

C O X A N

CLAPHAM OLD XAVERIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



SPRING

1/73

EDITOR : Frank Murphy, 92, Chichale Rd., London, N.W.2

With this February edition of COXAN we wish all Clapham Old Xaverians everywhere a somewhat belated happy 1973. May the year hold all prosperity for you.

For the Association, however, 1973 as a whole may well turn out to be a year of ill luck if we don't overcome what could be called our most serious problem ever.

The Old Boys are to lose the sports ground and playing fields they have in County Road, Norbury, in just over 12 months time. We are now appealing to all members to find a new ground somewhere else. Members of the committee have not as yet found another ground in spite of all the attempts they have made. And now we need you to tell us where to go from here. We want advice. Members up and down the country scratch your head for ideas. Tell us where to get a ground and how to get a ground.

It is a problem that calls for the biggest ever united effort among Old Boys as Association chairman, John Keenan explains:

" We unfortunately lose the use of Norbury in March 1974 at the start of the cricket season, " he says. " That may seem a long time away, but if we wish to maintain our present set-up, it is vital that we make our preparations early. I want any Old Boy with any ideas about a ground to send them to me. You may have a firm which hires out a ground or you may know of a good council ground we can rent. Are there any ideas on buying a ground ?...Or raising a loan ?..."

" A special sub-committee of the football and cricket sections has been set up to examine all possibilities. I urge everyone to make an effort and write to me at the address below with any ideas however trivial. Don't put this to one side. Act now ! "

So that is the situation and let's hope that by the May edition of COXAN we will have a story of success to tell thanks to your efforts.

Send your ideas to:

John Keenan,
46, Queensville Road,
S.W.12 O.J.J.
Tel: 674 1363

Seventy-four Old Boys were regretfully taken off the Association's mailing list at the beginning of January and they will not be receiving this latest edition. The 74 were among a list of 90 "members" which was published in the December edition, from whom there had been no subscription. The warning to the 90 then was that unless there was a sub, that winter issue of COXAN would have to be their last. There are others still on the mailing list who will sadly feature in the next batch of deletions unless we hear from them soon.

The complete list of paid-up members for this year is published below. If YOU are reading this COXAN and YOUR name is not on the list, then more than likely it means that we haven't received a sub from you yet (unless you are an associate or life member).

If you haven't paid, then why not do so now? Put it in an envelope with a letter to David Martin, the Personalia Editor whose address is included below. Tell him what you are doing and about any other Old Boys you may have met. We would much rather hear from you than cross off your name.

Membership Secretary,
E.J. Hayter,
3, Downs Avenue,
Chislehurst
Tel: 467 5244

Personalia Editor,
David Martin,
58, Elmstead Gdns.,
Worcester Park,
330 1370

The list of paid-up members that follows does not include associate and life members. Following the precedent of not issuing individual receipts, we now acknowledge payment of appropriate subs from:

B. Aldridge	B. Fincham	W. Madigan	W. Ruane
A. Anderson	J. Flynn	J. Mansi	V. Roszkowski
B. Baker	E. St. John Foti	D.M. Martin	D. Rowe
W. Bowers	J. Freddi	R.L. Massara	G.C. Rowe
J. Bunce	D. Gumber	H. Mellor	F. Rickins
G. Burgess	L. Green	J. McGuire	N. Scott
E. Bell	P. Griffin	M. McGrath	B. Slattery
L. Carpenter	G. Guillet	S. Miller	T. Shaw
K. Carroll	J. Goldie	D. Mulvihill	J.M. Straiton
A. Cleather	M. Grice	P. McDermott	B. Swenk
D. Cooper	D. Hayland	W. Macer	M. Scott
A. Corish	M. Hayland	B. Milligan	E. Smythe
K. Coughlin	T. Higgins	F. Murphy	J. Lee
T. Cremins	J. Holden	P. Murphy	P. Trumper
J. Cronin	D. Hook	E. Newman	J. Urquhart
L.G.M. Davies	D. Hogan	J. Noulton	J.J. Wilson
P. Dixon	J. Keen	H. Pinsent	P. Whelan
B. Eames	J. Keenan	J. Prince	J. Ware
J. Egan	R. Kennedy	C. Prince	M. Ware
C. Ennis	W. Kidd	J.N. Paine	M. Ward
T. Ennis	P. Leeder	R.A. Prince	T. Wedgeworth
B. Farrell	R. Lucas	D. Quin	A. White

OUT OF TOUCH...OUT OF TOUCH

From copies of COXAN that we have had returned to us, we understand that we have lost touch with these Old Boys listed below. If anyone has an up-to-date address of any of them, we would be much obliged if you would let us know by way of the Personalia Editor, David Martin, or the COXAN Editor.

