



EPSOM  
COLLEGE

# Phoenix

Issue No. 9 Spring 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD EPSOMIAN CLUB & EDUCATION TRUST

## MR MARDELL GOES TO WASHINGTON

Reporting on ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances is something Mark Mardell (R 1971-77) enjoys most about his current assignment as the BBC's North America Editor. He explains, "One of the great things about the job is not only living in Washington, but travelling across the country to find out what people are thinking." He strives to represent a range of views, whether they be those of a fervent supporter of the Tea Party movement or a woman recently made homeless in the Anacostia neighbourhood of DC.

Rather than providing revelations, living in the US has confirmed some of Mark's beliefs. He comments, "Great Britain, for all its distance from the political institutions of Europe, is very much a European country. America is very different." Where public debate can be quite robust and combative in the UK, he has observed fragility brought about by unspoken conflicts. He explains, "The President as the head of state, like the Queen, would not be subjected to rude questioning but this treatment is often extended to Congressmen and Senators. When you consider the lively invectives that occur elsewhere, it's really quite strange." He finds that politicians can be offended and bruised by the style of British interviewing.

Striking the right balance between domestic and international news can be challenging. Mark has observed a unique fascination by

the political and journalistic classes in the UK with US domestic issues. Mark comments, "We consider writing a profile on Rahm Emanuel when he resigns from the White House to run for the Mayor of Chicago but we would never dream of reporting on Angela Merkel's Chief of Staff." The BBC is there, first and foremost, to report on the role of the US as a superpower on the world stage.

The forthcoming 2012 Presidential campaign will be of great interest to British audiences. Mark explains, "The minutiae of the 24 hour news cycle which focuses on who's up and who's down is a potential pitfall. We need to report on what the electorate is thinking and saying." The recent mid-term elections, where the people voted for spending cuts, demonstrate the lack of support for the Obama agenda. Mark comments, "I think the Democrats may have over-read their mandate, which is easy for politicians to do."

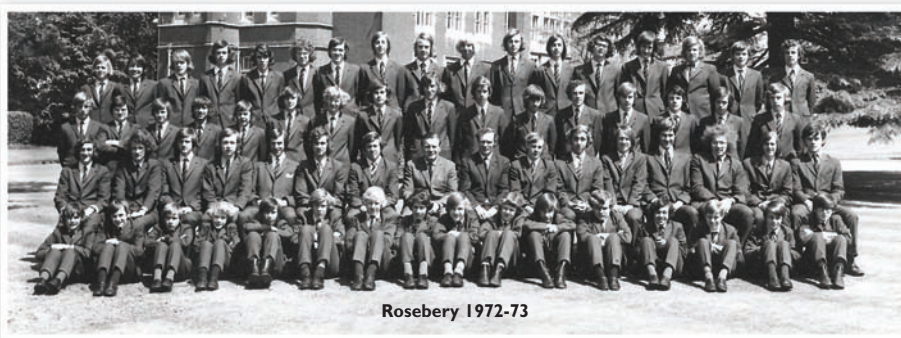
In typical British fashion, Mark hesitates when asked to describe his strengths as a journalist. He comments, "I think I write well and have a questioning mind that does not accept the surface of things." He continues, "Above all I am curious and enthusiastic. Whenever I speak to pupils, I say find a job you love because you will work endlessly. If you don't love it, you'll be crushed by it."



BBC  
NEWS

Mark recalls, with huge affection, his former house, Rosebery. "It was always seen as being slightly on edge and alternative; a bit naughtier than other Houses." He remembers great teachers, particularly Neil Laing, Gerald Killingworth and 'Pills' Parker. There is one particular skill that he learned at the College that has lasted and that is how to plan an essay. Mark comments, "Every night before I do a TV segment, I scribble down the equivalent of an essay plan. It's a tremendous guide and is something I learned at Epsom."

