be affordable by providing means tested bursaries.
Hundreds of OC’s have already received calls from sixth form pupils seeking to reconnect them with Colston’s. Generating conversations have spanned the past, present and future and revealed an abundance of goodwill and support for the school.

Old Colstonians clearly value the impact that the school has had on their lives and many have expressed a commitment to enabling future generation to access a Colston’s education.

The summer Telethon (August 2011) was the first co-ordinated fundraising venture undertaken by the school. A team of nine callers spoke to 400 former members of the school who clearly enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and to update the school on the journey they had taken since leaving school.

At the completion of the two week campaign a total of £60,000 had been pledged to the Foundation. In general, this sum was raised by OC’s making a ‘one off’ donation on undertaking to make a monetary contribution over a period of three years.

The trustees intend to support four pupils with effect from September 2012 and would join me in thanking all those who responded to the Telethon campaign

Peter Fraser
Headmaster
Old Colstonians’ Golf Society celebrates 40th anniversary

The Old Colstonians’ Golf Society celebrated their 40th anniversary with a Golf Day at the Kendleshire Golf Club on Friday 17th June 2011.

The winning team of Dave Bowery, Sam Bowery and Pat Bowery with Old Colstonian Golf Society captain Ian Parks

Old Colstonian Golf Society
Autumn Meeting 2011

A late October heat-wave lasted long enough for the OCs to stage their Autumn Golf Day bathed in glorious sunshine.

27 golfers made the journey to the wonderful links-style Cherington course in Minchinhampton.

This has always proved to be a popular venue and mention must be made of how fantastic the course was. Well manicured greens and fairways, and rough that was in no way punitive would ensure that we had the optimum chance of playing to the best of our ability - how some were to be sadly disappointed! On a perfect day we set out in 9 3-balls.
The beauty of the OCs is that there is a wide mix of ability and age as well as a smattering of the fairer sex to ensure that language and behaviour is moderated. Carlyon Bay in May provides for those ‘boys will be boys’ (whatever their age) moments! A flattish course also ensured that although it was hot the older members would not be disadvantaged by early exhaustion.

The core of the group remains pretty constant but it was good to see some newish - but not youngish faces in the shape of all 3 Smiths and the debutant Pete ‘Chopper’ Richmond, although he managed to upset the Captain by suggesting that they had both ‘put on a few pounds’ - Parksy don’t worry you still look the same to me as you did when you were terrorising the hookers of the Bristol Combination for so many years! Chopper it was good of you not to walk straight in and brashly walk off with all the prizes so at least the rest of us who didn’t play to the best of our ability still want you back!

As always with the OCs there were a myriad of prizes to hand out in the clubhouse whilst we were digesting our ham egg and chips - followed by apple strudel and cream (it’s all right Rachel, Cacker barely touched the cream so please let him come out to play again). Perhaps it was fitting, that on such a glorious autumn day, one of our members, who can truly be said to be in the autumn of his days, should have had such a cracking round to walk off with the nett prize: Dave Hodgson’s 82 off a handicap of 18 must have been wonderful to behold - no more moaning about getting tired half way through a round Dave.

Joker won his customary spot on the gross cup - although he only just-pipped Pat Bowery - and this time he did it without having the luxury of sprinting round at the front of the group.

The prize for overall Stableford winner went to Humpers who nipped in ahead of El Presidente on countback - tough luck Gunner but at least you seem to have found some form. As always there were various prizes for runners-up and nearest the pin etc but in the usual spirit of fair play there is a rule that you
cannot win more than 1 prize for your round’s score so the prizes were shared around - meaning that the Geriatrics prize couldn’t be claimed by Dave but went instead to an incredibly youthful-looking Roger Fry.

Thanks must go to Briff for his unstinting work in ensuring that all runs smoothly on the day. Parksy has now handed over the Captainscy to Wattsy and it was fitting that he managed to leave with a prize from his last day in office. Joker must be thanked along with Dave Bowery for getting us on the course and Browner put in some toil tidying up the cards of those whose days at crib weren’t spent in a height of attentive frenzy when it came to maths lessons!

The next meeting will be our bi-annual trip to Carlyon Bay in St.Austell and all those that are interested in making what is always a great trip, should contact Briff via e-mail - david.briffett@blueyonder.co.uk
The dates are 4th-6th May inclusive.

Winter well and if you get a chance, take a look at the OCRFC website and come along to lend them some support on match days. It will be well appreciated by a club that is beginning to engender some new belief and a desire to improve.

Andy Thomas
Vice-President Old Colstonian Society

Photos Keith Watts
We hold an O.C’s Open Day each May for any O.C. to come back and enjoy Coffee, Drink and lunch in the Pavilion, and watch a game of Cricket, you will also be able to have a guided tour of both the lower school and upper school. Your guides will be the best ambassadors of the school, that is some of it’s young pupils.

However, you will be welcome to arrange to drop in almost anytime, just as the three O.C’s below did choosing our Cricket Tournament. If interested please contact Fred Forse.

Contact details as on inside of back cover.

Old Colstonians return to school for the first time for 63 years

Three Old Colstonians, David Powell and his brother John along with their cousin Michael James, returned to school on Sunday to watch the Old Colstonian Cricket Day and were rather amazed at some of the changes since their day. This was not at all surprising as one of them, David, had not been back to Colston’s for 63 years.

The Powell’s came from dairy farming family and market gardeners south of Bristol. They had a short trip around school, all enjoyed a drink in the Old Colstonian Pavilion and joined the old Colstonian Society.

Equipped with Society ties they are keen to return in the autumn to see the school fully during term time.

Michael James (School No: 156  West House a.k.a. Aldington. 1947-51), John Powell (School No: 205  of East House a.k.a. Beaufort.1948-1952) and David Powell (School No: 150  of East House a.k.a. Beaufort. 1944-48)
Cricketers bake in the sun on second Old Colstonian Cricket Day

A thoroughly pleasant day was had by all at the second Old Colstonian cricket day. Three sides made up of predominantly OCs along with teachers and parents basked in the sunshine in 10 hours of keenly contested cricket.

The Young O.C’s X1

The day was won by the ‘young’ OCs team led by OC Mark Hurrell: current 1st XI captain and vice captains Matt Thatcher and Oliver King-Sorrell performed well with bat and ball.

However Thatcher’s bowling entertained the crowd with his variations of single, double and triple bouncing deliveries.

Other notable performers were Richard Pandya, Jonathan Roper, Matthew Evans and Joe Swift. Swift’s mystery ball (known as ‘the straight one’) claimed four victims.

Thank you to everyone that took part in a very exciting day.
**Match One - Old Colstonians Under 20s beat The Richard Pandya XI by 31 runs**

Old Colstonians Under 20s 116 all out

Mark Hurrell 24  
Oliver King-Sorrell 18  
Joe Tolman 4 for 24  
Joe Northcott 2 for 15

Richard Pandya XI

Marcus Thatcher 24  
Oliver King-Sorrell 3 for 6  
Matthew Evans 3 for 16

**Match Two - The Richard Pandya XI beat The Colston’s Staff and Parents by 8 wickets**

The Colston’s Staff and Parents

Jon Roper 55  
Matthew Spence 23  
Joe Swift 3 for 10

Richard Pandya XI

B Clarke 59  
R Pandya 45

**Match Three - Old Colstonians Under 20s beat The Colston’s Staff and Parents by 9 wickets**

The Colston’s Staff and Parents

J Roper 39  
Marcus Thatcher 5 for 18  
Oliver King-Sorell 2 for 24  
Matt Evans 2 for 19

Old Colstonians Under 20s 93 for 1

Matthew Thatcher 37  
Simon Rendell 19*  
Oliver King-Sorrell 25*

The Society were represented by Ian Gunn the President and Andy Thomas the Vice President who thanked the participants, the school, Tommy Williams Head of Cricket and all those supporters who had to endure one of the hottest days of the summer.

