



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Old Edmundian Newsletter

2021 Edition

Dear Alumni and friends of St Edmund's,

It is hard to believe that another turbulent and challenging year has passed since our last Spring newsletter, with COVID putting many, including St Edmund's School, under acute pressure. However, crises reveal the strength of an institution's underlying values and the loyalty of its people. I am deeply proud of the resilience and determination shown by everyone connected to our school. It has been a humbling experience as Head, and I am especially proud of the herculean efforts undertaken by school staff to provide effective learning and pastoral care for our pupils since COVID struck. I am, however, a big believer in the famous CS Lewis quotation - "Keep looking forward. Don't look back, you're not going that way", and St Edmund's has much to look forward to.

We have a number of interesting curriculum and pastoral changes launching in September, and will be welcoming a new Chaplain to replace Steve Bennett, who departed in December 2020. Our Upper Sixth have done brilliantly with university offers this year, with two heading to Oxbridge, and many off to elite Russell Group universities for degrees ranging from Neuroscience to Russian and Linguistics, along with those that have found places in conservatoires and drama schools. Sport fixtures have also returned this term and our new cricket pitch on the Jackman Field is ready for action!

Due to the ongoing government restrictions, our annual "Festival on the Hill" will not be held this year, but we are excited and proud to have jazz legend Courtney Pine performing a concert in our Theatre this September, under the auspices of St Edmund's Festival, which will return with a bang in Summer 2022!

And we of course have already scheduled this year's Christmas show, which will be a spectacular interpretation of Beauty and the Beast.

Last but not least, we also have an inspection to "look forward to" next term, which is a great opportunity for the School to showcase the progress it has made in recent years, and I'm one of the few that actually enjoys the inspection process! It is a galvanising force for the School and makes us reflect deeply on the essence of who we are and what we strive to offer.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Best wishes,

Edward O'Connor
Head

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India (SII), founded in 1966 by his father, Cyrus Poonawalla, has emerged as a key vaccine player in the fight against Covid19



Adar arrived at St Edmund's as a junior boy in 1991, joining Baker House, and graduated in 1999, going on to study at the University of Westminster before joining the family business in 2001.

The Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, has a factory 70 miles outside Mumbai, in Pune, and has been running at full tilt, scrambling to produce 50 million doses per month of the AstraZeneca/University of Oxford vaccine, and forms an integral part of the UK's Covid 19 vaccination program, alongside other vaccines, and which the UK Government hopes will finally bring the virus under control.

Signs of the pressure facing the company, and the strains felt by all who work in the company, are very much in evidence, as staff have been working tirelessly for months on end.

As explained by Adar, "The real challenge now is rolling it out to all the countries worldwide but also balancing our commitments domestically and understanding what my government [India] wants us to do. It's a fine balance."

SII, founded in 1966 by his now 80-year-old father Cyrus Poonawalla, a well-established racehorse breeder and chairman of the family's Poonawalla Group holding company, was unknown outside India and the specialist world of vaccine manufacturing until recently.

As of March 2020, however, the company has leapt onto the global stage to play a central role in the manufacturing of vaccines, having signed, to date, manufacturing deals with five pharmaceutical companies, which include Britain's AstraZeneca and America's Novavax.



While pharmaceutical companies such as those mentioned above, alongside others, have cracked the vaccine technology, the formidable logistical task of physically manufacturing enough doses, especially for the giant populations of developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, has fallen to a large extent on the shoulders of SII, which has gained a license to produce at least 1bn of the Astra Zeneca/Oxford Covid vaccine shots.

Following a first wave of vaccinations in India, SII will then export doses to developing countries via the Covax scheme, a global vaccine allocation plan led by the World Health Organization, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Over the past year SII has invested £270m of its own cash, plus £300m from the Gates Foundation to scale up production, hiring 700 staff and importing equipment.

India's government remains a key client, and the company's relations with Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister, who visited the plant in Pune last year, are crucial, leaving Adar to juggle the complex demands of India's leadership with those of investors and other customers.

Adar, one of six people named "Asian of the Year" by Singapore's leading daily, The Straits Times, in December 2020, for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, points out that: "I have partners and funders, and a lot of people to keep happy. "Everyone is anxious and feels they deserve it [as a] priority."

Manufacturing vaccines at scale is a complex and technically challenging process, requiring rigorous manufacturing standards and frequent testing. Today, as well as Covid vaccines, the family's factory in Pune produces 1.5bn doses a year of vaccines for use in 170 countries to protect against diseases including polio, measles and influenza. SII estimates that 65% of the world's children receive at least one vaccine produced by it.

Pricing has also been a key consideration, although SII currently intends to sell the vaccine at cost to developing countries in order to ensure full access for everyone, with a possible rise in prices in the future to make up some of the profits.

As if all of this is not enough, our busy CEO took time out to meet with UK Secretary of State for International Trade Liz Truss at the company's facility in Pune to discuss the UK developed Oxford vaccine, and to seal the deal on the production of another 1.3 billion doses for the COVAX alliance.

Ms Truss, who led a four-day visit to India in February for talks with her counterpart Piyush Goyal towards an "enhanced trade partnership", tweeted that "Mr Poonawalla and I discussed how to further enhance the existing relationship between India and the UK on manufacturing and innovation in the healthcare space."

