Our website has begun to generate returns in the form of new and renewed contacts with Old Lennensians in this country and abroad. We look forward to increasing our membership and to an expanding dialogue with a wider group of OLs than before. Although eventually all members will login to take advantage of the full range of activities available, several pages are open now to the casual browser, who can get a good idea of the Association as we have structured it and who can also start the process of joining us via the Contact Us page. With your membership subscription, you add on the invaluable benefits of a printed Newsletter posted to members twice a year, access to a mail room, to merchandise including ties, scarves and archive DVDs, to the social calendar and the events which we organise throughout the year and to forums on issues which concern us all. Above all, joining means you can then use the website to post news and to contact school friends instantly, worldwide. Your annual subscription is more than ever the best value you can get. Don’t let it lapse.

Memorial Board Appeal Fund

The Centenary Fund, subscribed in 2006, has now financed the provision of a secure and fireproof storage cabinet on the school premises for archive material, school records, school magazines, the annual school photographs and much other material amongst which, dare we mention it, will be our old school reports. Future archive material will also be stored on site and we can be confident now that our School history, achievements and, incidentally, our memories, will be secure for the benefit of future generations.

The remaining balance of the Centenary fund, together with money subscribed to the Quincentenary Appeal, has now been transferred to the Memorial Board Appeal Fund which stands at the sum of £974.98. The Memorial Board is the record of Old Lennensians who have died in the service of their country at home and abroad. We wish to continue the memorial for those who have died in service since World War II to the present day. The board has reached full capacity and it needs reformating and re-gilding. This is an expensive and highly professional job. We consider that only the best is good enough and have set up a Memorial Board Appeal Fund to finance the refurbishment. To contribute, make cheques payable to The Old Lennensians Association and send to the Treasurer: Mike Tagg, 44 Station Road, Snettisham, Norfolk, PE31 7QJ.

We hold in trust the memory of their supreme sacrifice. As Old Lennensians we remember them.

OLs return to the School on October 1st 2011 for the AGM followed by lunch in the School Assembly Hall. Please complete the flyer and booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.

Editor: Tim Valentine, 2a Woolstone Road, London SE23 2SG. tim.valentine@ymail.com
SAVVETE. There have been several enquiries via the website from potential new members which are in the process of being finalised. When these are confirmed, we will enter them in the Salvete column.

VALETE With sadness we record the deaths of the following pupils and staff and offer our condolences to their Families:

Anthony Mann 1941-50 Thoresby. D. November 2010, aged 80. Tony Mann was a long serving member of St. Peter’s Church, West Lynn, and a churchwarden. He came to the 2006 Centenary Reunion and joined the Old Lennensian Association.

David Nelson. 1944-52 Lancaster. D. 20th December 2010, peacefully at home. David Nelson joined Prep. at the School in 1944. He lived all his life in Terrington St. John where his father ran a cattle haulage business named Nelson and Son. He is survived by his wife Veronica, four children and four grandchildren.

Richard Searle. MBE. 1955-1960. Died 14th March 2011, aged 66. He was Chairman of Searle’s Leisure Group in Hunstanton where he was born. He was a keen supporter of local charities and started the Hunstanton Christmas Day Swim in 1973. He was a serving Councillor with West Norfolk Council, being the Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Neville Bruce Coltman. b1936-died on 8th August 2010 in Atlanta, U.S.A. Neville was President of the British American Business Group 1991-1992. He was active in helping British Athletes coming to Atlanta for the Olympic Games in 1996, raising $1,000,000 for British athletes hoping to compete at the Olympics. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1997.

Ronald Frank Tilson 1934- Died 22nd September 2010, aged 87, at Thorpe End, Norwich. He was born in Dersingham and worked for Barclays Bank when he left school.

Unfortunately, details supplied with some of the above obituaries have left us with very little information to include. Some details can be gleaned from back copies of The Lennensian Magazine but if you feel you have more to add about these friends from your schooldays, please write to the editor: Tim Valentine, 2a Woolstone Road, London SE23 2SG. E-mail: tim.valentine@ymail.com We will be able to publish your contributions either on the website, or later in the year in the October Newsletter.