*Tommy Williams*
O.C's Cricket Tournament

Photos by Martin Tayler
The Old Colstonian Rugby Club

Old Colstonians RFC

The Old Colstonians have continued to develop into a vibrant and energetic rugby club that is underpinned by a strong social ethos. The OCs have recruited some strong new players and the club are eagerly anticipating the 2011/12 season. Old Colstonians finished the 2010/11 season in mid-table of the Gloucester Premier league and, with the new players and the return of some older ones from long-term injuries, all bodes well for the future.

The Vision for the Old Colstonians RFC

The OCs possess very talented players and fulfil a full 1st and 2nd XV fixture program, as well as the occasional veterans/3rd XV game. With the excellent work of strength and conditioning coach Tom Rendell of PT Troop (www.pttroop.com) we enter the new season the fittest and strongest we have ever been. Gloucester Premier is a very strong league and with the addition of some old rivals in the shape of St. Mary's OB, Bishopston and Drybrook it is vital that we work hard in order to consolidate our position in the league and hopefully, in time, to mount a promotion challenge.

For the first time in a number of years the club is captained by an Old Colstonian. The captaincy of Andy Ross has begun a new era for the club and has built on the solid foundations left by Daniel Denning. He has been ably assisted by Vice-captain George Burrows, also an Old Colstonian. The club continues to build greater links with the school and has recruited a number of old boys this season, including the former England Schools representative Josh Novak, as well as Oliver King-Sorell and Robert Green, with the hope that many more will follow.

The social side of the rugby club is of vital importance with a variety of organised events occurring, from regular fancy dress outings to the more formal black tie winter ball. All events are publicised on the club website and take place on the first Saturday of every month. Every club social is open to wives, partners and friends and have proved to be very popular in the past.

The support staff, with the tireless help of the committee, are fully committed to the building of a successful club both on and off the pitch. Accordingly, training takes place in a structured, enjoyable and yet competitive environment and occurs on Tuesdays and Thursdays with fitness and skills taking place on alternate Tuesdays and then squad sessions on a Thursdays. Players are being provided with a setting in which they can flourish and facilities at the school continue to improve.

However, as with all rugby clubs, we would always like to see more players arrive - the more players that we can attract to the club, the greater the strides that we can make.

If you would like any further information please contact Head Coach Tommy Williams on 07771348720 or Richard Bryan on 07977411269.
The Old Colstonian Rugby Club

The following team photograph was taken on Saturday 22nd October 2011, immediately before the O.C’s scored a resounding win against St Mary’s Old Boys. OCRFC 42 St Mary’s 17

Forthcoming Events

Annual Dinner 14th April 2012 19:00 - 23:00 pm

New Road - The Final Piece

The Society have for many years held their Committee meeting on the second Tuesday of each month throughout the year. We have occasionally omitted August, but otherwise for the last ten years have met in the Pavilion at school.

This September’s meeting was held at New Road, at the new ground and Clubhouse enjoyed by our tenants the Mile Straight Sports Club. To many of the committee it provided a walk down memory lane, recalling
the previous New Clubhouse of the mid-70’s and a few of us the one before that, known as the ‘Chicken Shed’.

I arrived just before Ian Gunn our President and the M.S.S.C’s Steward who let us in. The Ground, laid out for Football pitches with a central Cricket square and the Clubhouse bore little resemblance to how we remembered it. The President, was amazed that the trees planted on the boundary during the Old Sports Club Chairmanship of Tony ‘Rel’ Clark’s tenure had grown; which is not surprising as that was at least 35 years ago since we were assisted with a grant from South Gloucestershire Council to plant them!

The holding of our meeting at New Road signified the final piece of the jigsaw that started with a meeting in the ‘old’ Clubhouse in 1977, where we talked at great length about a plan for the future for the ground, having just celebrated the opening of the last new Clubhouse, with a game of Rugby between Alan Morley’s All Star International XV v the O.C.’s XV. Over the years much has been debated at both Sports Club and Society Committee to finally reach the present status.

Initially it required the foresight of Frank Taylor Chairman of the Rugby Club immediately post war, to seek financial assistance from the Society to purchase the ground of approximately 9 acres in 1956.

Some nearly forty-five years later it required the vision of the Society Committee and help of both the then Headmaster, David Crawford, the School Governors and the Merchant Venturers to offer the OCRFC a home at school; to enable 3.3 acres to be sold for development to Redrow.

The passing years had seen many plans, part and full removal from New Road and at least two near completions with other developers and the appraisal of several alternative sites.

Fred Forse
In 1979 The P.I.E. Awards were launched, inspired by the thought that the Society should use what little means it had at its disposal to encourage years 12 & 13yr pupils to engage in projects that demonstrated their:-

**PERSONAL, INITIATIVE and ENTERPRISE**

Applications would be made from end of September to end of November, applicants may be asked to elaborate on their specific project by a panel of O.C’s. With awards made before Christmas recess.

A successful applicant would have to be able to :-

Demonstrate that they as individuals and/or others would benefit from their completion of the project, either with their education, other qualification, social service or career.

They would be expected to meet part of the cost themselves, but the over-riding factor was that it was intended especially to assist what may have been otherwise unaffordable.

This year we are revising the criteria to encourage projects especially that show a larger element of service to others.

Over the 32 years we have been able to assist 118 pupils in a variety of projects that hopefully will have enriched their educational experience whilst at school.

We have supported many training courses, educational trips, University ‘Taster’ Courses, but also more diverse projects allowing pupils to visit and help in a Rumanian Orphanage, Work in an African Medical Centre, building a Flight Simulator at school, travel assistance for Orchestra tour to Gulf States, field trips for Geography, History, to Holland, Spain, Iceland etc etc. we have even assisted to setup a Heavy Metal Band! It is an interesting and extensive list, which can be seen on the school’s website under Old Colstonians.

The **P.I.E. Awards** have mainly assisted pupils individually, but in more recent years we have also extended our assistance to groups, supporting Music and Sports tours, this year both the Hockey tour to Italy and the combined Rugby and Hockey tour to South Africa, received sponsorship from the Society, their reports are featured earlier in this edition of CRIBSHEET.

This last year we were also able to assist Meera Bhadresa who has recently performed her Bharatanatyam Arrangetram. This is the debut on-stage performance of a student, after undertaking many years of training.

The President and Treasurer of the Society joined Peter Fraser the Headmaster, Staff and pupils.

*The following is the Headmaster’s report.*
Meera Bhadresa, who completed her A Levels this summer and secured a place to read Dentistry at Cardiff University, performed her Bharatanatyam Arangetram in September. Long before she joined Colston's in Year 7 (2004), Meera had begun training in Bharatanatyam (classical Indian dance) under the direction of her teacher Kiram Ratna. She has attended the Milapfest’s Dance India Summer School and has had the opportunity to learn from a number of eminent artistes from India. Meera also has experience of other classical Indian dance styles including Kathak, Odissi and Kuchipudi. Meera performs as part of India Dance Wales Shishya group at charity events.

Bharatanatyam is originally from the State of Tamil Nadu in South India and the art form descends from a composition of words, music, gestures and sentiments derived from each of the four Vedas, the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism. The dance evolved as a form of worship performed in temples by accomplished female artistes known as Davadasis (servants of god) accompanied by traditional Carnatic (Southern Indian) music.

Meera’s Arangetram marked the achievement of 11 years of committed training and comprised 10 individual dances. These showcased Meera’s mastery of precision, agility and elegance as well as extensive use of facial expression depicting the dramatic elements of the story. The narration of Shrimati Megan Lloyd provided a wonderful interpretation of the storyline and dramatic content of the individual dances.