B. James
Rev. J. Handslip
W.Wright

D. Hogan
R.W. Pollock

B.F. Schwenk
R. Williams

ATTENTION ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Membership secretary, Ted Hayter asks the following group of associate members to note that their subscription has now expired and a fresh sum is now due. The sub is £1 a year or 63 pence if you are aged under 21.

P. Brady
M. Finnegan

K. Fitzgerald
A. Kioiatowski

K. Roy
P. Seacombe

CAREERS EVENING : THURSDAY MARCH 8 "SOMETHING SPECIAL" AT THE CAREERS EVENING ON THURSDAY MARCH 8
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Thursday March 8 is the date to circle in your diaries for this year's Careers Evening for boys soon to leave the College. This is the 11th year that the Old Boys have organised the function in which they give the boys of the school the greatest help and advice with the venue this year again being the College dining centre. The Careers Evening last year was the first to be held in the dining centre and was thought by many to be one of the most successful to date. The one on March 8 looks like being the last major event in the centre before it is demolished in the school re-building programme so we are hoping to make it something special. Contact Brian Sanders at the College or at 19, Limesford Road, S.E.15 if you think you can help out in any way or even if you are simply curious about what goes on. Brian's telephone number: 639 4430.

You've all just got to be at the Eccleston Hotel on Saturday May 19 if it's only to celebrate Nellie Melba's birthday. Yes, dear old Nellie was born on May 19 1861, 112 years ago, and although she is dead now, I'm sure she would want us all to remember her. In fact, the date for the Old Xaverians dinner this year has been specially selected to please most sorts of Old Boys:

BE AT THE OLD
BOYS' DINNER AT
THE ECCLESTON
HOTEL : SATURDAY
MAY 19.

For the British political history fan - you can mourn the death of Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone on May 19 1898; for film-goers, Arabs and would-be soldiers - Lawrence of Arabia died on May 19 1935; for people who like tall buildings - the Post Office Tower will be opened six years on May 19; for the economists - who can chat about the success of decimal money in India 17 years after changeover on May 19 1956; and finally for people who don't believe that life begins at 80 - it's St. Celestine V's Day. St. Celestine who in 1296 became pope at the age of 84 and abdicated five months later because he felt too old.

Tickets for this evening of dining, dancing and drinking, built directly around you, are priced at £3. Ernie Larkin is running the whole affair and he particularly advises all Old Boys to send off a quick £1 deposit to him at 129, Penrose House, Penrose Street, S.E.17. Post off the £1 now because Ernie is expecting a rush for seats from half the Liberal Party; the "Lawrence of Arabia" film audience from the ABC cinema, Victoria; visitors to the P.O. Tower viewing gallery; a load of rich Indians and a party of aging Cardinals, not to mention all Nellie Melba's friends.

CAR RALLY '73

A Trek Through The Countryside

In the heart of south-eastern England these weekends, the route is being finalised for COXA's third annual car rally. Miles of gruelling driving over some of the country's roughest terrain face the crews of dedicated Old Boys who dare enter the rally after the experiences of Car Rally '72. George Wloch, last year's winner, will be there but the question is will anyone take the title away from him? Or will anyone even manage to finish the course? Mick Grice, the man organising this year's rally, could help to answer these questions. But he is keeping details of the route very much to himself. All he will say is that the rally will be held somewhere in the south-east at sometime near Easter. People wanting more information will have to contact Mick at 32, Clyde House, Sumner Estate, S.E.15. Tel: 703 2535.