Membership Secretary Robin Carter would like to hear from or about all Old Lennensians, not necessarily members, who have changed their circumstances over the year: Robin Carter, “The Linnets”, 10 Sea Lane, Butterwick, Boston, Lincolnshire. PE32 0EY. robincarter1@btinternet.com

John Masters would like to hear from OLs with memories of the School CCF Brigades, for inclusion on the website. Please reply to: J.B.Masters, Greenhill House, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, B62 8BW. jbm@greenhill.powernet.co.uk
Michael Staines. Prep. and then School House: 1947-1955, writes

I joined School House, through the Preparatory Section run by George Martin, in the Autumn term of 1947. There were 14 others joining Lower Prep as well, and two of us were boarders, Richard Parfitt and myself. I was then coming up to my 9th birthday and this new place was very strange and not a little overpowering. School House seniors were welcoming in their way but were as men to us young boys. One such was PHW Cathrow, a giant of a young man and who became a school house prefect in those late 40's. Known as Ike he, before he left school after the summer term of 1950, gained all four school colours, a very rare feat and only achieved to my knowledge by Tim Proffit a few years later. There is one story which is worth relating about Ike, he was a secret smoker. I don't know if it was the price of these little cylinders of death or not, but he decided he would grow his own tobacco. The House had a little used hobbies room on the otherwise burnt out 2nd floor of the Boarding House. It just happened to be over the 3 roomed living quarters of Charles (Cuthy) Cuthbertson, our House Master. I think Ike must have expended too much energy on the sports field as he decided that it really was too much of a drag to water his thriving plants, which were set up in many stout cardboard boxes on tables in the hobbies room. I believe ideally the intention was to gently water them perhaps twice a day and this task was passed to a junior who had transgressed in some way and was due some punishment. Thus he was given watering duties. Seemingly good and logical sense together with the wish not to have to climb two flights of stairs a day dictated a modification to the watering plan; they would be watered once a day and this would be a good drenching. All was well for a day or two until Charles Cuthbertson noticed water coming through his sitting room ceiling, not clean water but dirty brown soiled stuff. The drip drip turned to a steady downpour and ceiling plaster together with any decoration dropped onto his furniture and floor. A race upstairs uncovered the source of the trouble. Soggy cardboard boxes, wet soil and water logged tobacco plants were strewn across the floor. Cuthy had to vacate his living room for some time to allow reinstatement. I am not sure what was said to firstly to Ike and later to the junior involved but there must have been some pretty choice words exchanged all round. I see from the OL magazines of the day that a certain PHW Cathrow never made it to House Captain. Perhaps I have hit on the reason why.

Michael Staines has also sent us the following photograph:

Unfortunately enlarging it from a Box Brownie sized print has blurred the details somewhat. However, the story, as Mike relates it, is that: “The small photo was taken at the time when builders were rebuilding the top floor of the boarding house following the war bomb damage. Up to this time that floor was a blackened shell with a corrugated tin roof over it. The builders were from Norwich. The workman’s name was ‘Edgar’ and we younger boarders really took to him, and him to us as well, I think.”

If you recognise this photo, let us know. Those were leisurely days when the boarding house was a manageable size and boys, and the workmen, had the time to chat and to pose, in typically irreverent style, for a friendly photograph. Wherever you are now, Edgar, we salute you. You have become a true “Old Lennensian”

Left to right: Ian Angel, Gus Ackerman, Ziff Pariss, Edgar, John Wright (over Edgar’s shoulder), Andrew Murray (stooping), George Payne. Geoff Latimer crouched in front.
In January 2011 we met in the ballroom of The Savile Club in London for the first Old Lennensians lunch of the year and in March we congregated in the new ballroom at the Dukes Head in King’s Lynn for our Spring lunch. Two venues, two lunches and one unifying aim: to begin the Old Lennensian Year with enthusiasm and in friendship as we have done since the Association was re-established in 2006.

Some believe that at our annual jaunt at the Savile Club we follow a tradition of louche dining unparalleled since the days of Tiberius. We don’t. We sip reflectively at our wine, we scan the menu with interest, we unfold our napkins and we attack our food with an appetite undiminished, and probably reinvigorated, since the demise of the last spam fritter in the boarding house dining room. At the Dukes Head our wine remains untouched. We are still attempting to remember what we did in fact order two months ago.