Meera’s Arangetram was supported by a large audience of family and friends including many of Meera’s teachers and fellow pupils from Colston’s. At the conclusion of her performance Meera paid tribute to the patience of the teachers and the support she had received from family and friends. In addition, she thanked the OC Society for their financial support offered to her during the final year of her training.

Both the President and Treasurer represented the Society and enjoyed the Indian meal which followed the performance!

Peter Fraser
Last month, whilst enjoying a post-match dinner with the OCRFC squad, I got into conversation with Fred Forse who was interested to know what I had been up to since leaving school. Following our conversation Fred kindly invited me to write an article for the annual crib sheet about life after school and how I had come back to Bristol to become involved in with the OC’s rugby club. I was more than happy to write a little bit about my experiences and what has drawn me back to school, and I hope you enjoy reading it.

I write this article following the beautiful service celebrating Ray Mardle’s life at Bristol Cathedral earlier this month. I was fortunate enough to have been taught by Ray and will never forget the positive impact he had on my peers and myself. The service was a fitting tribute to a great man and was a day that reiterated the strong sense of community instilled in all OC’s. The Cathedral was packed to the rafters with staff and pupils past and present and it was overwhelming to see so many familiar faces in the same place. It was a proud day to be part of this great school and its extended family, and to honour one of its heroes.

After leaving Colston’s in the summer of 2004 I did not think life could get much better. I had such a brilliant school experience and felt like I had lost a major part of my life once I moved on. In fact it turns out that Colston’s school, and in fact the city of Bristol, have a seemingly magnetic force on the people that grow up in it. Indeed I never really left at all as Colston’s remains a family affair, with my mum, Rachael, working in the lower school and youngest brother, Jake, currently in upper sixth. On leaving, I soon found out that life really begins after school but Colston’s provides the best possible springboard, whatever you decide to do with it. This summer I finally returned to Bristol to work as a junior doctor after six years at the Peninsula Medical School. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at university and felt school life had prepared me well for the independent learning required to succeed whilst studying for a degree. I had always intended to return to Bristol after university, I had undertaken work experience in Frenchay hospital whilst in sixth-form and am now back completing my first years as a doctor back on the very same wards. Bristol is a fantastic place to be as a young professional and I see so many former pupils out and about in the city, clearly indicating that they feel the same way.

I have enjoyed catching up with old friends at various OC events and hope this will continue in years to come because the society organise so many fantastic occasions. The OC society is also there to support its members and I have been fortunate to benefit directly from their charity. They enabled me to undertake my MSc in Sports medicine & Orthopaedic surgery in 2009-10 after I applied for help towards the significant tuition fees. The society agreed to give me a generous bursary on the condition I completed the degree, and I am so grateful for the help as this MSc will help me to pursue the career I want in medicine. I am sure the society will continue to help out other students like they have helped me, and I am proud to be part of such a meaningful organisation.

Since returning to Bristol I have started to play for OCRFC, which are one of the most welcoming and inclusive rugby clubs I have ever been involved with. There are many former pupils involved in the club as well as many other members who have been attracted by the friendly club atmosphere. This year especially, strong links have been made with UWE and Bristol University to give students regular competitive games and a home from home in Bristol, which is proving very successful. This unsurprisingly makes for
a fantastic social scene involving members of all ages and their families, all to be found at the school on a Saturday afternoon in the excellent clubhouse. Make no mistake though, the club has serious ambitions for league and cup success, spearheaded by the coaching team of Tommy Williams and Rich Bryan and led by captain Andy Ross. Rich and Andy are both former pupils and have been a part of the club for years, whilst Tommy puts a huge amount of time and effort into the club to keep it moving forwards. I would encourage any current or former pupils to get involved in the club as you immediately become part of a huge family with ties in all types of industry in Bristol and beyond. Friends and family are always welcome and the standard of rugby is extremely competitive for both the 1st and 2nd teams. It would be great to see even more new faces this season – it is never too late to join!

Colston's School continues to play a major part in my life and, as a lifetime member of the OC society, I look forward to many great occasions in the future. I hope to see more and more young members over the years and would encourage those reading this to become as involved as they possibly can. You get so much more out of the society than you put in and I realise now just how special an organisation it is.

I wish all the best to everyone reading this article and hope you thoroughly enjoy the upcoming festive season. I hope to see as many of you as possible in 2012, be it in the clubhouse on a Saturday afternoon or at one of the infamous annual OC events!

Thanks for reading,
Josh Nowak
Head Boy 2003-4 and OC life member

School Hockey Trip to Italy

On the 2nd of April 2011, Colston's U18 boys, U14 boys, and U13 girls embarked on their Hockey tour of Italy. With an early start and a long coach journey to the hotel on the mountains overlooking Lake Garda, there was an air of excitement and awareness that it was going to be a long haul. On arrival, the hotel didn't disappoint and the three course meal which followed certainly helped. This was ably followed by a number of homemade pizza's purchased by the Senior boys' as the evening drew in. With the briefing of the following day given, all members of the tour hit their beds for a well earned rest.

The tour did not disappoint in any way shape or form. The training facilities in Mori were surrounded by snow peaked mountains, the sky was clear all week, the temperature was 20degrees plus and the attitude of all pupils was fantastic. Two visits to Riva town were wonderful for relaxing and buying the odd present for those at home, not only that but it did allow for one of the highlights of the tour.
The official early season opening of Lake Garda took place. Where in true British style, led by the effervescent Mr Thornley, including a number of the Senior boys’ and also Mr Banning, the swim for the pontoon took place. To say it was chilly would be an understatement!

The first set of fixtures took place in the evening of Monday 4th April, against Cernusco, after a tour of the San Siro and a stroll around Milan. The results got the tour off to a great start:

U14 boys’ v Cernusco    4 – 1  Win (Colston’s)
U18 boys’ v Cernusco    2 – 0  Win (Colston’s)

The following day saw our second training session in Mori in the Morning, then a travel for our second fixtures in which all teams would play, against Villafranca. The club were extremely welcoming and this came to the fore after the matches, where pasta and drinks were supplied and an official exchange of gifts took place. The results were as follows:

U18 boys’ v Villafranca    4 – 1  Win (Colston’s)
U13 girls’ v Villafranca   3 – 0  Win (Colston’s)
U14 boys’ v Villafranca    3 – 1  Win (Colston’s)

Wednesday 6th April started with a free morning at the hotel, and after the travelling that had taken place I think that it was just what was needed. The afternoon saw us travel to Padova for our final matches. The matches were based at the University and with stands on either side of a nice water based pitch, these were fantastic surroundings to finish the tour. The matches were well balanced with Colston’s winning two and losing one. Again the hosts were very welcoming and an exchange of emails will hopefully see Padova come to England to play hockey in the future. The results were as follows:

U14 boys’ v Padova    1 – 2  Loss
U13 girls’ v Padova    5 – 1  Win
U18 boys’ v Padova    2 – 1  Win

Final hockey results from the tour.

Matches Played 8    Won 7    lost 1.

The final morning saw a manic packing session followed by a couple hours in Riva, which was a lovely way to relax, enjoy the delights of the Italian ice cream and ponder on what had been an outstanding tour and one in which there will be a number of fond memories for a long time to come.

All credit has to go to the pupils for their enthusiasm, patience, sporting attitude, fun and the way in which they represented the school. I would also like to thank Mr Thornley, Mr Harris and Miss Dauncey for all of their support on a very successful tour. Final thanks must go to the OC’s who supported the tour for a number of pupils giving them an opportunity that otherwise they would have missed out on.

Christopher Banning
Head of Hockey
School Hockey Trip to Italy
Following a request by Tom Williams Master in charge of the tour, the Society agreed financially to enable pupils to visit Robben Island as part of their visit to South Africa, we were pleased to do so.