With shrewd foresight, and an initial investment of \$12,000 to diversify away from horse-breeding, to revenues of 59bn rupees (£614m) in the year ended March 31, 2020, of which that figure is expected to surge this year on the back of demand for Covid vaccines, the Poonawalla family has come a long way from the original family company that was founded in the 1960's as a veterinary clinic on the edge of the family's horse stud farm in Pune.

"But there is no time to rest for me yet," Adar says. "At least not for another two years. Then I will take a vacation for a couple of months!"

Adar, from all of us at St Edmund's, a heartfelt thank you for all of the work you are putting into this global health pandemic!



Members' News

William Betham (1977): After leaving SES, Bill studied hotel management. He then spent 4 years travelling around the world and working when the money ran out. He and Jon Ford ('75) drove a beaten up Landrover across the Sahara and West Africa until it fell apart in Cameroon. Bill then travelled by bus, train, hitching to South Africa via Kenya where Tim Ford ('78) was working. He trekked the full Annapurna circuit in Nepal, explored India, Thailand, China, and then headed to Australia to work as a chef. He says that he was inspired by the quality of food and ingredients on his travels but particularly so in Sydney. It was a revelation because England was pretty much still in the dark ages of cuisine at that time. He also learned to windsurf in Sydney harbour, unaware that it is full of sharks! Eventually it was time to go home and as a last adventure travelled by train from Hong Kong to West Berlin via Beijing and Moscow on the Trans-Siberian. But he ended up in Paris, delaying the looming need to get a 'proper job'. There, he met his future wife Emmanuelle. They married in '87 and moved to Canterbury. In '88, they opened Café des Amis in St Dunstan's St, a restaurant that is still going strong today.

Bill had a bit of a midlife crisis in '97, when he persuaded his wife and three young children to go travelling round the world. They spent 18 months away and homeschooled their children. It was only coincidental that many of the places they visited were windsurfing destinations! They spent time on Maui and fell in love with the place. In '99, they obtained a business visa and moved to Maui, where they opened Café des Amis no 2, in a little surf town on the north shore. In 2008, they returned to Canterbury to open Café du Soleil. Their two older children were already at University in the UK at that stage but the youngest, Emily, was still at home and very unhappy about leaving her school and friends on Maui; she started at SES and within a month she was saying that she loved being there! She thrived and went on to become head girl (Emily Betham '12). She had the opportunity to ask the deputy head, David Knight (a teacher who taught Bill back in 1975) what kind of student her dad had been. "Average" was his accurate reply. But Bill says that whilst his time at SES did not translate into academic success, the overall education and experience of the SES community has been invaluable to him throughout his life.

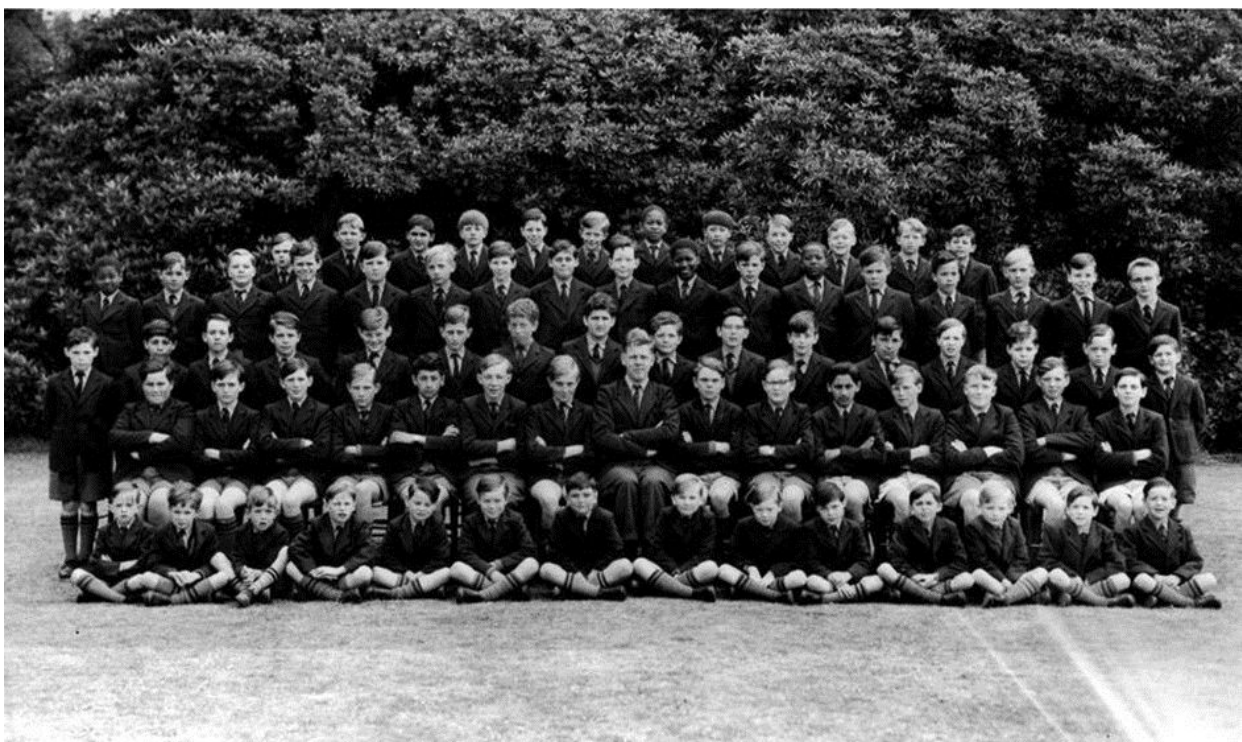
Bill still keeps in contact with Jon, Nick, and Tim Ford, Julian Hughes, Warwick Hamilton, John McGill, Sean Barrett, Jem Hollis. They get together regularly and usually celebrate with a bottle or two of Tim Ford's excellent wine from his Domaine Gayda in Southern France.

