



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY

2018 MAGAZINE CONTENTS

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ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY

COMMITTEE 2017-2018

David Wells-Cole	President	2015-18
Tim Coles	Secretary & AGM organisation	2015-18
Tarquin Wiggins	Treasurer & Membership list	2016-20
William Jenkyns	Website Manager	2016-19
Charles Beresford	Magazine Co-ordinator & Editor	2017-18
Guy Holland	Magazine Joint Editor	2018
Michael Hart	Reunion Music Director & Dinner	2016-19
Jenson Jones	Liaison with St M's College & Parish	2014-18
Edward Watson-Williams	Liaison with post-1970 leavers	2017
John Austin	<i>Past President : ex-Cathedra Member</i>	
John Pepper	<i>Past President : ex-Cathedra Member</i>	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2018

I must say that the cold, damp and rather miserable weather of this winter of 2017-18 has made me long for warmer days and the delights of the cricket season. Memories of some extraordinary matches at St Michael's spring to mind. Were we really all out for 5 (yes, FIVE) against that demon bowler from Moffat's? I think that the Warden, Dick Stride, was apoplectic! And did we in turn bowl out Abberley for 19 (on their ground too)? Memories of these events, no doubt traumatic at the time, remind me of those long prep-school summer terms when cricket was all-important and we had little concept of what was happening in the wider world. I don't think that it is mere nostalgia to consider those days as idyllic.



St Michael's memories are, of course, inextricably bound up with my experiences of singing in the choir. And an essential member of the choir was Brian Demaus, who sadly died in December. To generations of St Michael's boys Brian was simply a legend. Several Old Boys have written in with their reminiscences of this remarkable man, whose death really seems like the end of an era. A Thanksgiving Service was held on Saturday, March 17th at 2 pm in the College Chapel. Sadly, the appalling wintry weather kept the attendance down but those who were there sang with gusto. Denis Parry took the service with great dignity, Michael Hart organised the music, Charles Beresford delivered a wonderful personal tribute and David Wells-Cole read Christopher Hassall's *Poem for Michaelmas Day*.

On a happier note we were well entertained at the September 2017 Reunion by Dr Andrew Gant, lecturer in Music at St Peter's College Oxford, composer, choirmaster and author of *O Sing unto The Lord* and *Christmas Carols: from Village Green to Church Choir*. Andrew spoke with great authority about English Church Music and placed Sir Frederick Ouseley in a Victorian musical context with scholarship and wit.

The speaker at the Reunion this year (on Saturday, September 29th, 2018) is Colonel John Blashford-Snell, perhaps our most well-known living Old Boy. I am sure that many of you are familiar with his exploits and will know also that he initiated Operation Raleigh (now Raleigh International), which has been of such benefit to adventurous young men and women.

I hope that many of you will be able to join us for this year's reunion.

David Wells-Cole

President

LAST YEAR'S REUNION

The Society's AGM took place in the Library.

President's report : A floral tribute would be laid at the Founder's grave after the service on Sunday. It was reported that 40 were expected for dinner.

Committee : David Wells-Cole was proposed as President for a further year; the Secretary's duties were split to lessen the burden: Tim Coles would make arrangements relating to the AGM and Tarquin Wiggins agreed to co-ordinate the membership list; Michael Hart would continue to make arrangements for the Reunion Evensong and Dinner. Will Jenkyns was thanked for updating the website; Guy Holland agreed to help Charles Beresford with editing the next Magazine.

Donations : £450 to the St. Michael's PCC and £200 to the College, as before, with a review next year.