Overall tour report by Alex Beech

A party of 47 lead by the tour manager Mr. Tommy Williams departed on the 15th July 2011 to South Africa - a country just under 6000 miles away. Familiar to some, but foreign to most; the anxiety and excitement was apparent as we set off for the 13 hour flight from London to Cape Town.

The tour was made up of 9 matches in total: 5 rugby matches and 4 hockey matches, on top of 5 intense training sessions including two with the rugby coaches of the Western Province and hockey with a current South African Olympian. When we weren’t doing sport our time was taken up with activities, so the scarce free time we received was greatly appreciated. The matches for the boys included SACS; Stellenbosch Hoerskool; Lagunya Township and Paul Roos Gimnasium. The girls were up against Rustenburg; Stellenbosch; Belhar Township and Rhenish. The boys spent two nights with billets from SACS school and two nights with billets from Paul Roos; the girls similarly spent two nights with the girls of Rustenburg and Rhenish.

While being a sports tour, we did take time out visit some of the Western Cape’s top tourist attractions: Robben Island; Two Ocean’s Aquarium; Table Mountain; and the Penguin Colony in Simonstown as well as several shopping trips; before finally finishing on a two day safari. To keep the balance towards sports however, we also attended a Western Province game at Newlands stadium, completed a tour of the Sports Science Institute and Rugby Museum as well as enjoying a Koshuis rugby experience at Stellenbosch University.
Of the visits, Robben Island certainly proved to be memorable, as we were shown around the harrowing conditions of the prison that Nelson Mandela was subjected to during the apartheid years. Our tour guide was an ex convict, who had been imprisoned for 26 years for attending a meeting for a student protest. Other visits to the Penguin Colony and Two Oceans Aquarium had a lighter mood, giving the players a break from the demanding schedule and allowing us to appreciate the wonders of a different continent. Many things were different to us but none more so than the Koshuis rugby experience! Here we witnessed student rugby teams battling for a win, supported by hundreds of extravagantly dressed supporters.

The day was topped off by eating at the Moyo, where the players did their best to test the promise of ‘all you can eat’.

At the end of the two weeks there was a strong sense of unity; the boys won 3 out of 5 games, falling short at the last hurdle to Paul Roos; the girls achieved a massive feat of remaining undefeated. Emotions were high after seeing cheetah, rhino, ostrich and many other animals but it all had to come to an end. Awards were given to both Ellie Diamond and Louis Quoi, for their passionate captaincies, as well as Mike Jones and Georgia Masters as the most improved players. Finally Jacob’s general rugby prowess and Alana’s solid hockey defence secured them the Best Player awards. Lauren Hurrell’s ceaseless smile and good mood, even through injury, made her truly deserving of The Best Tourist award.

Tears were shed, voices were raised and ligaments torn, but the tour truly, proved to be a success. Mr. Williams summed up all of our thoughts and feelings in three words ‘It’s been emotional’.

Alex Beech
Robben Island Report
by Anna Thomas and Lauren Hurrell

On Monday the 18th July 2011, which was Nelson Mandela day, we were all up and out very early so we could catch the first ferry over to Robben Island. It was a memorable day of the tour because not only were we experiencing a place which held great importance to South Africa's history, but also we were visiting on Nelson Mandela's 93rd birthday. We all embarked on the ferry very tired, which was not improved by the choppy journey across to Robben Island. Everyone was feeling a bit nauseous after it except Mr. Kaye who was remarking how flat the crossing had been. The weather was extremely misty on this day, which added to the mystery of this remarkable place. We all walked under the Robben Island welcome sign quietly, before meeting our tour guide who was an ex-prisoner of Robben Island. Our guide was enthusiastic about informing us about life at Robben Island and the place itself (he had been convicted for being part of a group who had been planning a demonstration). The guide hadn’t even left high school when he had been arrested. We were first shown around the offices where all the wardens worked and kept the files for all the inmates. It was in this section where someone, who I shall not name, asked if Robben Island was still a prison. As you can imagine they were met with shocked silence and us all trying to keep straight faces whilst informing them no, it wasn’t.

Then once we had been up on the bridge where you could see above the prison, we were then allowed to explore the prison cells. This gave us the opportunity to take lots of photos and the occasional behind the bars shot. I think we were all moved by the conditions that these people lived in and also their stories. In the majority of the cells there were some personal items from the prisoner who had called this small room ‘home’. Our
tour guide explained to us that the political
inmates and the inmates who were there
for violent crimes were kept separately;
apparently it was a relief for him to be sent to
Robben Island because other prisons didn’t
keep them separate.

Going into Nelson Mandela’s cell was a
memorable experience because this man had
achieved so much and is a real inspiration, and
we stood in the room which had housed him
for many years. As today was Nelson Mandela
day Miss Drake set us the task of completing
67 good deeds between us by the end of the
day. These ranged from Mr Williams bringing
chocolate muffins to Amanda and Anna in
the morning when they were sat outside
whilst the boys were practising line outs, to
Lauren Hurrell offering a small girl her seat on
the ferry to the island. I am proud to say that
we reached our aim of 67 by the end of the
day! After visiting cell 46664 we then went
to a cell which was larger and held a large quantity of men in not so pleasant conditions. Then he told us about the food allowances which I can tell you weren’t very fulfilling: the higher group you were in the better you were treated. The groups were A-D; if you were in A you were treated the best and if you were in group D you were treated the worst. Our guide was in group D and seemed proud of it, telling stories to us of how he rebelled against prison wardens by refusing to shave his beard, among other stories.

Once we left the actual prison we all climbed on to a coach to have a guide of the island, which was interesting and busier than we anticipated. Then we all embarked on the ferry for another very rough trip back to mainland where we continued with the rest of our incredible South Africa tour.

Anna Thomas and Lauren Hurrell
In 2009 we made major alterations to the CRIBSHEET format, which lead to the 'Tercentenary Year' edition being mainly a 'keep-sake' photo record of the year.

For many years I have included ‘News from O.C’s’ as a main feature. The pressure of material for a photo record necessitated, cutting this feature. I had intended to enlist some Overseas O.C’s to provide a background to how they came to be where they are doing what they are. We are fortunate to be in still in touch with quite a few O.C’s who have either a job and made a life abroad, or who have chosen to retire there.

This year I include letters from four, two O.C’s in Canada and two O.C’s(who are married to each other) now living in Australia, but raised a family in Calgary, and one O.C. who retired, our man in Cyprus.

The first response I received came from Dr Tristram Chivers, to whom I must apologise for the delay in putting to print. Dated August 21, 2009

Dear Fred,

I am responding to your invitation to submit an article for the next issue of CRIBSHEET in connection with the ‘Tercentenary Year’ of Colston’s School. Your letter of August 11th, 2009 requested brief account of my experience both at school and subsequently. Since more than 50 years have elapsed since I left school it is difficult to be brief, but I hope that the following will be appropriate. I have also included some information on other OCs that may be of interest.

**News from Canada**

I attended Colston’s School as a border from 1948 to 1958 and received an education that stood me in good stead both in my future academic career and in the pursuit of extra-curricular activities. Several aspects of my life in the past fifty years serve to illustrate this assertion.

At Colston’s my favourite academic subject was Chemistry and when I was in the sixth form we were allowed to go into the chemistry labs in our spare time to analyse ‘unknowns’. That experience introduced me to the excitement of discovery that experimental chemistry provides and that passion continues to this day in my role as Faculty Professor and Professor Emeritus at the University of Calgary, where I have been a faculty member for 40 years, serving as Head of Chemistry Dept (1977-1982). More recently, I was President of the Canadian Society of Chemistry.