The League Tables for January were just in as COXAN went to press and they show the club to be in a very healthy position.

The 1st XI in Intermediate South are still very much in the hunt for promotion, thanks to a run of five wins in December and January. Old Meadonians look set for the Championship but consistent play in the last seven games could take Clapham up with them.

The 2nd XI, under new captain Mick Powell, are establishing themselves in their first year in Division One South in preparation, one hopes, for a promotion drive next year. It certainly looks the strongest 2nd XI the Old Boys can remember.

The 3rd XI have been top of Division Three South for most of the season. It's to be hoped that the defeats of the last few weeks will be forgotten and that they make sure of promotion in the next two months.

The most encouraging aspect of the season however, has been the success of the 4th XI. They have played ten fixtures already, mostly against opposition from Division Five South, and have chalked up nine wins usually by a margin of about eight goals ! No doubt they will enter Division Five South next year.

Thus the picture is a healthy one, made even healthier by the growing number of supporters each Saturday and the takings in the Clubhouse, now run so efficiently by Pete Murphy.

For the statisticians - three Gavigans played for the 3rd XI on one Saturday - Sean, Seamus and Bart. Can anyone remember the last time three brothers played in one league team ?

TABLES

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>PTS</u>
<u>1st XI - 2nd in Intermediate South</u>	15	8	3	4	43	25	19
<u>2nd XI - 5th in Div. One South</u>	14	6	2	6	35	35	14
<u>3rd XI - Top of Div. Three South</u>	14	8	2	4	49	30	18

CHRISTMAS DRAW

MAKES DOUBLE

PROFIT

Almost twice as much profit was made in this year's Christmas Draw as compared with last year. This was thanks largely to an almost incredible effort made by junior pupils at the College in selling tickets and the nett profit shows that the Draw was by far the most successful we have ever run. Our grateful thanks are due to the College and to the Old Boys who sold tickets and/or donated prizes. First prize of a portable cassette tape recorder went to Mr. F. Kelly of Boundaries Road, S.W.2. Second prize, the large Christmas hamper was won by Mr. Skelton of the Holy Ghost School, Clapham, with Mr. F. Purdon of Boundaries Road, S.W.12 winning the gold wristwatch third prize. Copies of the full list of winners are available from Tony Morrish or Brian Sanders whose address appears on page 3.

A
DYNAMIC
DISCOTHEQUE

An atmosphere of sounds fantastic and strobe lighting hit the normally peaceful College dining centre on Saturday December 9 when the Christmas Disce-Dance took to the air. More than a hundred people arrived and crowded into the centre to get into the steaming smoke that surrounded sounds chaotic from a mobile disco and drinks dynamic from the licensed bar.

Vic Rozkowski and Ernie Larkin took care of the organisation and they reported a profit of some £67. They also said many of the footballers turned up.

ACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANSWERBACK...ANS

"Send me a postcard, drop me a line stating points of view..." so go the words of that pop song of not too long ago. And that is precisely what we would like you all to do.

It's the start of 1973 and before the year is out the Clapham Old Xaverians' Association's number will be swelled by at least another 50 when the summer boys leave the school just like they have done for the last 75 years.

Just a glance through the columns of Personalia that follow reveals that the Old Boys span almost the whole century with members now scattered all over the world. Clapham College when they left it was certainly different to the Clapham the boys will leave this summer and Clapham today will be something unknown in five years time with the building of a new school.

The Old Boys' Association has remained sturdy throughout most of the years. But what of the future? Undoubtedly, the Old Boys will continue. But should it?

Come on, answerusback and let us answeyouback. We'll provide the answers to all your questions about the school and the Old Boys and if we can't, we'll find someone who will. But we need to hear from you, to hear your points of view.

Write to Answerback and help to get a small debate going for future editions. Don't think you have to confine yourselves to letters about Clapham only however, write about anything you feel strongly over - hijackings, the price of beef, or newsletters you get posted through your door. Tell us what it's like to live in Dublin, Strathclyde or Nairobi. It won't matter to us what you say and it will probably give somebody else the opportunity to give an Answerback...Answerback...
92, Chaichale Road, N.W.2.

PERSONALIA

PERSONALIA.