Attendance at Reunion Dinner

John Selby	49.3 - 52.2
Mike Benson	50.2 - 55.3
Michael Hart	50.3 - 54.2
Gerry Wells Cole	51.3 - 57.2
Charles Beresford	52.2 - 57.2
David Wells-Cole	53.3 - 59.2
Jenson Jones	57.2 - 59.3
David Ritchie	57.3 - 61.3
Peter Beresford	57.3 - 62.2
Stuart Meikle	67.3 - 73.2
William Jenkyns	72.3 - 78.2
Richard Palmer	73.2 - 77.2
Ed Watson Williams	73.2 - 77.2
Richard Franklin	73.2 - 78.2
Tarquin Wiggins	74.2 - 78.3
Tim Coles	75.2 - 81.2
James Mealings	75.3 - 81.2
Simon Banfield	76.1 - 81.2
Guy Holland	76.3 - 82.2
Rob Bayley	79.3 - ?

Staff

Roger Judd
Peter Scott

Parents, Honorary members and Supporters

Alfie Bayley
Bill & Rita Davies
John Denby
Dick and Anne Fox
Georgina Franklin
David & Jean Harrison
Ian & Mary Holland
Alison Judd
Will Mealings
Tony & Janet Penn
Penny Scott
Catherine Wells-Cole (D)
Jan Wells-Cole (G)

In Memoriam

The families of several members who have died in the last year are in our thoughts. These include :

Brian Demaus. Pupil 1932-1937, staff 1946-1984. d. November 2017

Sir John Ford. Pupil 1932-1935. d. January 2018.

John Brown. Pupil 1939-44, SMCS Treasurer 14 years. d. May 2018

Roger Wallbank Pupil 1940-1944. d. September 2017

T.R.Pepper. Pupil 1943 - 1949

Peter Squire. Pupil 1947-1950. d. March 2018

Maureen Parry (née Evans) Matron 1962-1967. d. 2016

Jackie Rose (née Coles) Staff 1963. d. 21 January 2018 - George and Mary's daughter. Her daughter Sally was later librarian at the international college. Nephews Chris and Tim Coles were both at SMC.

OBITUARIES and TRIBUTES

Brian Demaus :

Extracts from a tribute at his Thanksgiving Service



Memories of Brian sent by over twenty of us were gathered into a leaflet that was part of the memorial service at St Michael's in March 2018. The following is a shortened version of the tribute at that service.

Brian was born on Boxing Day 1923. His father was a priest who had known the St Michael's librarian Dr Fellowes when they were at Oxford.

In September 1932 Brian came to St Michael's as an 8 year-old from his home in Buckinghamshire. Entering the choir just after his 11th birthday

in January 1935, he was made a chorister after a year and Head Chorister in his final year. He was awarded both a choral exhibition and a clergy exhibition by St Edward's Oxford. He left St Michael's just before his 14th birthday in 1937, and wrote later

"I was firmly resolved on two things :

- (i) that I would come back to sing and teach as soon as I could; the war, of course, intervened, and
- (ii) that one day I would have an Aston Martin like the one that one of the masters had.

As luck would have it both these resolutions came true.."

The next nine years were spent at St Edward's and on active service in the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve during hostilities. He returned to St Michael's and joined the staff in 1946, where he continued for 38 years until 1984. Five facets of his life were special to us :

The Choir. The fine quality of his alto or counter-tenor voice is remembered by all who sang in the choir and by many others. Each of the four choirmasters that he sang with really valued not only his skill but also his dependability.

Cubs. He and Katie Ashley threw themselves enthusiastically into all the activities involved in the cubs. They stimulated a 'can-do' approach to practical problem-solving that subsequently blossomed in the scouts.