After leaving Colston’s I headed for the University of Durham along with two school mates, William (Bill) Quantrill and Mike Stone. Bill Quantrill became a diplomat and has now retired to Bradford-on-Avon. Mike Stone and I represented the Durham fives team. The five’s courts were built at Colston’s in the mid 1950’s, so we had a few years’ experience and not many people played fives at Durham. On reflection, Colston’s must have instilled a sense of independence and adventure in its pupils. In the long Vac. Before we left for Durham Mike Stone and I embarked on a hitch-hiking holiday of Europe starting from Bristol with an old army backpack and 30 pounds sterling each. We made it as far as the south of France and then over to Venice and managed to survive for a month, i.e. on a budget of one pound sterling per day, before returning home.

After a BSc and PhD in Chemistry at the University of Durham, I spent one year in the USA and then returned to the UK for a temporary appointment at the University of Sussex. During my postgraduate work at Durham I started to play squash and met my wife at a squash club in Brighton. In 1967 we emigrated to Canada where we
both had limited term teaching positions at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. Because of a shortage of teachers at that time, Canada was offering tax-free salaries to teachers. I was post-doctoral teaching fellow in the Chemistry Dept and my research supervisor was Professor Norman Paddock, who has recently arrived at UBC from the University of Manchester. Imagine my surprise when Norman arrived in the lab one day, he sporting an ‘old school tie’ – we were both Old Colstonians! In fact although Norman was my senior by almost 25 years, we shared the same chemistry teacher (C. G. Lawrence) at Colston’s. Sadly, Norman died recently in Vancouver at the age of 92.

At Colston’s I enjoyed the manifold sporting opportunities with cricket as my first love. I went on to play for Durham City in the Durham Senior League and represented the Province of British Columbia on a tour of Middlesex and Lancashire in 1969. I recall that I played one match at Old Trafford. I was even selected to play for Canada in the annual ‘test match’ against USA, but was unable to fulfil this invitation because of a broken jaw.

At Colston’s we had a Biology teacher (Thompson?) who had previously been at Keswick School. During the Easter vacation he organised a back-packing holidays in the Lake District with Keswick as our base. There was an orienteering aspect to these expeditions, but I recollect that the major goal was to get to the nearest pub for lunch before closing time at 2 pm. That early exposure to walking in the Lake District has resulted in a lifelong love of hiking in the mountains. Living in Calgary we are close to some of the most magnificent mountains in the world, the Canadian Rockies, and there are unlimited opportunities to indulge this passion. In fact, my wife and I recently returned from a week long camping/hiking holiday in the B.C. Rockies where the base camp is 6,800 ft.

Another highlight for me at Colston’s was Sunday evenings when, as prefects, we were invited to listen to classical music in our housemaster’s room. That experience whetted my appetite for a lifelong love of classical music, especially choral music and opera. Although I was not a member of the choir (too busy at school playing various sports), I started choral singing (and voice lessons) in my early forties and for the past 25 years have been a member of the tenor section of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. I am very grateful for the opportunity and experience of singing with most of the major choral works with a first class symphony orchestra and outstanding international soloists.

In closing I should mention another Canadian academic, who was an Old Colstonian. His name is Robert L Jefferies and he was a distinguished ecologist at The University of Toronto. I did not know him personally, but gleaned the following information from his recent (July 30, 2009) obituary in The Globe and Mail, one of Canada’s national newspapers. Robert Jefferies was born in Trowbridge in 1936 and was a border at Colston’s School graduating in 1955. He went on to study Botany (BSc) and Ecology (PhD) at the University of Bristol. He emigrated to Canada (University of Toronto) from the University of East Anglia in 1973. One of the world’s leading Arctic scientists and global-change biologists, he shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize (along with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore) as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,

Tristram Chivers
The second response from Canada is our ‘Man on the Slopes’ from South and West of Calgary - Peter Mortimer-Rae.

**Introduction to the Eastern Slopes, South and West of Calgary.**

Calgary, Alberta Canada, is one hell of a way from Bristol, England and without the slightest similarity. What takes a lad, raised at Colston’s during the war years so far from home? Perhaps the spirit of adventure, a job in the Colonial Office, oil industry, a desire to run away? Frankly I recall none of the above and certainly the Colonial days were already a thing of the past. A stint in the Royal Air Force provided a great grounding in Wireless and Radar, now jointly electronics, and had given me experience of the Far East, the Middle East and North America, the latter coming at a time when I could ‘retire’ with a pension insufficient to raise a family.

It was unfortunate, but for me the fabric of England had already changed sufficiently as to force the questions, what to do and where to do it, but under no circumstances remain in England.

In addition to the trade experience I had also taken the opportunity to gain considerable administrative skills while maintaining my long interest in the arts. However I could no more work on a shop floor than could I accept the either the existence or relevance of Unions and at that time military training was generally deemed as pretty useless to civilian life.

Actually I had done some advertising on the side, while serving in Aden, and had a good job offer, but it did entail extensive travel back and forth to the Lebanon, and the breakdown that now exists in that most unfortunate part of the world was already showing cracks, making it certainly a ‘high risk’ location for any white family. Another opportunity had occurred with the Rhodesian Air Force, which was then searching for short service officers to serve as either aircrew or ground technicians. Tempting, but hadn’t I just declared enough of service life and it’s beholding to every single step of authority? Finally, while in Canada I had taken a look at Personnel Management jobs in the auto industry and upon my return to the U.K. had taken a series of courses, been examined, and was now a member of that institute.

So it was that Canada called and the R.A.F offered to fly me to Montreal, for a nominal ‘fiver’, on one of their regular trips to the training grounds of Suffield, in southern Alberta.

‘Go wet young man’ still held certain relevance so picking up a Canadian Pacific sleeper in Montreal, costing all of $126.00, I spent the following few days a most beautiful country on a service that forty years later charges $1600.00.

Calgary at that time had only a population of 250,000 and little to offer in the way of employment, but it was a ‘hub’ city with easy access to all points of the compass and thus all manner of opportunities, whether the bureaucracy in Edmonton, Alberta’s capital, the oil and gas industry or the many support industries servicing that industry. It was also easy to take advantage of some of the finest skiing in the world, the ‘Rockies’ a mere hundred miles west, the infamous gambling centre of the world, Las Vegas, a few hours by plane due south and some of the finest goose and duck hunting within an hour drive north, south or east. Not great reasons in themselves but enough for me to set my feet firmly into the ground and I took up social work, returning to university for studies while also teaching art in the both the Adult Education programme and Mount Royal College. What wasn’t obvious at that time was the knowledge Calgary was...
about to take off. Over the next thirty years, it quadrupled its’ population; while installing all the infrastructure of a modern city, with energy as the lubricant which kept it running. A new auditorium provided opera, concerts, theatre; its’ own university, private schools, shopping centres, office blocks, Calgary boomed and changed its’ image from a ‘cow town’ to a ‘hepped up’ city. Cranes were everywhere while huge holes appeared in the ground giving populace an opportunity to watch the Bow river change it’s course through the sub gravel bars.

Yours truly was meanwhile fortunate enough to fulfil his dream of, one way or another, becoming involved in art. I painted, taught drawing and watercolours to many before never given the opportunity and purchased my art gallery, the oyster was opening.

Peter Mortimore-Rae

From our Man and Woman in OZ!
David and Catherine Kirby (nee Heal)

Now in Melbourne David started Colstons in 1979 in P2A. Catherine moved from Red Maids to Colstons for the sixth form in 1987, the year that David left. However they had met a few years previously on joint school Ski Trip. What on earth was Mr Taylor and Miss Passingham (Red Maids teacher in charge) thinking…

After David finished school and a degree in Civil Engineering, and Catherine had worked in Europe and had settled into a management position at Frenchay Hospital, they married and lived in Bristol for a few years. Life was unruffled. That was until both contracted itchy feet.