Bill and his wife now divide their time between Maui, France and Canterbury and are still involved in the 3 restaurants. Emmanuelle also writes educational books. They are keen walkers and completed the 500 mile Camino de Santiago in 2015. Bill continues to windsurf and has recently taken up windsurf foiling, which he describes as like riding a magic carpet 3ft above the water.

Paul Binns (1960): Paul initially worked for an airline. He later earned a degree in geology and joined the British Geological Survey. For his work on the first geological mapping of the Sea of the Hebrides he was awarded a PhD by Edinburgh University. While with the Survey he also worked on the petroleum geology of the North Sea, subsequently joining Shell in their Geophysics Research group in The Hague. In 27 years with Shell International he worked in Exploration units in the Middle East and Africa and in Business units in The Hague. For the last 20 years, since retirement, he has continued to work for Shell online and also taught at Heriot Watt University, where he is an Honorary Professor. He is on the Board of the Scottish Energy Forum and is a Fellow of the Geological Society of London and an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society. He has been married to Ceri for 54 years and they have two children and three grandchildren.



Rodney Butcher (1968): Richard Tolbert and their classmates at Tavistock Hall, Heathfield, Sussex. In the annual school photo, Richard is in the second row from the back and near the centre. I am in the middle row, third in from the left. We believe this was 1961 as per the school play photo, in which he and I are standing next to each other finding something funny. Lovely memories to have, anyway. Brother David is in both photos, so it must have been his last term at Tavi as he arrived at St. Edmunds in M'61. In the annual photo he is sitting immediately to the right of the head master (Jack Bucknall) and in the school play photo, he is the barrister.





Ralph Carter (1962): 1. The Rogues Cricket Club that Robert Pettit & I founded whilst at St. Edmunds in August 1961 is 60 years of age this year. I donned the umpire's coat some years ago. 2. I am always approached at Alumni functions by younger Old Boys enquiring whether I joined the Army. In the C.C.F. once I had attained the heights of lance corporal I was in charge of a platoon. It is members of this platoon who approach me. We were the precursors of Dad's Army and I remember a very chaotic march past in front of a distinguished general on the cricket pitch; a chaotic field day at Scotland Hills; and upsetting R.S.M. O'Leary by signalling his excellent shooting as missing the target at Hythe Ranges! The answer is: no I did not join the Army.

Will Clark (2016): After finishing my A levels at St Edmund's I went to the University of Kent to study Military History and, most importantly to me, join the army as a reservist. I passed my selection in May 2017 and attended the Commissioning Course Short at RMAS from June to August. On completion I was commissioned as a reserve officer into 3rd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Following the completion of my degree I have deployed on numerous overseas opportunities including a NATO reserve officers conference in Tallinn Estonia looking at interoperability between reserve armies of partner nations. Following this in September 2019 I deployed to Kenya on Exercise Askari Storm working in a Brigade Headquarters for 6 weeks.

At the start of 2020 I was informed my battalion will need to train personnel for the British Army's Anti-Poaching mission in Southern Africa. Following a brief time providing the opposing forces on Salisbury plain for the battlegroup deploying to Mali, I was sent to Brunei to train in the Borneo Jungle. This course was specifically designed to train us in operational tracking and prepare us for deployment to Africa on the anti-poaching mission. On completion I was trained as a counter-poaching operator.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit I was mobilised for OPERATION RESCRIPT and the reservist mobilisation which saw us provide mobile testing centres throughout the South East from May to July 2020. Following this I have been deployed in Medway on asymptomatic testing sites and worked as the company second in command for HQ Coy 3PWRR based in Canterbury.

I am joining the regular army in May 2022 and very much looking forward to it.

Andy Cloquet (1978): I've left full-time teaching (English & Outdoor Learning) four years ago and pre-Covid went back to working in the outdoor industry as a freelance professional Mountaineering Instructor (I achieved the UK award alongside my teaching registration in Scotland). My two daughters have now successfully entered the world of work and my wife Stella continues in the world of Fostering and Adoption.

I often think of the SES staff throughout my time ('69-'78) and particularly have fond memories of the Hawkins brothers who were so encouraging (I was one of the first cohort to attend CCF Adventure Training on Dartmoor during a very snowy Easter in single-skin Vango tents!); Geoff Pass whom I adored as a teacher and Barry Blake, whose 6th year English lessons started each week with a double lesson in his apartment, with a wee sherry, listening to recordings of the former great actors and actresses in the Shakespeare plays we were studying.