Wherever we are we know that the meal will come well up to our expectations and that the real reason for the gathering is to catch up on the news since the last time, to check up on old friends, and to find out what the Old Lennensians will be doing in the year ahead. The Newsletter and the website will give you the details but nothing can eclipse the networking that is taking place around the table. In fact, in the space of a couple of hours, you can find out more, and judge the state of opinion more accurately than from pages of e-mails.

In the new ballroom at the Dukes Head we had our own bar, and opinion was unanimous in agreeing that the Hotel was still the favourite place for us to meet in the town. All doubts about the viability of the occasion after the change of ownership were allayed and we judge that the Dukes Head will meet our expectations for a long time to come. The Committee’s raffle proceeded in its usual raucous style, lubricated to a large degree by the irreverence shown to the winners. The profits go to the waiting staff for their service and a flying wedge of wives and partners on a mission closed the proceedings.

We packed a large table in the ballroom at the top of the grand staircase at the Savile Club after beginning the rout with drinks at our bar and a heavy round of encounters and chatter. As in past years the service was unobtrusive and unfailingly obliging and the lunch was as excellent as you would expect of a prominent London club established “in the heart of literary London” since 1868. The Club derives its name from a period when it occupied premises in Savile Row. We are loyal and appreciative guests. This is the first meeting of the New Year and we know, even after two of the most severe winters for almost 100 years, that in January we will be back in Brook Street.

It is impossible to over emphasise the popularity of these lunches and some evidence of this is the fact that several of us do both London and King’s Lynn events every year.

We thank, as always, Bob Booth and John Turtle for organising our lunches and we look forward with enthusiasm to continuing both traditions.

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**FURTHER EVENTS IN 2011**

Our events continue this year with a visit to the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich in south east London on July 14th. Since it appears that, by tradition, no event for Old Lennensians is allowed to pass without refreshment on a grand scale, we will be having High Tea at the King William Restaurant in the undercroft after the conducted tour. The enclosed flyer gives you further information.

The Annual General Meeting, followed by Lunch, will be held at the School on October 1st. Book for Lunch in the School Assembly Hall by completing the flyer enclosed with this newsletter and round off your year in style.

Don Oliver’s Bowls and Golf fixtures were trailed in the Autumn 2010 Newsletter. He will be contacting all those who have expressed an interest before each event.
Quincentennial Mugs available from the School for £4.50 each plus postage

John Turtle and Guests at lunch in January in the rococo elegance of the Savile Club Ballroom

Old Lennensians in King’s Lynn in March, enjoying lunch in the impressive serenity of the refurbished Ballroom at the Dukes Head
The Presentation Evening took place on 13th December 2010 and prizes were presented by Theresa Banks, English teacher and Head of Year in 1993. The winner of the Queen’s Gold Medal was Alex Rutterford, who is going on to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge to study Classics. She was one of 36 Norfolk Scholars from the School in 2010; the second highest total the school has ever achieved. Outstanding results were achieved also by Hannah Groom, Emily Hinks, Tom Fincham, Amrith Malhi and Alex Bending, acquiring between them 12 A* and 15 A grades at GCE ‘A’ Level. Three students, Josh Green, Tom Clark and Rebecca May have received conditional offers for Cambridge 2011 admissions.

Participation in the UK Senior and Intermediate Maths Challenges during 2010 yielded one Gold, four Silver and eight Bronze Medals. Chu-Kwei Wong, with Silver, was Best in School in the Senior and Sebastian Taylor, with Gold, was Best in School in the Intermediate.

Charity Fund-raising, which seems to enthuse KES students more than any other activity, raised £8,000 in the previous school year. To date, over £5,000 has been raised this year. Non-uniform days raised the bulk of this and in particular the Local Charity “Scotties Little Soldier”, set up by a local woman whose husband was killed in Afghanistan in 2009 whilst serving with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, was adopted by year 10 students and received a cheque for £1,000.

It is interesting to note that seven students represented KES in the Norfolk heats of the Prayer Book Society Reading Competition at Castle Riding Church and also that on the first day of autumn term, two professional boxers came to talk to years 7-11 in assemblies on themes of motivation and targets. A wide range of visitors, including representatives of the Criminal Justice Board, address Year Group Assemblies as part of the school’s citizenship programme to expand the range of citizenship skills to which students are expected to subscribe.