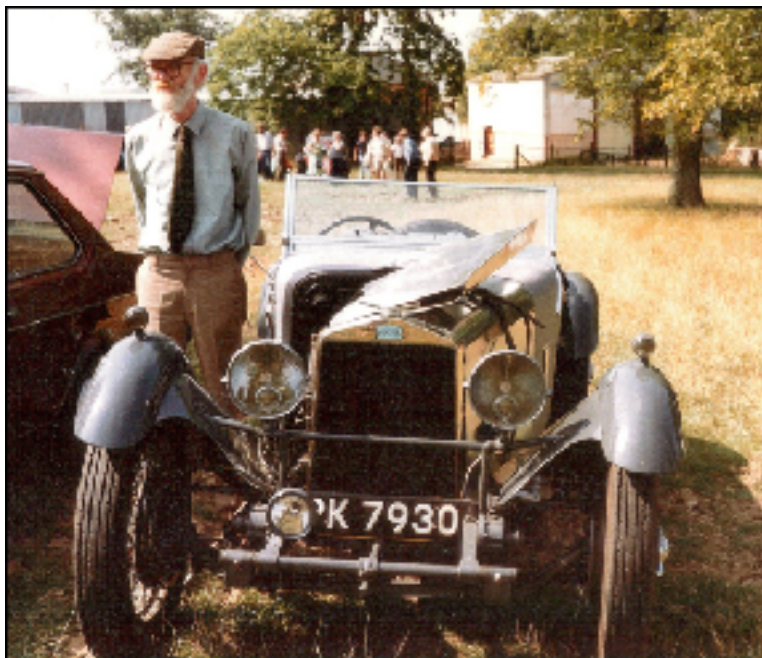
1955 photo includes Brian Demaus, Katie Ashley, and David Wells Cole

His **coaching** of cricket, rugby and soccer teams also developed skills that often resulted in success when playing against other schools. This demanded patience in spotting and fostering potential ability and then providing help to individuals and teams so that they could flourish. Sports days involving athletics and swimming similarly involved encouragement of individual achievement and efficient organisation.

Classroom activities. Various people remembered Brian teaching English, Geography, Mathematics, Science and Art. Brian's comments on classwork and in reports are remembered as being apposite, perceptive and fair.

One tribute to him included the exclamation "Inspirational ! A wonderful teacher and pastoral carer." Another wrote "he was one of the best masters I had, even if at the time his manner felt a bit severe or too ironic for us youngsters. He was there to teach, and teach he did." You soon learnt not to mess with Mousey! Several also referred to his fine sense of humour.

Cars. In his contribution to the 2006 booklet entitled 'Memories' (p.13) he pleaded guilty to being a car nut from the age of four. From MG to



Humber, Lagonda, Aston Martin and to the rare Arab that he restored, he became an expert on each of his cars and many others.

He shared the breadth and depth of his knowledge, becoming a prolific and renowned author of many well-written and lavishly illustrated books and articles.

Brian Demaus and his 1929 Arab

Some knew Brian first as clean shaven, independent and dynamic; others in the last half century knew him as a thoughtful Senior Master - a

pillar of the establishment and a seemingly timeless bearded patriarch - an institution in himself.

The recurring themes in the comments written recently by some of his former pupils tended to focus on five attributes:

- first - his **commitment**, especially to the choir and the college;
- second - his **encouragement** of self-confidence, as in the cubs,
- third - his **patience**, as in coaching cricket, soccer and rugby;
- fourth - his **fairness**, as in his evaluations of classroom efforts;
- and fifth - his **enthusiasm**, as in his involvement with cars.

This fine character was undoubtedly a significant influence on the childhoods of many of us. (*Charles Beresford*).

John Ford : SMC 1932.2 - 1935.1



Sir John Ford, who died in January aged 95, was a colourful and committed diplomat. As a young man, Ford was awarded the Military Cross for his role in defending a bridgehead at Kervenheim in Germany in 1945

against a fierce counter-attack.

He pioneered the use of computers by the Foreign Office and was posted to Hungary, San Francisco, Bahrain and Rome before serving as Consul-General in New York and introducing Punch and Judy to Indonesia while Ambassador in Jakarta.

While British High Commissioner in Canada he averted a diplomatic crisis over their Constitution. In retirement, as a Christian campaigner on

Aids, he nailed a call to action to the door of Lambeth Palace in an attempt to get the Church to take the issue seriously. He is remembered as a kind-hearted visionary who was devoted to his family.

John Brown

"A. John Brown (no 43), who died on 25th May 2018, was a pupil at SMC from 1939 to 1944. He was a contemporary of the likes of John Austin, Dan Symonds, Tim Hollis, a Meikle or two and another lifelong friend, Derrik Jenkyns. They were taught in the era of Katie Ashley when Monty Alderson was Sub-Warden and the Wardens were Mr Buckmaster followed in 1941 by Dr Billen.