Stories feature my lifelong habit of pushing boundaries including one where I was caught (only just) by Guy Hawkins late one Sunday afternoon as I practised my abseiling from my 6th Form wing bedroom - I was on the ground, harness off but a rather obvious rope lying on the tarmac ready to be coiled. A smile but stern warning as to my safety was the only consequence after I admitted to his direct questioning about previous rope activities from the rafters of one of the top floor dormitories which he had heard about and was checking out.

Much to their credit and providing me with clear boundaries, Robin (with swimming) & Guy distracted me from a rather nonsense time in my lower fifth year by taking me into the CCF a year earlier than my peers and my remaining spare time was spent outdoor swimming into late November & stageworking in the early productions in the then new hall.



Without these men, my last years at school may have been a short experience and life might well have been very different. The ball sports were not my forte but cross country running and Judo with a visiting 5th Dan Master kept me very fit.

Whilst my less well advertised activities included exploring by crawling in the school's solum and covert visits to the university or out of hours trips into Canterbury and beyond during very lax times on Sundays....oh, and of course lessons, which were not my strongest point. I think my Housemaster, Colin Parker recognised a somewhat unsettled spirit in me but calmly and encouragingly, he kept my head straight too.

Yet, with nearly 40 years in a teaching & guiding career behind me...something must have twiggled!

Estelle Coevoet (2016): Taking part in the schools CCF and Outdoor education programmes were the most rewarding part of my time at St Edmund's. The skills I gained during my time in the CCF have massively benefited in me achieving my career goals. Leadership, problem solving, and resilience to name a few, however it also introduced me to activities I still partake in such as rock climbing, mountaineering and kayaking.

Since leaving school I have been a volunteer special Constable for three years, completed a degree, and am now employed by Kent Police as a regular police officer. Whilst at the police training college there are very strict uniform standards, and an expectation for all officers to learn basic drill in preparation for their pass out parade. Due to my previous experience gained in the CCF as Sgt through to CSM I was appointed as the officer responsible for teaching the rest of my class drill, most of whom had no experience. This was a very proud moment for me and my capabilities were noticed by many Staff at the college. As a result of the hard work my class put in we were chosen over 3 other classes to escort a PCSO passing out parade attended by the Assistant Chief Constable, who mistook me for a member of staff due to my leadership of the class on the parade square, a skill I definitely learnt whilst at school. When it came to my own class' pass out parade I was chosen by staff to receive the standards award for the upkeep of my appearances through my time at the college. Since being on division, I have also received two divisional commanders awards for separate events where my rapid decision making helped safeguard members of the public. I believe that I was only able to make these on the spot decisions as a result of having prior experience in high pressure scenarios from the CCF.

Looking to the future of my career in policing I have ambitions to join the firearms unit. I am hoping that my experience with firearms thanks to the CCF will stand me in good stead to progress in this direction. However, I know I definitely have it to thank for what I have achieved so far.





Peter Creswell (1956): I am probably one of very few pupils who attended both the Choir School (before amalgamation) and St Edmunds. This was because my parents moved around a lot! I was at the Choir School when I was ten, so that would be about 1952. We then moved to Enfield for three years and then back to Bridge which is when I came to the school.

As a day boy I recall doing my homework at the school and then returning to Bridge every evening quite late. I think I was at St. Edmunds for three years but then was moved to Waterlooville where I finished schooling at Purbrook.

Having failed to get into Sandhurst I eventually decided to become an Architect and qualified at Birmingham in 1965. After a year or two I took over a small practice in West Bromwich and ran that for about twenty five years. I married in 1967 and had two very clever daughters, Charlotte and Anna. Charlotte became a dentist in Penarth but recently sold the practice, took a law degree and now works from home for the NHS checking on other dentists! Anna qualified as a pharmacist and after a year or two she started at Lloyd's Pharmacy head office in Coventry where she is now a senior manager with a huge sales budget of some £40m a year.

My wife and I divorced in 1989 and she sadly died last year in Spain. After my divorce things went badly for several years. The practice folded in the lean years of the early nineties but I managed to change course and carry out some small residential developments at the end of the recession and for a few years after until I retired in 2013.

I have a new partner of some twenty two years and we spend our time mainly between Spain and the UK but with the odd holiday thrown in. Namibia in January this year was wonderful. I am now 78 years old and luckily am still fit and well in spite of a quadruple bypass twenty six years ago and a couple of stents since. I recently gave up golf after forty odd years and now thoroughly enjoy my bowling both in the UK and in Spain, and play quite a bit of friendly bridge on line with friends in the UK and here in Spain. During lockdown that has been a godsend.

Howard Culley (1960): We moved from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Oxfordshire to be nearer our three children and three grandchildren just before the first lockdown. Of course, we didn't know then what a problem the pandemic would be and, along with most of the country, we haven't seen nearly much of the family as we had hoped. After my Army career, I went to Bedford School as the Bursar. I now write historical fiction in my retirement and this keeps me out of mischief. My latest book, *The Way of the Raven*, has just been published on Amazon.