SCHOOL EVENTS

An annual Christmas Concert is held in December. There is generally plenty of musical talent competing for exposure. In 2009 this comprised a young string group, a cello group, a xylophone group and the School Orchestra, as well as individual singing and a collection of Christmas songs played by two enterprising brothers, Zach and Harry Stanford. In May last year the school held an extremely successful dance show and other drama productions included ‘James and the Giant Peach’ and a production of a modern play ‘Reality’.

Every year, on 11th November, the school holds its own Remembrance Day commemoration. The school’s strong links with a newly important and powerful leader on the international stage are reflected in the number of Chinese cultural events and in early February 2011, 5 students from the school performed the Tai Chi Fan dance at the Chinese New Year Celebrations held by the West Norfolk and District Chinese Association. May Lee, Year 8, won the national competition to design a New Year card which is being commercially produced and sent out via the Chief Executive of SSAT to contacts in the UK and China.

SIXTH FORM EVENTS

The Year Team co-ordinates advice sessions following the GCSE results in the last week of the summer holiday. Sixth form pastoral staff attend careers evenings at other schools to publicise the KES sixth form. Presentations in assembly include speakers on the Millennium Volunteers and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and on 11th November, a Learning Leaders’ Conference is held at KES involving 50 Learning Leaders from across the Sixth Form. The trained leaders will now work in 12 subject areas. The programme continues as part of the school’s involvement in the Championing Schools Leadership Programme.

27th January 2011: sixth form language leaders run sessions in the French language in Geography, Art, Language and Cultural Understanding as part of a French Festival at South Wootton Junior School.

February: Josh Green, Megan Reed, Carolyn Dales and Ian Saunders achieve the Swiss Bank sponsored UBS award for academic achievement and service to the community.

17th September: two visiting poets, Penelope Shuttle and Agnes Meadows spend time working with two A level English groups.

Over the summer holidays, sixth form leaders assist at the annual summer camp organised by the Sports Partnership attended by Year 6 pupils.
SPORTS EVENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR

2010

22nd September: Year 7 boys and girls win their respective competitions in football, qualifying for the County Finals.

12th October: U18 girl’s hockey team finish second in the County Finals, losing narrowly to Gresham’s.

13th October: U16 girl’s hockey team win West Norfolk Hockey Tournament.

13th October: U18 boy’s rugby team finish second in a County tournament.

21st October: Year 7 boys win the County 6 a side tournament and Year 7 girls come third in their respective County tournament.

2nd November: KES finish second in the KS3 Swimming Gala for West Norfolk.

8th November: U18 football team beat Hastingsbury Business College of Bedford to qualify for the last 64 of the national competition.

9th November: U16 rugby team win the West Norfolk Rugby tournament at Swaffham Rugby Club.

25th November: U13 girl’s football team finish second in the County finals at Carrow Road.

2nd December: At the West Norfolk Table Tennis tournament for KS4 students, the boy’s team come sixth and the girl’s team finish in first place.

6th December: U16 badminton team finish second in the County final.

8th December: U14 boys finish third in the West Norfolk Basketball competition.

9th December: in the West Norfolk Table Tennis competition for KS3 students the girl’s team finish second with the boys finishing third.

2011

19th January: U16 boy’s rugby team lose 29-19 in the County Cup Quarter Final against Wymondham High School.

20th January: U15 boy’s basketball team beat Passmores in the final group match of the National Cup and now progress into the last 16 in the country.

26th January: Year 7 ‘B’ netball team finish second in the West Norfolk tournament.

9th February: New Multi Use Games Area officially opened by local boxer Sam Sexton

9th February: Year 10 boy’s basketball team win U15 West Norfolk basketball competition.

2nd March: U16 rugby team won the County Plate final against Fakenham High School.

U13 rugby team, in the semi-final of the County Cup, beat Wymondham College 19-17 and the U18 football team beat Dereham 3-1 in the semi-final of the County Cup.

Jacob Marshall-Grint has successfully reached the British Schools Modern Biathlon Competition. The competition takes place at Crystal Palace on 27th March.

And finally: footballer Charlie Butt has signed a two year contract with Peterborough Football Club.