It is with regret that we have to announce the deaths of Rev. Br. Matthias C.F.X. at Mayfield College and of Tony Bede, who left Clapham in 1954/55. May they Rest In Peace.

The invitation to all members to let us know about themselves has actually had some results and David Martin would like to thank all the members who took the trouble to write to him with details. He hopes many others will make use of the opportunity. The main aim of the Association is to keep you members in touch. Our main method of doing this is through COXAN. So the more PERSONALIA we have, the more interesting it is for everyone. Don't feel it is blowing your own trumpet or that it would be of no interest. Send a note to David Martin - his address is on page 2.

*** Nice to hear from Julian Goldie (1947) now living in Shirley and working for Target Unit Trust. He left the less dynamic field of banking a couple of years ago. With Julian's surname he's an obvious toxophilite so the move is hardly surprising !

*** We also heard from Robin Kennedy (1960) who has moved from Putney to Stanford-le-Hope and is now working for Mobil Oil at a refinery somewhere in Essex. Obviously influenced by the security conscious Troubleshooters, Robin would not go into details except to complain bitterly that there's not much travel (except via B.R.) and no dishy birds. He also sees David Carter (1960) who is still working for Crosse and Blackwell brewing up strange concoctions to put in tins. We are now out of touch with David but possibly Robin hitting Personalia headlines will coax a sub from our own ten o'clock tester.

*** Our answer to Amin - we've sent Bill Kidd to Nigeria - we've no details unfortunately.

- *** Also moving around, Dave Slattery (1955) and Tom Ennis (1952) (separately we believe) and only house within the U.K. if you see what we mean. Hope they remember to let us know their new addresses or they will feature in the May COXAN "out of touch" spot.
- *** Steve Stewart (1971) and David Martin (1960) recently finished appearing in Robinson Crusoe which David wrote and produced. Since we hear that in one scene they were carried off by six bikini and grass-skirted young ladies, it is a wonder that we ever saw our secretary again.
- *** Michael Powell (1965 ?) wants to run a fancy dress ball. Anyone else interested should contact Mick via Ernie Larkin. (It is untrue that Mick is working for Nathan's on a commission basis).
- *** Jim Howard (1960) (and there's a name to give anyone memories) arrived in England from Manila recently to find a telegram from Manila telling him he won a free flight to the U.K. That could only happen to Jim. Mind you, we hear he's doing great things in the Far East much to the discomfort of termites of most sorts on whom Rentokill has a deathly effect - there's no flies on Jim. We hope to be able to grab a sub while he is here and the committee learning John McGuire was to play cards with Jim gave John instructions to lose £1 to Jim and immediately reclaim it as a sub - could be a battle of the giants and Howard may be Effingham ! (if you'll pardon the expression). John McGuire later reeling from the effects of Jim trying to drink London dry, surfaced long enough to gasp that Jim might return in July to finish the job.
- *** Congratulations to Peter Hughes who has been elected a Visiting Fellow of the Oxford Management Centre and to John Egan, elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Knights of St. Columba.
- *** Recently visiting the school was Anthony Higgins, head of the history department from 1951 to 1955. After that he went to Nottingham as head of a primary school. He is now Director of Graduate Studies at St. Mary's Training College.
- *** A sign of the times - John Ware and son Peter (1972), both old boys, lost 130 lbs. of beef from their snop in Trinity Road, S.W.17. Police initially brought in the dogs but gave up after losses increased.
- *** Congratulations again, for the fifth time in fact, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hughes whose No 5 was baptised on January 6 1973 in the presence of Tony Morrish whom London Transport released for the occasion. Also - born to John Karl Sabbagh (1961), of BBC fame, and wife Sue, a baby girl, Isabella.