Alice Horn (2015): Whilst at St Edmund's I studied Fine Art, Photography, and Film Studies for A-Level. I then went on to do my foundation art course at UCA where I achieved a distinction in visual communication, and then onto Edinburgh University to study Illustration where I achieved a First Class Hons degree. After graduating I decided to do a PGCE course in Art & Design and am now doing my NQT year at Francis Holland School in London. As well as teaching, I am a freelance illustrator currently working on publishing my first children's book, *Penguin's Party Problems*, with Tate publishing - due to come out October 7th which is very exciting! Currently life is very full on with teaching and illustration deadlines so in the future I hope to be a part-time art teacher and full-time children's illustrator.





Tim Laing (1977): I am finally going to retire in 2022 after over 30 years as a lawyer. As a pre-retirement trip I took on the challenge of teaching Goetz Eggelhoefer ('77) and Rob Steidle ('77) how to ski both great athletes in their time at school but probably a challenge too far on the slopes!

Paul Mackie (1956): I suppose, having seen my younger brother David's ('60) contribution to the latest Old Boys notes, I might be permitted to put in my own update. I completed a very active and fulfilling passage through school, went up to Cambridge, got an Honours Degree in Natural Sciences, and on coming down, was then commissioned for a 3-year stint in the Army. From there I embarked on a 32-year career in Shell International with 17 different stimulating assignments on 3 different continents. I retired back from Holland to the UK, where Stephenie and I set up home in Sussex. We lived in Storrington for 17 years, established a garden for a new bungalow with an open aspect to the South Downs. We added a large conservatory enclosing a swimming pool, and in it entertained our 4 children and 8 grandchildren. We enjoyed church life and I became a very active Rotarian. However, eventually we began to find running the house and garden becoming something of a burden, so, in our mid-70s decided to downsize and de-clutter. We moved to Bramshott Place, a retirement village at the edge of Liphook in Hampshire. This has grown to a large well-appointed development of some 150 properties, set in 52 acres of parkland, and an active and lively community of 200 residents, with many interesting tales and life experiences to share. Now well into our 80s we are trying to stay fit, and are currently, like so many, coping well with lockdown due to the covid-19 pandemic. With so long abroad, I didn't get back to School often, but have been to a couple of summer gatherings. I guess we can't do it this year. In September I hope to go to the London Lunch, if it is on, and meet up again with Bruce Jackman and Jock Asbury-Bailey as I did a year or so back.

David Nicholas Thomas (1960): I left school in 1960 and joined Shell-Mex and BP Ltd, on a 'Business Sandwich' course. Then laboured for American and European companies.

Married Margaret a teacher in 1964. My daughter Rachel was born in 1974. Rachel went to UCL in London to read Law and French Law. She is now General Council and a partner in a well known Hedge Fund.

When we moved from Islington to Gower Peninsula in the late Seventies I joined the Conservative Party and also set up my own business.

In 1984 I attended the Party conference in Brighton and was fortunate to escape injury while in the Grand Hotel the IRA bombs exploded. My friends and I adjourned to the Regency Hotel in Regency Square and I soon found myself at the front door letting in six Cabinet minister all in their night clothes.

In 1999 I stood for the Welsh assembly in Blaenau Gwent and on the 'stump' was introduced to Michael Foot and his usual appearance did not disappoint.

In 2001 I stood for parliament in Carmarthen East and Dinefwr and with television interviews with Channel 4, BBC and ITV with the occasional Radio Car at 7am. Things were eventful. Plaid won.

In 2003 I again stood for the Welsh Assembly in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire but this time Labour retained the seat.

During my time in the conservative Party I held a number of offices and became a member of the Welsh Board of management. I also spent 12 years on the Party's Parliamentary Assessment Board that selected prospective MP's.

Now I just chair Neath / Aberavon on M.C.A. constituencies.



Richard Tolbert (1968): I was at St Edmund's from 1964-68, survived a military coup in Liberia in 1980 and the Ebola pandemic from 2014-2016. After 25 years as a 'political refugee' in America and working on Wall Street for a quarter century (Merrill Lynch and UBS), I left America in late 2005 to work in the Cabinet of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first female President.

I worked in her first Cabinet as a Minister in charge of Investment ('Chairman of the National Investment Commission'). It was an interesting time trying to reconstruct my country which had been devastated by 25 years of military rule and a nasty civil war. I left Government in 2010 and returned to the private sector as an Investment Consultant and that is what I have been doing for the past 10 years.

Now I am semi-retired (as I should be at 70) and trying to live out my remaining years reconstructing some of my family's assets in Liberia. I regard those years at St. Edmund's as having played a very positive role in forming my intellect and character...thanks to people like Jock Asbury-Bailey, Nat Taylor, Mr. Fairweather etc. Many thanks.

Two of my daughters are medical doctors, one in South Carolina, USA and the other in London.





The Positive Power of Sport

After finishing my degree at the University of Manchester in 2009 I successfully applied for a rare two-week work experience placement for BBC Sport TV at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. I had no experience in the TV industry but a lifelong passion for sport. Some may say it is in my blood following a 'distinguished' sporting line of my Uncle (Oliver Green '66) Father (Michael Green '68) and Sister (Hannah Green '00). My two years at St Edmund's as sports scholar included hockey and tennis captaincy, the first female appointed CCF CSM, and winning the JAB Sportswoman of the Year Cup in 2005.