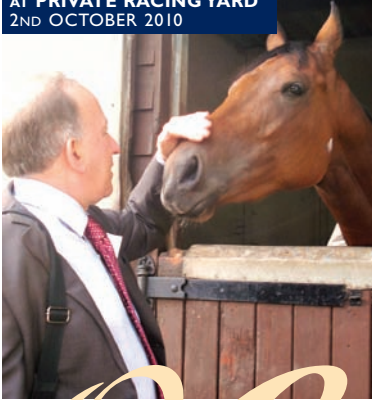
In this interview, one tough question was posed to Mark: "Why don't you wear an OE tie in your reporting?" He commented that he's not a fan of ties and removes them promptly after TV appearances. Pay attention viewers, maybe some day you'll spot our man in DC sporting an OE tie.



Rosebery 1972-73



**OE EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY  
AT PRIVATE RACING YARD  
2ND OCTOBER 2010**



**OE ANNUAL DINNER 16TH OCTOBER 2010**



**CAMBRIDGE DINNER  
13TH NOVEMBER 2010**



# OE events



**OE LEGAL SOCIETY DINNER 12TH FEBRUARY 2011**



**EVENSONG AT ST GEORGE'S  
CHAPEL, WINDSOR CASTLE  
17TH NOVEMBER 2010**



**SLIDE SHOW BY PAUL SIEVERS  
18TH JANUARY 2011**



**OE HOCKEY v EPSOM 1ST XI 15TH DECEMBER 2010**

# Forthcoming *events*

OEs are invited to a number of social occasions in the coming months

**DIARY DATES 2011** PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION FORM FOR FURTHER DETAILS

## OE LUNCH CLUB

The monthly OE Lunch Club is a wonderful way to visit the College. Due to the popularity of last April's lunch in the Cricket Pavilion, we are delighted to host two more lunches there this year (see the back page for dates). Lunch costs just £1 in the Dining Hall and £3 in the Cricket Pavilion. **Please call or email to book a place.**



## 30TH APRIL

### THE FABULOUS KING & QUEEN SHOW

Peter Thompson (Maths Master) is delighted to host the Fabulous King & Queen Show to support the Neil Laing Bursary Fund. Miguel Olivares and Paul Jackson will be performing the music of Elvis and Freddie Mercury. Drinks, dinner, performances and a disco – all happening in Big School. **RSVP by 18th April.**



## 5TH MAY



### PIPER AND THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE TRADITION LECTURE BY MARY ACTON MAIN HALL 11AM

The Education Trust is hosting a lecture, followed by lunch, to honour the bequest of the late Robert Camac (G 1938-42), who left 12 John Piper prints to the College. All members of the Epsom College community are warmly invited to attend. Mary Acton teaches History of Art at Continuing Education, Oxford University. **RSVP by 28th April.**

## 28TH MAY

### FOUNDER'S DAY & REUNION FOR OEs WHO LEFT THE COLLEGE PRIOR TO 1960

A reunion is being held for OEs who left the College prior to 1960. Following lunch, pupils will perform *A Revue: Dance, Drama & Song*. In the afternoon guests will have the following options: a tour, a talk by the College Archivist, watch the sports fixtures or stay in Big School to chat. OEs of other vintages and their guests are very welcome to attend the usual Founder's Day activities. **RSVP by 6th May.**



## 11TH JUNE

### OE CRICKET HALF CENTURY CELEBRATION

In celebration of 50 years of OE Cricket, Tony Beadles and Mike Ribeiro, co-founders of the OE Cricket Club, will host a lunch at the College. The College 1st XI will be at home playing Eastbourne that day. Current and former OE cricketers and their guests are warmly invited to attend. **RSVP by 20th May.**



## 17TH JUNE

### LOWER SIXTH RECEPTION – WORKING THE ROOM

Lower Sixth pupils will be learning ways to engage effectively in a business environment. Following their business impact training day, a reception for OEs and parents will be held at the College to allow the pupils to practise their newly acquired skills.

The College would like to create a 3:1 ratio of pupils to OEs/parents in support of this initiative.