John sang in the Choir under the direction of Sidney Nicholson. Nicholson had brought the evacuated Royal School of Church Music to St Michael's from its base in Croydon and dedicated several compositions to the college choir.

John was one of those people who had SMC in his blood from a very early age. After leaving he was often seen back at SMC for Commem, recitals, etc. In the late sixties he and Nora deepened their connection with the College when eldest son Nick started as a pupil. Shortly after this, Stephen was to follow his brother, and so the presence of John and Nora at the College became even more frequent! Both Nick and Steve made much of their time at the college and one of John's proudest moments was when in 1977 Steve sang his 100th Solo as a treble in the choir, much to the delight of all, but especially his parents; Steve so memorably followed in his father's footsteps.

John's career in banking included being manager of Lloyds Bank in Winchcombe in Gloucestershire. One of his lifelong passions, apart from SMC, was a love of all things "Steam". Often found travelling behind this locomotive or on board that train excursion, he and Nora were also Friends of the Waverley - the world's last remaining paddle steamer. Latterly John was involved in the great success story of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire railway, which passes not far from the family home in Winchcombe.

John took an active role not just in the life of the College but also as the treasurer of the Society for 15 years. He was one of those whose life was filled with the SMC influence, his faith, his friends, music and steam. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts, prayers and sympathies go out to Diane, Nick, Steve and the whole family at this time.

(Will Jenkyns)

Peter Squire

Peter passed away suddenly but peacefully on Sunday 4th March 2018 after a short illness, aged 81. Much loved husband of June and father of Graham, Christopher and Roger. Chorister at St Michael's, Tenbury (1947 – 1950) as was his brother David (SMC 1949 – 1953) Peter went on to Cranleigh School with an Organ Scholarship and thence to the Guildhall School of Music. There he decided not to take up music professionally, but to keep it as a hobby, which he did to the end of his life. After the Guildhall, he did his National Service in the RAF and then took up Articles with a firm of Chartered Accountants, qualifying in 1962. He chose to work in industry rather than accountancy, becoming Finance Director of various companies around the country. He retired to Dunsford, a small village near Exeter, where he continued his passion of music. He was an extremely proficient and fine organist, giving recitals and playing at concerts and church services, where he was in great demand. He was hugely appreciated as a musician and friend in the area and will be sadly missed. *(Julian Dams)*

Maureen Parry (née Evans) : Matron 1962-1967

Maureen (Evans) followed Miss Longfield as Matron in 1962 and was succeeded by Miss Cutts in 1967. She was my first Matron, along with her assistant Miss Buchanan (1963-66). She ran a very efficient department in which poor behaviour in the bathrooms and dormitories was dealt with promptly, and dubious ailments were cured with a spoonful of TLC. Among my memories was an occasion when a boy

took an unnecessary liking to Malt Extract, so one day a little olive oil was added to his dose. He never touched the stuff again. Another memory was of a young temporary assistant matron who got pulled into the bath by one of the boys whose hair she was washing. She didn't stay long.

I have only met Maureen Parry two or three times in recent years, but she and Denis made me warmly welcome in their house in Kington and it has been a privilege to visit them. The family created a supportive environment that was needed in Maureen's last years before her death in 2016.

Denis was ordained in 1983 and officiated at St Michael's at the Thanksgiving Service for Brian Demaus' life on 17th March 2018.

Fred Appleby (1964.3-1969.2)

Have you seen Denis' booklet 'A Poet's Michael-Mass' (2006) that includes a different and enjoyable SMC version of Christopher Hassall's & Thomas Hood's poem 'I remember'?

Copies are available in the church for a donation of not less than £2 to the PCC of St Michael's and All Angels, Tenbury. ISBN 1-905655-01-0.



Denis and Maureen in the middle with their son Giles on the right.