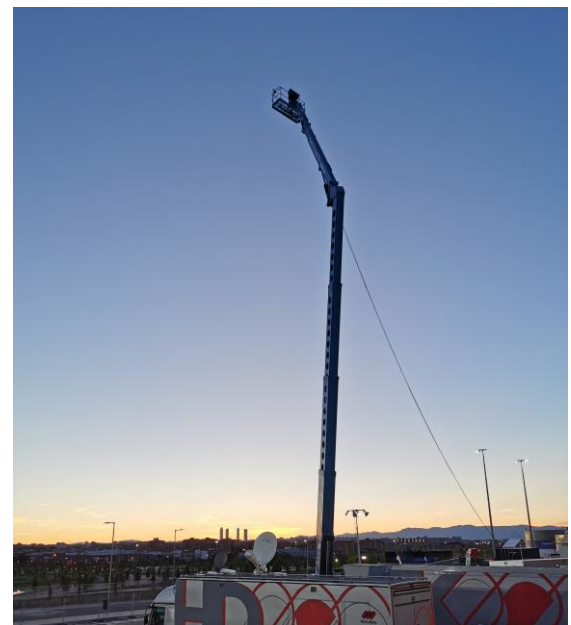
My career at the BBC with Sport TV took me to two FIFA World Cups (2006, 2010) the London Olympics 2012, as well as many other iconic sporting events across Golf (US Masters, The Open, Ryder Cup) Rugby Union (6 Nations & Autumn International's) The Boat Race, London Marathon, as well as working all year round on the BBC's flagship football shows and the annual Sports Personality of the Year.

This was until I had the opportunity to join the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) in 2014 as part of their team coordinating the Host Broadcast production of EURO 2016 to be held in France. I stayed with them until the end of 2018 working across their distinguished club competition finals for the UEFA Champions League, Europa League and Super Cup. During my four years living in Switzerland, I had developed a love for the mountains all year round but particularly snowboarding in winter having visited 38 European resorts in that time. It was this that drove me to head over to Austria and complete my dual Ski and Snowboard Instructor qualifications...in German. I spent two winter seasons working in St Anton am Arlberg whilst spending the summer working as a freelance TV Production Manager.

My career has now come full circle as I will take over the role of Broadcast and Production Manager for the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) after the 2021 Wimbledon Championships joining the 250 staff that work for the AELTC year round. Having queued for a ground pass as a teenager and been taken by Miss Cliff with the tennis team at St Edmund's it is a place close to my heart. In addition, their expansion plans for the next ten years make this an exciting next step.

I am a firm believer in the positive power of sport and looking ahead to Summer 2021 we hope there will be some of those 'where were you when?' moments. Whilst there is a lot of work to be done in terms of sustainability I am proud to be part of an industry that brings so much to people's lives.

Georgina Green





Special Achievement Award

Congratulations go to alumnus Foad Nahai who has received the Special Achievement Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. This is the highest award available within the society. Foad is a big supporter of the school having graduated from Watson house in 1963 before moving to the University of Bristol's Medical School.

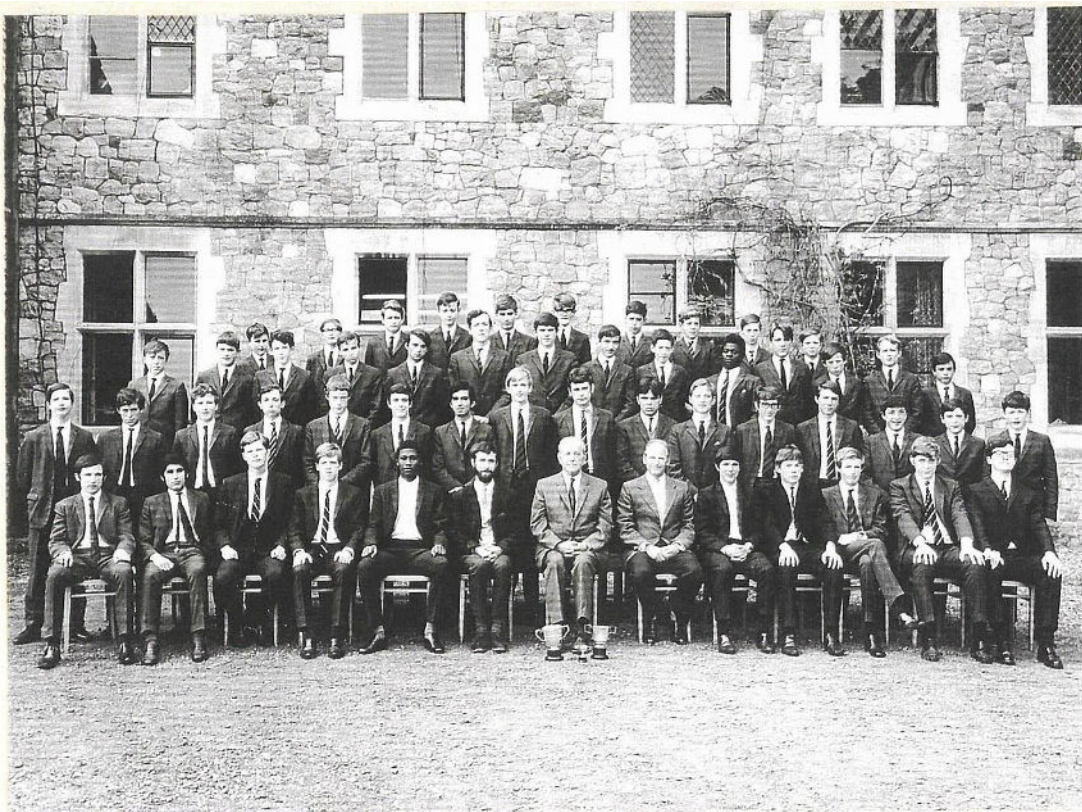




Watson House, 1955



Warneford House 1968



WARNEFORD HOUSE, 1968



'I Sell Aircraft' No Plane Business by David M. Dixon

"Are you a young man with the ability to sell aircraft?" said the advertisement in Flight International in June 1972. David replied and the rest, as they say, is history.