TRIPS AND VISITS

School trips are a way of encouraging young people to develop their initiative, resourcefulness and independence and during the school year, students have visited WW1 battlefield sites and taken part in the Last Post ceremony at Ypres and have taken a one day trip to Auschwitz. They have visited the House of Commons and the Imperial War Museum and on 11th December, 44 students from Year 7 went to Lille Christmas Market. Classics, Language, English, History and Geography students have all benefited from lectures and study days in their subjects, and on January 14th, Year 11 students attended a Poetry Live event where they heard poets read and discuss their GCSE poems.

On 27th January, 99 lucky children—taken from participants in the New Year card competition, those studying Mandarin and those with excellent attendance—went to the Corn Exchange to see the Chinese State Circus.

Our Headmaster, Mike Douglass, takes time out from his busy schedule to supply the factual basis for this report and to support, via the Committee and in many other ways, the Old Lennensians and their links with the School. The Headmaster of a school of upwards of 1400 pupils is under intense pressure these days, and we are sincerely grateful for his support for our Association and its strengthening ties to the School.
How to do it
KES Students’ Prom in June 2010

“Gladiator” writer Simon Scarrow visits the School in February to talk to 100 pupils about Ancient Rome and his book “Fight for Freedom”.

Photographs courtesy of the Lynn News and Advertiser

How it was done
Bob Booth’s new book on Lynn Schools

The Old Lennensian Scarf. This design and colours are of the double flannel scarf which Members were able to buy in the years before the old Association was wound up. The new scarf will be in the same colours and in a double thickness as before.
If you go to the School website at www.kingedward.norfolk.sch.uk and scroll down to Latin you will read that at the school: “The Latin language is studied not on its own but in the context of the culture it sprang from.” Examinations at the end of the course are four written papers on Language, Verse, Prose, and Roman Life. According to the syllabus (Latin word), Latin teaches good levels of communication, analytical and reasoning skills. Students will acquire background knowledge of the Roman Army, the structure of society, slavery, Emperors, Roman women, religions and Roman entertainment. Classicists are employed in Finance, banking, insurance, accountancy, marketing, Civil Service and the Law.

From the Headmaster’s report we learn that there is a Latin Club for Year11 students on Saturday mornings, that Partner Primary Schools have been sending pupils to the Minimus Club of Latin teaching to Year 6 students and that on 11th February, Simon Scarrow visited KES to launch his new Gladiator Series of books. He spoke to Latin students from Years 7 to 9 and G&T English students about the research for his book. He also undertook some interactive activities with the one hundred students who attended.

So, if you thought, based on drowsy afternoons in the classroom on the left behind the stage in your school days, that Latin was a matter of learning by rote from a textbook with occasional excursions into Smith’s massive Dictionary of Latin, (assuming you could lift the thing), think again. Latin studies at the school are alive and well, are popular and cover a wide range of associated subjects with practical applications. Definitely not: “Vox et praeterea nihil.”*

* “A voice and nothing more”. Nothing to do with a Lacedemonian plucking a nightingale-Editor

LYNN SCHOOLS-BOB BOOTH

Bob Booth’s new book “Lynn Schools”, illustrated on page 8 opposite, will be published on 8th October 2011, when it will be available for £12.99 post free to members. However, signed advance copies will be on sale to OLs at the AGM on 1st October for £11.

The book is 100 pages, A4 size and covers all the secondary and primary schools, past and present, in King’s Lynn. At the March lunch, Bob told us that he was amazed at the number of schools and photographs that his research uncovered. If you have bought one of Bob’s books in the past, you will know how comprehensive is his knowledge of the King’s Lynn area and you will know also his talent for making the facts readable. This one promises to be a winner with particular interest for Old Lennensians. It will be on sale at Waterstones and all good bookstores but buy an advance signed copy at the AGM from the author himself. All the profits go to charities such as Macmillan Cancer Research and the Air Ambulance and Bob would like to raise at least £5000 this time.

If you missed Bob’s most popular book: “Looking Back at Lynn”, it is now in reprint and should be available again soon.

Bob Booth, 31a The Howards, North Wootton, King’s Lynn PE30 3RS  bobbooth@lineone.net

OLD LENNENSIAN SCARF

On page 8 is an illustration of the Old Lennensian Scarf which we have ordered and which we expect to have on sale in the late summer. The scarf is in wool flannel, double sided and 10” wide by 60” long and will cost £22 plus postage. It will be an almost exact copy of the scarf supplied to Old Lennensians in the past.