Little did David and Catherine know that after sixteen years of wanderlust their journey would take them half way round the globe to a new life in Melbourne.

Their desire to see the world initially saw the Kirbys working for a year building a school in a village on the Annapurna circuit high up in the Nepalese Himalaya – declared open by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles.

It then took the Kirbys to British Columbia and Alaska before taking jobs in the Canadian oil town of Calgary, with temperatures down to -35C. After having two children in Canada the Kirbys returned to England.

After three years as a Director in the NHS for Catherine and in a consultancy in Oxford for David, a dream job appeared in the form of a two-year secondment to build a resort in the beautiful Bahamas, now with three children.

Hopelessly attracted to a beach lifestyle, the Kirby travel express, moved to the seaside town of Huntington Beach, California, to set up a water and environment consultancy.

Life was rich and diverse. It was full of adventures, new challenges and surprises - until the grim reality of the Global Financial Crisis jolted home.
The couple faced up to a return to England: “Going back to the cold; two hours commuting to London on a train; do I want to do that? Answer: No.” said David from his light filled office overlooking Albert Park Lake, Melbourne.

Instead, the Kirbys decided to pack up their belongings and take a belated Gap year which took them to Australia and New Zealand in February 2009: “Our friends and family thought we were potty not coming back to safe a job in the UK”.

Their travels took them through Melbourne. They were captivated by the bustle and charm of the city. But they wanted to experience something more meaningful than tourism to get a better sense of the place.

“It was a just after the bushfires of Black Saturday so we went to Kinglake and got a volunteer job with a charity delivering aid in a pickup. It was an incredible eye opener for the children to help with the disaster relief effort.”

The Kirby’s then set off on a two-month tour of New Zealand. “New Zealand was spectacular, lovely and charming. We went to Wellington and I had a very good job offer there with one of the top engineering consultancies in New Zealand. But the timing was not right.”

Catherine and David and children continued their travels until the end of 2009, including driving across America. Using free wi-fi access at McDonalds’ and Starbucks’ across America, David continued his job search with interviews over Skype and secured a job in Melbourne. “We applied for our Australian Visas in Tennessee on a laptop from a campsite at the bottom of the Smokey Mountains.”

The Kirby’s decided to settle in Melbourne: “We liked Melbourne’s access to mountains, the bay, the sea and the culture of the city. The city is very diverse in terms of the food, the entertainment, the museums, the shows; it’s very cosmopolitan. It’s a really vibrant interesting place. The laneways are very cool. San Francisco has a similar vibe; Vancouver has similar levels of culture. We think the three cities are magical.”

On 1 January 2010 they landed in Melbourne: “It was the start of a new decade and the start of a new life for us,” said David. Victoria’s education system was a big driver in opting for Melbourne considering the ages of their children, Jake, 12, Kit, 10 and Lalli, 8 and their varied international educational experiences. “Melbourne seems to have a large number of schools which offer the International Baccalaureate. That was something we were very keen on. There’s a lot of choice. We did some neighbourhood shopping for a house and went looking at a few schools.

“We were very impressed with Wesley College, with its large open campus, and where the children are now happily enrolled. The whole package of lifestyle, culture and diversity of opportunities in Melbourne appealed to us in terms of what we wanted to offer to our children.”

Catherine set up a health consultancy organising surgeons to move from public hospitals into private rooms whilst David settled into his new role heading up a water and environment consultancy.

As world weary travellers, the Kirbys have had ample time on the road to contemplate the concept of home. “Our definition of home is a place that you have emotional attachment to. We’ve got that for the places that we grew up, including Colston’s. We’re very fond of lots of places, with many we have a strong emotional attachment to the friends and memories that we made along the way.

“Right now Melbourne is great place to live; it’s a great place to bring up kids. It’s home,” the Kirbys said “…. for now”.

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From our man now in Cyprus

My name is Richard Lewis, I was at Crib between the years of 1956 and 1964 and rose to the dizzy heights of House Captain of Mortlake and School Prefect. In my sixth form years I studied the sciences Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This was a mistake, as I now realise that if I had an academic forte, it would have been in languages.

I have to confess that I struggled with my A levels, and finished up with, after two attempts, two Ds and an E, the latter being in Physics, a pass mark that astonished and delighted Dave Pincott, the presiding master of said subject. In later years I came to realise why my A level results were so poor. I was closing on fifty years of age and looking for a job, and was subjected to both personality assessment and an IQ test to check out that I was suited to the type of job I was seeking. The personality thing was fine, but the IQ test was a revelation. I tested well in overall terms, but the interest was in the detail.

What came out was that my reasoning skills were exceptional, but my short-term memory was only of an average standard. The significance of this is that when you are trying to pass A level exams in the sciences, one of the necessary attributes you need is the ability to take on a lot of factual information and then regurgitate it later onto an exam paper. I was doomed from the start, although I did not know it at the time. The lesson is, I suppose, that it is jolly useful to gain an understanding of one’s intellectual strengths and weaknesses at a stage in one’s life when it is most relevant. The curious thing is that I was also deemed to possess an excellent long-term memory, so I am able to tell you the names of most of the kids in my class in Primary School, whilst I have difficulty remembering what happened yesterday.

I continued with my struggle against the sciences, studying Biology at the University of Liverpool, the only place that would accept me with such poor A levels, and finished up with what was known then as a “gentleman’s degree”, a lower second in Microbiology. By this time I had fallen out of love with science, and, to be fair, it had fallen out of love with me. As a result, I sought a career in business, which, it seemed, suited my all-round skills and personality better. I gained a graduate trainee position with an organisation called Ranks Hovis McDougall and bargained my way into the marketing function of the grocery products division. Marketing seemed a pretty sexy job then, and it still does to this day, as it encompasses most of the really important things about successful businesses, ie that the pursuit of long term satisfaction with the customer, whilst at the same time making a profit, must be relentless.
After 5 years I finished up as Brand Manager of the Paxo brand of stuffing mixes and decided to practice my skills in pastures new. This took me to Bulmers in Hereford where I found myself in competition for the job of Brand Manager of Pomagne with another Old Colstonian, in the shape of Tim Lefroy. I am pleased to say I got the job and spent 7 happy years with the Bulmer organisation, during which time we grew the business substantially. My boss then left to become the chief of Mansfield Brewery in Nottinghamshire and persuaded me to join him there in the role of Marketing Director. (You might like to have a look on the Old Colstonians’ website to get an idea of what we got up to at Mansfield Brewery, it involves Ronald Reagan!) After 6 years there, in what was essentially a family run business, my chances of advancement were pretty much zero, so I left to take up a post with Sketchley, the dry cleaning organisation. That lasted about a year and a half and then I got the sack.

This was a bit of a shock to the system, as up until this point I had enjoyed nothing but success. It just showed me that when you get to be a senior player in an organisation, your ability to survive has less to do with what you achieve in your job than it does with the sucking up to people above you. This is known as politics and I never wanted to get into all that stuff, as I pride my integrity above the requirement to say the right things to the right people, knowing them to be untruthful. Anyway, it came out all right in the end as I secured a Managing Director’s role in a small private publishing firm that produces a magazine called Candis. After another year and a half however, I was headhunted into a company called Granby Marketing, to become its chief. This turned out to be the best job of my career, the business was part of a huge global American marketing services empire and to all intents and purposes I was left to get on with it. When I took it over it was a shambles, but after five years we had licked it into shape, it had grown threefold in terms of profits, created about 200 jobs and gained a reputation for delivering services of the best quality in its sector, a combination of promotional fulfilment and call centre activity.