## 18TH JUNE

### CARR HOUSE REUNION

Former members of Carr House and their guests will enjoy tours, lunch, music and a chance to catch up with contemporaries, current pupils and members of Common Room. **RSVP by 20th May.**



## 15TH OCTOBER

### OE ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER



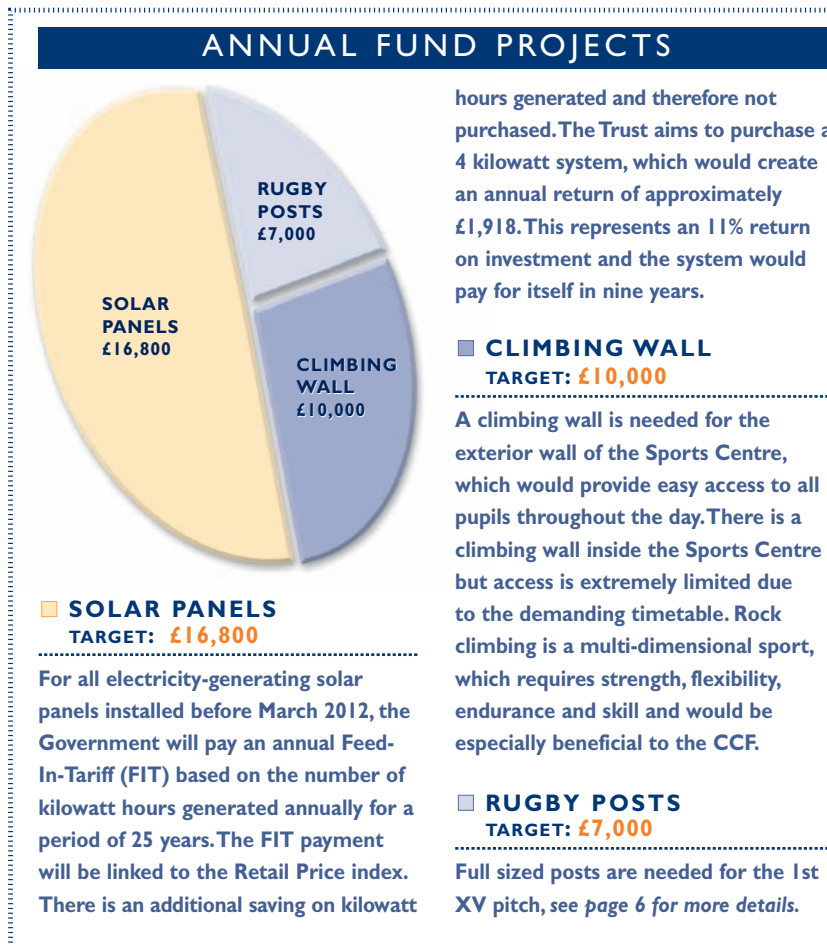
OEs are warmly invited to the OE Annual Black Tie Dinner, hosted by President of the OE Club, Richard Bland (W 1978-82). The '30 years on' theme has become a regular feature of the Annual Dinner and so OEs who left in 1981 are encouraged to get a group together.



# FUNDRAISING TELETHON SET FOR JULY AS PART OF ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAMME

Annual Giving, like legacies or major gifts, is important to the Trust. It can provide funding for projects that the College could not otherwise afford. In the future, the Trust will aim to use telethons and mailings on alternating years to encourage this important form of giving. The telethons held in 2007 and 2008 raised £142,605 and added approximately 400 new donors. The majority of funds raised were allocated to the General Bursary Fund and approximately £10,000 offset the cost of the new organ in Chapel.

From 12th to 24th July a telethon will be held to raise funds for full sized rugby posts, a climbing wall and solar panels to generate electricity, as well as bursaries. In the summer, approximately 1,500 OEs will receive a letter describing these projects in greater detail and when they might expect a call from a recent leaver. The caller will update them



on the latest news from the College and discuss these projects.

The process for recruiting callers for the telethon has begun with help from Liam Anderson (Robinson 2004-09), who comments, "As a bursary recipient, I am really pleased to give something back to the College for supporting me during some of the best years of my life. I am helping recruit other callers, as well as being a caller myself in July."