- *** Present at the Old Boys' Mass in November was Lyndon Davis (1955) a barrister. He had news of his brother Austen (known at Clapham as "Gus") (1960) who is now assistant Attorney-General in Jamaica and also of brother Richard (1965) who is now about to qualify as a doctor.
- *** An attractive Christmas card was received from Fr. Leonard Marchant W.F. (1917) who is now at the Padri Bianchi in Via Aurelia, Rome. Fr. Marchant asked to be remembered to all Old Boys of Clapham and Mayfield.
- *** From over the water in auld Eire, Maurice Gorham (1916) has just has another book published by Batsfords. The latest from Maurice's pen is "Dublin from Old Photographs" and was published on November 16. It is a sequel to "Ireland from Old Photographs" which Maurice produced 18 months ago. While few Old Boys will remember Maurice or Leonard Marchant, we expect a correction in the dates quoted from Br. Dunstan by the first post (Post Office allowing) after COXA's publication!
- *** Rev. Michael Lynam (1918) from the All Saints' Church, Kenton Road, Harrow, tells us that he recently spent a pleasant week-end with Tony Page (1920?) in Yorkshire. He also says he sees Eddie Fornara occasionally.
- *** At the other end of the Clapham spectrum, Alan White who left the College in 1971, writes to say he is enjoying working in County Hall before starting his dental studies at University College, London, in October. He met Jim Cronin (1971), now at Womersley, and Frank Murphy (1971) in Charing Cross Road for a (yes, you've guessed) drink!
- *** Congratulations to Peter Hayland and Joyce Jones who were married on January 20. David Hayland is a manager with Ind Coope. Information supplied by ex-committee member, Mike Hayland (1950). A little more detail next time please, Mike.
- *** After scrounging half a dozen non-drip optic measures for the Clubhouse, David Martin is leaving Gaskell and Chambers (the firm that makes them) to become Group Admin. Manager of Xerox Education Group - cheap copies anyone?
- *** Nice to see Robert T. Collins in Weekend Telegraph on January 12 with his much-improved house. Featured in an article on home improvements, Bob was explaining how he got rid of a rat-infested cellar and so on and spent nearly £6,000 doing it - nice to know too that he's fully occupied though we notice he is still arguing.
- *** Congrats to Tony Gray's mother who sold the most tickets for the Christmas Draw. Anyone seeing Tony Gray is requested to ask him to contact the Secretary whom he owes a map.
- *** Back on a flying visit from Canada - a frightfully wealthy Bill Ruane (1959). He met up with his old friend, Peter Keenan (1961).

- *** Ted Hayter (1951), though he likes to forget it, recently figured with the Association in a record request programme. No-one knows who sent the request (although anyone having details is asked to let us know) but Ted vehemently denies that it was "Ding a Ling" from Mrs. Mary Whitehouse. Strangely enough, this seemingly anonymous request has gained a member. Brian Baldock (1951) now a director of Gala Cosmetics, heard the request and wrote to the College asking to be put in touch with Ted and the Association. There's a moral there somewhere.
- *** Peter Smith (1962) was ordained priest on July 15 1972 and is now at St. Francis of Sales, S.W.4. Peter first went to Coutts and then to Exeter University where he took a Law degree. He entered Womersley in 1966. Also at St. Francis Church is the Rev. Michael Curtin who left the College in 1938.
- *** Our Northern correspondent, Brian Pryke (1955) writes to tell us that the first annual meeting of the Associations Yorkshire region was held at Christmas at John Noulton's (1957) place near Leeds. Apart from John and his wife Anne, and family, there was Brian and his wife Julia and kids, Terry Foster (1956) and his wife Lois and Mick Magee (1965) who was visiting at the time. A week or so later, Brian says there was a knock on his front door (actually he's got a bell- gas-operated of course as Brian says electricity hasn't been invented in Bradford) which revealed Chris Fisher (1962 ?) his wife Phyllis and daughter, Helen. Chris and family have recently moved to Halifax which gives weight to the theory that at the present rate of immigration, all the present members of the Association will have moved to the West Riding by 1993. But remember, when Yorkshire LEEDS, London must CLAPHAM !
- *** Peter Murphy (1956) held a sort of minireunion recently within a stone's throw of Norbury. Present were Colin Duff, David Martin and Alan Fulker (1964). We hear efforts were made to wrest a sub from Colin but these failed somewhat dismally.

COXAN 2/73 WILL APPEAR ON MAY 8. LAST DATE FOR ALL COPY: APRIL 24

of Frank Murphy