Buy it in time for next winter-it’s incredibly warm and should last for ever! The one in the editor’s possession belonged to his father and is still in use, in excellent condition, 60 years later. Popular college scarves in the same flannel sell for £59 and upwards.

If you would like to order a scarf, please get in touch with:

Tim Valentine, 2a Woolstone Road, London SE23 2SG tim.valentine@ymail.com or save the postage and come to the AGM lunch on October 1st, when we expect to have them on sale.
I was reminded on a recent visit to the school that I had once ventured by night from the boarding house dormitories to the lantern on the roof of the school hall. I know I made the trip with someone else, but memory fails me as to his identity. My uncle Bunny (Bayfield), who was a boarder at KES just after WW1, had told me his name was inscribed inside the lantern, and I wanted to check his claim and add my own.

I don’t remember the exact route, but it involved getting out of a window in the boarding house, crawling along at first floor height above the entrance to Grassy Greenacre’s accommodation on the back drive, and up the corner angle of the main roof to the lantern. I think there was a little drainpipe work at some point, but the route was pretty easy. Dress for the occasion was pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers.

I do remember, as we crawled over Grassy’s residence, that he emerged from his door and called out, ‘Who’s that?’ Fortunately there is a low parapet running along the top of the wall at that point and we were able to lie down behind it. However, in my excitement I was overtaken by an urge to do something silly and account for the noise we must have made. I replied, ‘Miao’. I only had one shot at it and it cannot have been convincing. There was a long silence from below, and then the closing of Grassy’s door. I suppose he knew very well what was going on and, fortunately for us, decided to do nothing about it. He might have called our housemaster, or the Head, or the police - or all three, come to that - possibilities that seem not to have occurred to us. A very belated ‘thank you’ to Grassy.

We achieved our objective and examined by torch-light the surprisingly few names inside the lantern, and yes, there was engraved ‘C. M. Bayfield’ and, I think, the date (mid-1920’s). My companion – perhaps it was Peter Sharpe – and I looked to each other for something with which to add our names to the illustrious company, only to discover that neither of us had brought anything for the purpose. We felt a real sense of achievement nonetheless and, after savouring it for a minute or two, began an uneventful return journey to the boarding house, taking extra care crossing Grassy territory. We never felt the need to return to the lantern, and so there is no proof that I or Peter – if indeed it was he – had passed that particular rite of passage; nor are we recorded there among the immortals.

Patrick Staines

A CHARITY WINDSURF

Flight Sergeant Stuart Tilsbury, who was educated at King Edward VII School in the 1970s, took part in a sponsored windsurf around the Isle of Wight last summer to raise funds for military charities. He currently runs the prosthetic limb workshop at the military rehabilitation centre at Headley Court in Surrey. He is a former English Masters UK Windsurfing Champion. An Army friend who suffered injuries resulting in the amputation of both lower legs and a hand whilst on service in Afghanistan was the inspiration for his effort. The event was an inter service event with participants from the Royal Navy, the Army and the RAF. The team has raised £32,000 for Help for Heroes and other military charities.

A CHARITY AUCTION

Later in the year, another ex King Edward VII pupil, Hannah Groom, raised £2000 for charity by organising an auction at the Sandboy Pub in Bawsey, King’s Lynn. The money went to Global Xchange, a charity which arranges placements in Britain and abroad for 18 and 25 year olds. 2010 was Hannah’s gap year and she was to take advantage of the international placement facility to go to Oman in December 2010.

Our News of the School in the middle pages of the Newsletter gives details of other fund-raising activities by students at King Edward VII School. It seems that charity fund raising is now an established part of the school ethos, and will remain so.

Information for these articles derived, with thanks, from the Lynn News and Advertiser.
Tony Avis was a sportsman and a cricketer. He played cricket at the school and for the Old Lennensians in the glory days of the late '40s and the 1950s. He played for the OL cricket team under the iron discipline, on and off the pitch, of T.A.Valentine. He was one of that select band of Old Lennensians who established the fearsome reputation of the team all over Norfolk, and beyond.