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE EPSOM COLLEGE EDUCATION TRUST

The College endowment is £2.8 million which, when compared to other schools, is relatively small. In 2010 the College awarded bursaries totalling approximately £560,000, of which £110,000 was funded from the endowment and a further £60,000 from individual donors recruited by the Trust.

Unless specified otherwise, all bursary donations received by the Trust are allocated to the endowment. Since the Trust was established in 2000 it has raised £678,003 in endowed bursary funds, which represents 24% of the total endowment. The long-term aim is to build a £30 million endowment, which at current interest rates would generate approximately £1.0 to £1.5 million in annual income. This would provide 70 significant bursaries each year in perpetuity, or means tested support for 10% of the students at the College each year.

The Trust actively raises for the following bursary funds:

- **General Bursary Fund:** raised to date £531,692
- **Maxwell Phair Fund:** raised to date £106,115
- **Neil Laing Fund:** raised to date £40,196

Since 2008, OEs have donated an additional £44,723 which has gone directly to support specific pupils whose families have undergone a sudden and unexpected financial hardship at a critical time in the pupil's education. These funds are not part of the endowment.

Since 2000, the Trust has raised a further £1.8 million, some of which funded the conversion of the former squash courts into the Ron Hancock Performing Arts Studios. A portion remains set aside for future initiatives.

# OEs TALK BACK

The Education Trust recently hosted a series of discussion groups to learn OE views on a range of subjects related to Epsom College including communications, fundraising and general attitudes towards legacy giving. The discussions were facilitated by an outside consultant who specialises in fundraising at schools and universities. The views expressed by the 42 OEs who took part, all of whom were over the age of 50, were diverse, but consistent themes emerged that highlighted areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. It was generally agreed that communications are 'very good' and that the College is doing a good job of staying in touch. OEs like the range of events on offer and have enthusiasm for more.

When asked about the financial position of Epsom College and the need for fundraising, the results were less favourable. There was a limited understanding of the size of the College endowment. Discussions also revealed the need for better information on bursaries; specifically how they are funded and how much comes from the Trust. Some

asked, "Can you communicate the fact that even small donations make a difference?", which points to the need to provide more tangible examples of the difference donations make and what they achieve. Rebecca Holmes commented, "The conclusion is that we need a concise and informative annual report on the finances of the College and funds raised by the Trust. We look forward to producing our first report in the autumn and reporting more regularly throughout the year on various funding projects and donations."

How best to approach the sensitive subject of leaving a legacy was also discussed. It was generally agreed that once a case for financial



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need was established, OEs would not be opposed to receiving a letter asking them to consider a legacy pledge. Many agreed that wording for a codicil and general information about the types of legacies to consider would be of value. Views differed on how people might want to designate a legacy gift. Some were in favour of bursaries, and others buildings, but all want to be presented with options. Chairman of Governors, Andrew Vallance-Owen comments, "The Trust is a relatively new body within the school. We are pleased with the rate of progress and look forward to implementing these and other ideas put forth in the discussion groups. We are grateful to these participants and the donor who funded this initiative."



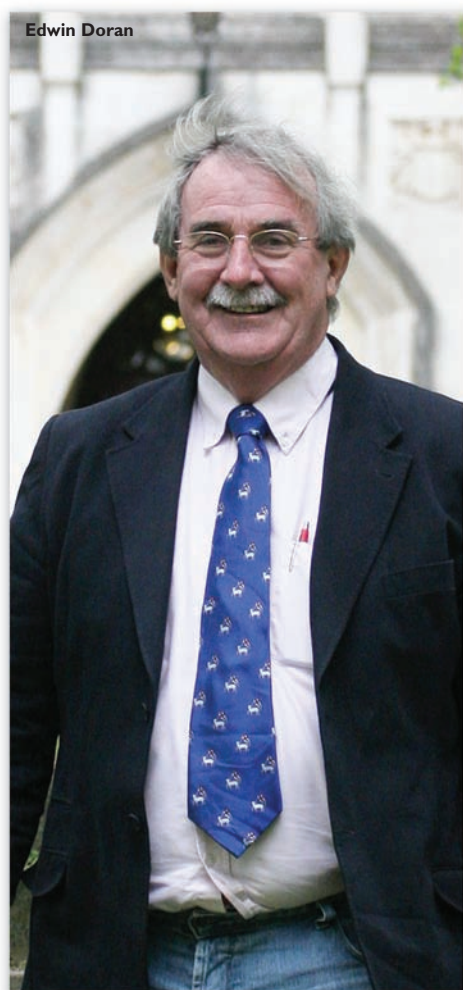
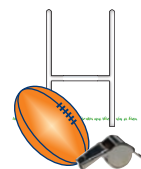
Ivan Houghton talks to OEs  
BELOW: Head of Frames Conservation, Gerry Alabone on a tour of the Clore Gallery