And my reward for these achievements? You guessed it, I fell foul of politics again! The chief of a fellow company within Omnicom, noticed that Granby had started up business in the call centre sector (at the express behest of our biggest client I might add) and managed to persuade my boss that my business should become part of his! I argued, but lost, for all the wrong reasons, and finished up out of work but with a hefty pay off in my back pocket.

This gave me the opportunity I really wanted, to become owner of my own business. For the next 6 months or so I searched high and low for a suitable BIMBO opportunity. (BIMBO amazingly stands for “Brought in Management Buy Out”, by the way), but just could not find the right vehicle. By this time I was getting fed up with being out of a regular job and succumbed to an offer to run a marketing services operation in Sunderland. I did a pretty good job there, as with Granby Marketing I started off with a shambles that needed turning round, but got fired again! This time the boss man got rid of me within a day or two of my completion of two years service, before which deadline, in those days, you could sack someone without having to provide a good reason. The lesson here is to choose your bosses carefully, and never go for one that is inferior to you, especially if he can’t tell you why he is getting rid of you.

This pretty much signalled the end of corporate life for me, after this I became self-employed as a Business Consultant and Interim Manager, so that I could
distance myself from office politics. Business Consultant is self-explanatory, but the term Interim Manager refers to situations where an experienced individual is parachuted into an organisation at very short notice to run things for a relatively short period. This can happen if the existing chief has a heart attack, or baby, or similar. This was demanding work and generally stimulating, if somewhat less than lucrative most of the time. However, it got me through to the age of sixty, which was my target age for retirement.

I retired 3 months before my sixtieth birthday, by which time I was beginning to feel the stress of the workplace more than I had when I was a resilient youngster, so the timing was entirely appropriate. Not only that, but my new wife and I had decided to spend our retired years in a warmer climate than is available in the UK, so we had bought a villa in Cyprus. That is where I live now, about 6 miles from the steaming village of Ayia Napa. I play golf throughout the year, although it is a bit hot for a full round in the summer, and thoroughly enjoy that.

Richard Lewis

O.C’s / Rotary Design Award

A new initiative was launched in 2011 from the Old Colstonian Society to take advantage of programmes offered to young people through Rotary International. From design and technology, public speaking, music and photography, youth exchange and opportunities to travel the world.

The programmes can be viewed on the website www.colstons.org.uk which gives the information for the school competitions together with District and National finals where signification prizes can be won.

All we ask is students take the time to discover what Rotary and our OC’s committee can offer you and take the challenge Rotary set to follow - “Follow your Rotary Dream”. The opportunities are endless.

Members of the Old Colstonian Society kicked off the first stages of the programme when they met on the 10th May with Katy Snell of the Design and Technology department to assess the work of the students. The committee concluded that 2 designs had equal merit and the joint awardees were Nadia Mackay for her design based on the Rubik Cube and Harry Coulthard for his Laptop Storage Case.

The 2012 competition is under way and entries will be based on building, theory, planning and management, as well as solving design and technology problems. Certificates will be awarded to the 2 best designs together with a cheque for £25 each.

The competition is open to students of Colston’s School and the judging will take place during the school presentation of design and technology when the committee will be able to talk to the young designers.
The Old Colstonian Society held their annual dinner on Saturday 22nd October 2011 in the Dining Hall at Colston’s School. The dinner was well attended by both young and old OCs.
The Annual Dinner of the Old Colstonian Society

The main speaker was Old Colstonian Mr. Colin Sexstone, Chairman of Bristol City Football Club. The president, Mr Ian Gunn proposed the toast to “Our Founder coupled with Absent Friends”. The headmaster, Mr Peter Fraser, proposed the toast “Floreat Colstona” and Mr Patrick Kilmartin, the president of the QEH Old Boys’ Society, replied on behalf of the guests.

A well attended dinner enjoying the repartee
The Annual Dinner of the Old Colstonian Society

Current Head Boy, Ben Moore, with former Head Girl, Kirstie Pottier

Vice-President and guests
The Old Colstonian Society, which was founded in 1853, has as one of its objectives the assistance of former scholars and members of the Society on commencing business or professional or academic studies or training. Assistance to include both financial aid and the giving of information and advice as may be deemed appropriate.

Over the past few years the Society has been able to give assistance to the School and to pupils in a variety of ways as described elsewhere in Cribsheet. It has also recently started a bursarial programme through the Old Colstonian Charitable Trust. There has, however, been little opportunity to provide assistance to OCs once they have left School.

The Old Colstonian community has a broad range of business experience and skills which can be made available to other OCs starting out in business. The Society also has funds available to assist in training or in obtaining further work related qualifications. Maybe you are finding the current jobs market difficult but have a business idea and would like some help, please let us know as we may be able to help.

If you are an older OC who has experience in running a successful business or has professional skills to offer and would like to be involved in this initiative, please contact us.

For further information, please contact

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MALLET, Dr Bernard Louis

Dr Bernard Louis, peacefully with his wife by his side at Elmside Care Home on Monday 18th April 2011. He leaves his wife Beryl, son Richard, and family Sarah, Simon, Peter, Hannah, Oliver, Richard and Luke. A private cremation in the morning will be followed by a Memorial Service at St Marys Church, Hitchin on Tuesday 24th May at 2:30 pm. Family flowers only but donations for the Garden House Hospice, Letchworth or the Parkinson’s Disease Society may be sent c/o David J Binks, funeral director, 96 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9SU.

EDWARDS, Brian Albert

2 March 1932 – 18 June 2011 The following is an extract from the letter sent by his son.

His youth in Bristol

Dad was born in Bristol, England on the 2 March 1932, and was the oldest of four children being his brothers Trevor and Mick, and his sister Beryl.

He was brought up in a working class home where mom and dad struggled to make ends meet. Despite this, Dad enjoyed his life as a young boy. I remember his stories of how he used to sneak out of the bomb shelters to watch the German planes during World War II, or how he used to go fishing for pike down at the local river.

He was gifted academically and at the end of primary school he won a scholarship to Colstons College for boys in Bristol. There he excelled in the class room and on the sports field. One of his claims to fame being in a first team cricket match, where he took seven wickets in seven consecutive balls, five of them bowled and two caught and bowled.

After school he studied industrial chemistry, and at twenty he had to decide whether to take up the offer of playing county cricket for Gloucestershire or coming to South Africa to open a research laboratory for the Robinsons Packaging Group.

He made the right call and came to South Africa.

MARDLE, Ray

1958 – 2011
Acting Deputy Head of Colstons’ School

Staff, pupils, parents and friends of Colston’s School are united in their grief at the sudden death of Ray Mardle.

He was taken ill at school and died at Bristol Royal Infirmary on the following Saturday evening, aged 53.

Ray, who lived at Yate, joined Colston’s 24 years ago as Head of Chemistry. He went on to be Head of Science, but will be most remembered for a range of pastoral roles including Head of House, Head of Middle School, Senior Housemaster and more recently Acting Deputy Head.

Currently Deputy Head (Academic), his roles included overseeing the curriculum and Heads of Department. Other responsibilities included daily routines, school photographs and acting as the school’s designated Child Protection Officer.

Ray has coached rugby, hockey and cricket, mainly at Under 12 and 13 levels. In the 1990s he assisted with the Army section of the Colston’s Combined Cadet Force,

On Friday November 4th at 2:30pm, a packed Cathedral celebrated Ray’s life in a Thanksgiving service that embraced all sections of the ‘COLSTON’S FAMILY’; Family, Friends, Colleagues, Pupils, and O.C’s paid tribute to Ray.
Obituaries

Ray Mardle 1958 - 2011
entering teams for the Ten Tors event on Dartmoor. More recently he has trained Duke of Edinburgh groups for their walking expeditions in the Brecon Beacons, Exmoor and Dartmoor.