Some 12 months after leaving St Edmund's School, and with no clear idea of what was in store, David Dixon MBE (Wagner – Class of 71) who had a love of planes from an early age, answered the advertisement in Flight International, and, three months later, joined the UK company Britten-Norman to start a career that would span over 48 years.

His first deal was the sale of Trislanders to the Freetown based Sierra Leone airways, and then to neighbouring Air Liberia, and thus started a career which spanned wars, coups, accidents, bankruptcies, medical scares and economic collapse, along with meetings with Presidents, Prime Ministers, Royalty, and Billionaires.

Four years after his first deal, and many aircraft sales later, he was awarded an MBE at the age of 25 for his services to export. He witnessed the opening up of China in the 1980's when the opportunity arose to relocate to Asia, taking him to this country in the early days, and observing first-hand the economic emergence and meteoric rise of this global power, moving permanently thereafter to Hong Kong.

For the last 23 years, he has focused on the exclusive sales of private business jets, the ultimate corporate symbol, such as Challengers and Learjets.

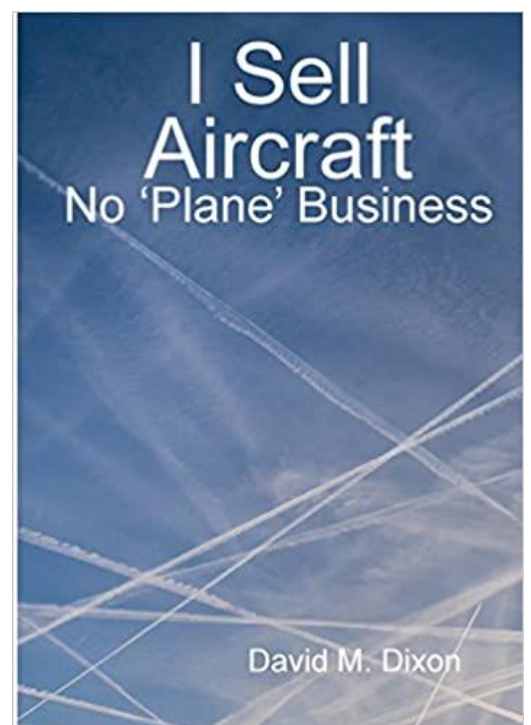
The idea behind the book was partly in response to the universal reaction David got when asked the inevitable question by any new acquaintances: So what do you do?

His reply, always accompanied by a broad smile, was: I sell aircraft!

His varied and exciting career is certainly a far cry from the day he drove away from St Edmund's for the last time and those early days in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight!

Take a trip along with David, and enjoy the ride!

You can contact David at davidmdixon@netvigator.com, and his book is available on Amazon, which is available to purchase [here](#).



Junior School Head Masters

A rare photo of three former Junior School Head Masters; David Gahan (1982-86), Robert Bacon (1996-2015) and John Cox (1950-82) at an event in the Drawing Room.

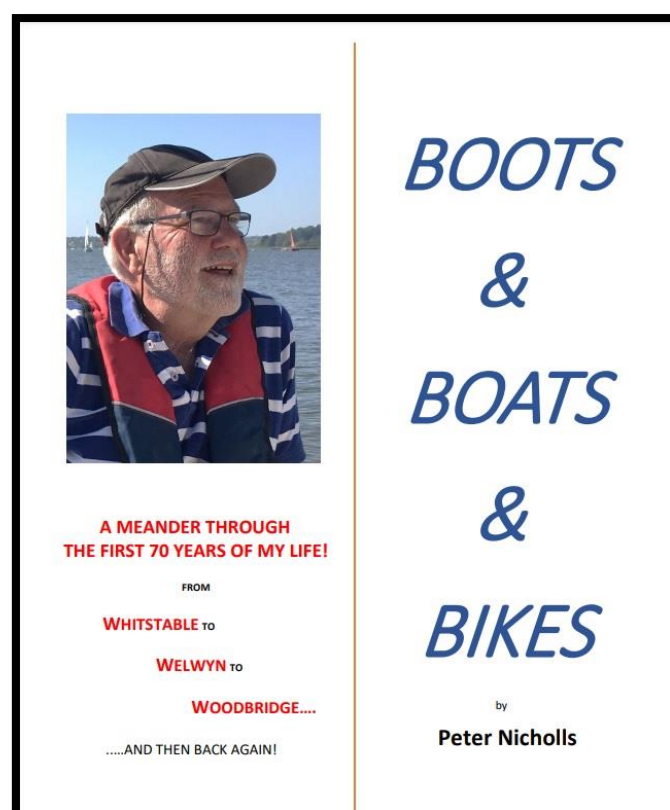


Boots & Boats & Bikes by Peter Nicholls

I spent some of my 'downtime' during the first lockdown last year writing and self-publishing my lifetime memoir entitled 'BOOTS & BOATS & BIKES'.