For a time whilst still at school in 1944-45 he was the Sports Editor of the Lennensian Magazine. When he left he went to Cambridge and graduated and, on a trip to Greece with fellow students he met his wife Helen, a formidable businesswoman, who resurrected the Box Tree Restaurant in Ilkley in Yorkshire and eventually gained it a Michelin star. Chef Marco Pierre White, training at the Box Tree, called her “a special lady who had great integrity”. Madame Avis, as she liked to be called, died in early 2010.

Apart from his career as a sportsman and restaurateur, Tony Avis was an accomplished author and it is as author that he also contributes to the history of the school. Tony Avis wrote several books about the history of brewing in Yorkshire, the most notable being: “The Brewers Tale: A History of Ale in Yorkshire”, about three young men from privileged backgrounds who bought, in 1875, a small Yorkshire brewery with several public houses and set up in business. The book was published in 1995, is still in print and available through Amazon.

A year before The Brewers Tale, in 1994, Tony Avis wrote and published “Gaywood: A Norfolk Village Childhood” His parents owned a public house just past the old level crossing on the Gaywood road, near King Edward VII Grammar School and he spent his early years in the 1930s in and around the area. It was a considerable achievement in those days to qualify for entry to the Grammar School, as many of our members who were there at that time will confirm. His boyhood was passed in the days when Gaywood was still a village, when farmers still drove their cattle to market along the Gaywood Road and when the built up area along the railway line to the south of Gaywood was still open fields as far as the level crossing by the Walks. His book is a definitive account of the sights and smells of a semi-rural village in the 1930s, and of the characters and personalities who lived there. He reminds us of the relentless toil necessary to earn a bare living in those days. Although his family was regarded as relatively well off, running a public house and farming the fields around it left little time for leisure. “Gaywood: A Norfolk Village Childhood” is a powerful and evocative account, objective, without pretension or self indulgent nostalgia, by one who lived there and knew the life. In 1999, he published “Gaywood Past: Some Historical Notes”.

“A Reminiscence of King Edward VII Grammar School, King’s Lynn.” was published in 1991 and “A Supplement to A Reminiscence” was published in 1993. These are an account of a scholar’s life at the school in the years when the Grammar School was the pre-eminent secondary school in the King’s Lynn area and are an invaluable first hand account of a period in the school’s history before and during wartime which is of considerable interest to all of us, and in particular to many Old Lennensians who were at school then and who are alive today. Both books are out of print, but the Association would benefit from their inclusion in the archives and would like to hear from any OL who possesses copies or who knows where they can be acquired second hand or as a reprint.

Tony Avis’ accounts of Gaywood and of King Edward VII Grammar School are a vital part of our history. They tell us what it was like to live then, what it was like to grow up in a rural village outside King’s Lynn but inextricably linked to the town. They tell us why the Grammar School had such a powerful influence in the area, why it was viewed with respect as an educational springboard to a better life for many under privileged boys within its catchments and why we should be proud of its long and distinguished history.

Tony Avis died in 2005.


Thank you to Norman Warnes, Brian van Pelt, and Mick Ridewood, for inspiring the editor to write this account.
Latin at KES: Before I get swamped by e-mails, what the Lacedemonian actually said when he was plucking the nightingale, on seeing how little of it he found was: “Vox tu es, et nihil preaterea” roughly translated as: “A song thou art and nothing more”. Plutarch: Apophthegmata Laconica. The answer to the other question is: He was going to eat it—you know what the Ancient Romans were—if you couldn’t run fast enough, you got eaten.

St. James Primary School, King’s Lynn

We haven’t seen the proofs of Bob Booth’s book on Lynn Schools yet, but St. James Primary does appear in its pages. Many of us took our 11-plus from there before we entered the Grammar School and many of us went on to other educational establishments. Below is a school photograph taken of Class II in Christmas Term 1951. Do you recognise anyone, apart from the usual suspects? We would be keen to hear from any OLs or ex St.James boys who can add to our knowledge.

Send us your PC (Pre- and Post-Comprehensive) Tales of The School

If you have stories or reminiscences to relate about your schooldays at King Edward VII School, the editor will, as always, be pleased to hear from you. In particular, items about co-operation with our sister establishment The King’s Lynn High School for Girls would be welcome. There was a Ballroom Dancing Club and they joined us in several dramatic productions and Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. We also went to Lunchtime Concerts at the St. George’s Guildhall in King Street.

Please send any contributions to the Editor: Tim Valentine tim.valentine@ymail.com