Ray’s wide-ranging personal interests include rugby, cricket, football, hockey, skiing, golf, running and walking. He was a keen member of the Hogweed Trotters Road Running Club in Chipping Sodbury and four weeks ago he was one of a team of staff and pupils who successfully ran in the annual Bristol Half Marathon, raising money for the Bristol Dolphin Society.

He and his wife were also regular members of the congregation at St Nicholas Church in Yate.

Ray is survived by his wife Caroline, his daughter Charlotte and sons William and Peter – all members of the Colston’s family.

In a personal tribute, Headmaster Peter Fraser said:

“Ray will be remembered, first and foremost, as an outstanding teacher and numbered amongst the finest Colston’s has seen.”

“I know of few pupils who would not consider Ray an inspiration and know many who studied Chemistry because of him. As a teacher Ray demanded the very best from his pupils and made them believe that they were always capable of more. He believed in them and they, in turn, had huge confidence in, and respect for, him.”

“Ray was also a central figure in the pastoral life of the school. All pupils mattered to him and he had time for everybody and everything. In this, as in so many things, he was the complete schoolmaster.”

“Everything he touched became ordered, organised and efficient, and there was little that escaped his attention.”

“Latterly, his work as Deputy Head (Academic) was characterised by a willingness to innovate and to challenge historic practice. He was meticulous in his scrutiny of results and anything affecting pupil experience in the classroom.”

“My wife, Sara, once had cause to cover Reception and referred to Ray as Mr Marvellous. Ray knew everything about the school, could deal with anything and took everything in his stride. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him.”

Longstanding colleague Gerard Boyce, who retired in the summer as Senior Teacher, said:

“Ray always went the extra mile - beyond the call of duty was, in fact, his default position.”

“Without ever showing the least suggestion of self-importance, Ray set the highest standards for us to measure ourselves against, and a word of approval from Ray for your efforts was one of the highest accolades one could receive.”

“We were all in awe of his tireless drive, his unshakeable integrity and his selfless dedication to Colston’s.”

“All of us who taught alongside Ray are proud and privileged to have worked with him and better people for having known him.”

Peter Fraser added: “Our pupils would not need so many words and would simply say, ‘Mardle – Legend’.”
Colston’s Parents’ Society meets once a month during term times to run a program of fundraising events throughout the academic year. The Society is run by volunteers, who give their own free time to fundraise for the benefit of the children, their friends and the school as a whole.

As a charitable organisation, any profit made from our events is spent by the Parents’ Society on items for the school: the ‘wouldn’t it be wonderful to have’ items that just wouldn’t be prioritised in the yearly school budgets.

Each year, we receive applications, or bids, from teachers and pupils from the Upper and Lower School and choose (by a majority rule) which applications to support during the year.

Over this year, we’ve had the pleasure of being able to donate £10,295.10 towards items for the Lower and Upper School, which include:

- Part funding of Adobe Photoshop Software
- Netbooks for Upper School Modern Foreign Languages
- Tents for D of E / CCF
- 2 Vision Viewers for Upper School Science Department
- Playground Shed for Lower School
- 2 x GPS Units for Upper School Geography Department
- Lower School Playground Equipment
- Year 7 Welcome BBQ

Our Fundraising also extends to running a Uniform Shop, which is a valued service for parents and really sets our school apart from others. The Uniform Shop is manned by volunteers both from the committee and from our helpers register and is open every fortnight either on a Friday morning or a Friday afternoon. We rely solely on donations from parents who receive 70% of the sale value of each item, with 30% going to the Parents’ Society. We also ensure the Uniform Shop is open on induction day and this proves to be very popular with nearly £1,000 taken on that one day alone.

Calendar of events for the year:

- Year 7 Welcome BBQ – 11th September 2011
- AGM – 6th October 2011
- Lower School Disco – 14th October 2011
- Ladies Night – 11th November 2011 from 7.30pm
- Lower School Ultimate Plum Pudding Competition – November to December 2011
- Lower School Tea Towel Project – October to December 2011
- Christmas Bazaar – 3rd December 2011 2pm onwards
- Curry & Quiz Night – March 2012
- Invitation Books – March to May 2012
- Induction Day Uniform Shop opening – 12th June 2012
- Lower School BBQ – June 2012

The Society runs a full calendar of events throughout the year ranging from a Year 7 Welcome Barbeque and Lower School disco through to a Curry and Quiz night, a Dinner Dance and our biggest fundraiser the Christmas Bazaar.
I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to this edition of CRIBSHEET. Those O.C’s, who have contributed in writing, the many who have attended at events throughout the year at the Cricket Tournament and the Rugby 7’s and Annual Dinner, by their participation a story is created. It is only by your involvement that we have CRIBSHEET at all. Please keep up the momentum.

The Dinner this year was attended by possibly the greatest spectrum of age groups for many years and from those with whom I spoke they all enjoyed the evening to the extent of promising to return in greater numbers next year; every decade of leavers were represented from 1950’s to the 2000 leavers and the current prefects at school.

Throughout the year various Committee and Staff have assisted at these events directed by both the President Ian Gunn and Vice-President Andy Thomas. Reports have been forthcoming for Golf by Keith Watts, for Rugby by Tommy Williams, Hockey by Chris Banning, Andy and George Thomas, the Headmaster, the President, all for which I am most grateful, however, the last but not least and biggest thank you is to Martin Tayler who in most incidences was the provider of not only the photographs but also much of the editorial text all credit to him, my role has been only to gather all and put in a format that can be used by Doug Lodge to edit and print.

Having been involved, since not only with the very first A4 CRIBSHEET, edited then by our Hon. Sec. Jeff Cook, but also the A5 size duplicated version the magazine which preceded it. The CRIBSHEET has come a long way, but even in those early days we relied very much on the school providing the basis of material.

As with last year this issue will be put on the school website, with hopefully all members receiving their hard copies before the New Year.

Throughout this issue, you will be reminded of what we, as Old Colstonians have done throughout the year, not only the fun of the Golf, Cricket and Rugby, the Annual Dinner but also the assistance we have been able to offer both the school in the form of Bursarial support, Finance for the Changing Room Refurbishment, sponsorship of Tours and the P.I.E. and other awards we have made to pupils. We have and continue to be very much part of the ‘Colston Family’. This does not come without a great deal of effort, and the adage ‘many hands make light work’ springs to mind. For many years most of the work has fallen upon too few, some like myself who have been in harness for nearly 40 years are on our penultimate year before standing down.

There are opportunities to join the Committee in Bristol at the Pavilion in school. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, if you would like to help we are having an Open evening on Tuesday 14th February, when you can come along, have a drink and can learn more. If you live or work in London please contact me as we are hoping to hold a rallying call for all O.C’s to join us in reviving what was at one time a thriving London Society. I hope, as this call goes out it will not fall upon deaf ears because, it is your Society.

I am extremely grateful to all Colston’s Staff who continue, as they have done so for many years, to indulge me with their time and consideration, whilst on all matters ‘Colstonia’.

Fred Forse
Past Secretaries

1855-1864  R. Rowlatt (Headmaster)
1865-1876  James Jones
1877-1890  Arthur Beacham
1891-1895  Edwin G. Cooper
1896-1912  Joseph W. Miller
1913-1918  Thomas Richards
1919-1920  A. T. Richards
1921-1929  Leonard O. Vowles
1930-1931  W. C. Gillett
1932-1946  Leonard O. Vowles
1947-1960  V. C. Pratt
1961-1976  J. E. Adams
1976-1979  J. H. Parsons
1979-1986  N. P. Hurley
1986-2000  J. J. Cook
2000-2002  Mrs. A. Miller
2002-      D. G. Lodge

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Ceramic figure of a Colston's Hospital schoolboy, 1880-1894
made by Kent & Parr of Staffordshire
Photograph Martin Tayler