Set against the background of my charitable 350 mile waterside Journey from Whitstable to Welwyn to Woodbridge undertaken after my retirement in 2015, the subject matter covers 'a meander through the first 70 years of my life' – ten years of which were enjoyably spent (mostly out on the playing fields!) at St Edmund's during the 50s/60s.

My book is available to anyone who might be vaguely interested in a signed First-Edition and the price of £9.99 will be donated in full to the St Edmund's School Charity. Just think of it as a shrewd investment! Please contact me direct on peternicholls99@hotmail.com for further details.





Obituaries

The following deaths have been noted since the 2020 edition of the Newsletter. If anyone knows of any others who have died, please let us know.

Cramp, Trevor D. (68-71) 10/05/20; **Daws**, Clement W. (50-53) 08/07/20; **Jackman**, Robin D. (54-62) 25/12/20; **Kirkham**, Christopher K. (54-63) 28/08/20; **Latham**, Edward W. (53-61) 14/10/20; **Nahai**, Kamran (67-72) 30/04/20; **Osmond**, Noel J. (41-50) 29/02/20; **Rapsey**, Frederick R.G.J. (59-67) 05/05/20; **Swann**, Philip A. (52-55) 22/01/20. Staff: **Bateman**, Andrew L. (79-81) 08/04/20.

We have recently been notified of the deaths of **Reynolds**, G. John D. (38-40) in 2016; **Walkerdine**, R. Richard (52-59); **Mackay**, John L.S. (51-55) and will provide further details later.

Please note that Obituaries now feature on the website behind a new password-protected alumni portal.

Teaching Staff Departures

The following staff, with three or more years' teaching at the school, have left since the last newsletter:

Anya Bensberg	2013-2020
Daniel Dawson	2016-2020
Holly Goodwin	2017-2020
Mark Hawkins	2005-2020
Dominique Micheloud	2001-2020
Alison Slater-Williams	2008-2020
Adrian Stones	2015-2020
Dorothee Thyssen	2013-2020
Jane Vafidis	2006-2020
Agnes Villeneuve-Newies	2014-2020
Steve Bennett	2013-2020
Philip O'Connor	2001-2020
Diccon Stubbings	2014-2021
Gemma Jones	2011-2021

Notices

- This year we have launched the new private 'Alumni Portal' for our community of Old Edmundians. To access the portal please head to the [alumni section](#) on the website, scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Private Alumni Area'. From there enter the password 'Alumni01'. This portal will be added to as time goes on, however for now you will see that there is an events page, a page for our new alumni newsletters, and the school obituaries.
- We would welcome feedback on this newsletter and would also appreciate news items for the next edition. Please send any feedback or news items through to Victoria Stears at ves@stedmunds.org.uk



Forthcoming Events

Given the current measures in place, we are unable to plan too much at this moment in time. However, provisional dates for your diaries are as follows:

- **Saturday 4th September: Runnergise Trail Running Festival** – hosted by Sporting Events UK – more details to be announced shortly
- **Thursday 23rd September 2021: London Alumni Lunch** – Balls Brothers, Minster Court, Mincing Lane, EC3 7PP. 12:00 for 13:30 sharp. Nearest underground stations Monument or Tower Hill. For full details contact Tony Zinopoulos at tonyzinop@googlemail.com
- **Saturday 25th September 2021: St Edmund's Festival presents Courtney Pine and the House of Legends** - general bookings will open on the School's Ticket Source website on 1st July 2021
- The annual **Northern Gathering** will most likely take place in May 2022 – further details will be circulated as we have them

Curiosity Shop Talk

Sharon Scally, our Senior School Librarian and Work Experience Coordinator at St Edmund's Senior School, organises 'The Curiosity Shop' talks at our school. The Curiosity shop begins to get pupils thinking outside of the curriculum e.g. current affairs, local charities and organisations, possible careers or a topic to develop their knowledge on a subject further. The talks motivate and inspire pupils to think about living in the wider world, the possible career path they would like to travel, motivation to succeed and personal values they feel are important.

The talks take place on Wednesday lunchtime in the School Library at 1.45pm and last for 20 - 25 minutes. The visiting speaker would be welcome to arrive ahead of the talk at 1.15pm and join us for lunch.

If you would be interested in delivering a talk in your particular field of specialism to a selection of our senior school pupils, please contact Sharon, who would be happy to discuss this further with you: sas@stedmunds.org.uk

And lastly...

For the school to maintain our position as a top independent school with an excellent reputation, regular investment and continuous improvement are crucial, and, in these challenging times, we depend more than ever on your help and generosity in order to fulfil our mission of providing a nurturing yet challenging environment which attracts pupils from wide ranging backgrounds.

A donation (which can be Gift-Aided), no matter how small, is welcome, so, if you can, please help by donating either online at <https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/support-st-eds/how-to-donate/> or contact our Development Manager Giselle Campeau-Durnford at:

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