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT TATE BRITAIN

Ivan Houghton (Wilson 1955-60) spoke to a small group of OEs about his on-going research to discover the original framing schemes of the 284 oil paintings by JMW Turner that the artist left to the Nation following his death in 1851. Ivan has uncovered 326 frames related to this bequest. Following lunch in the Rex Whistler Restaurant, the Head of Frames Conservation, Gerry Alabone gave a tour of the Clore Gallery. George Pincus (Forest 1955-61) commented "It was a wonderful opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at a great cultural institution."



# SUPPORTING COLLEGE RUGBY THROUGH THE EDUCATION TRUST



Edwin Doran

The Epsom College 1st XV had a frustrating 2010 season. Despite recording impressive wins over Eton, Eastbourne, Harrow and Tonbridge, a team ravaged by injuries and illness suffered an equal number of defeats. However, with Internationals Ben Francis (Scotland) and Tom Flynn (USA) moving into the Upper Sixth next year, there is every reason to be optimistic for an improved 2011 season.

The Junior Colts made massive strides in their development this year under the stewardship of Edwin Doran, improving significantly from their first year's results. Edwin began his long association with College rugby in the early '80s when he refereed the 1st XV.

Having retired his whistle, Edwin spent five years on the sidelines as an ever-present supporter of his son Tom (Fa 1997-02) before offering his services as a coach. He then spent three years with the Under 14 Bs before moving up to his current position as head coach of the Junior Colts, where he has spent the last five years. Edwin explains, "Each year I get a new collection of excellent lads who are all so willing to learn and improve their skills and we have had some considerable success over the years. I love my job."

Edwin's commitment and dedication to the

development of young people and College rugby is not only evident in his tireless work on the training pitch. In November 2008, he agreed to sponsor a new entrant to the Sixth Form who showed considerable rugby potential and would benefit educationally. This beneficiary has gone from strength to strength and is currently a member of the England Under 18 squad.

Edwin comments, "I'm really pleased to continue the **Edwin Doran Sports Bursary** through the Education Trust and look forward to welcoming the new recipient(s) next season." The Governors and the Headmaster are hugely appreciative of Edwin's generous financial support of the Education Trust and his great enthusiasm for sport at the College.

## Fundraising for Rugby Posts Continues

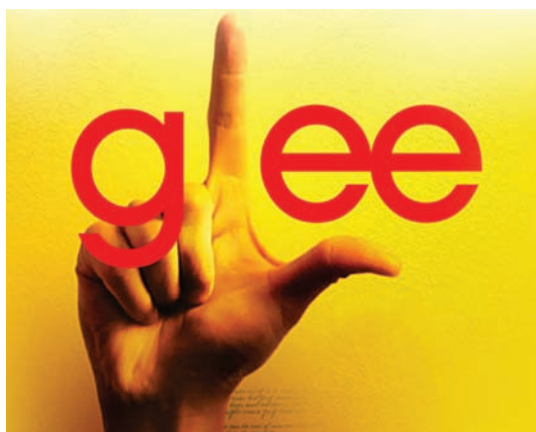
The Education Trust aims to raise £7,000 to purchase full-sized rugby posts for the 1st XV pitch. College rugby master, Andy Wolstenholme comments, "Many penalties and conversions are soaring above the undersized posts and referees have to make tough judgement calls as to whether kicks are successful or not." Thus far £1,959 has been raised and the Trust hopes to increase donations further during the fundraising telethon in July.

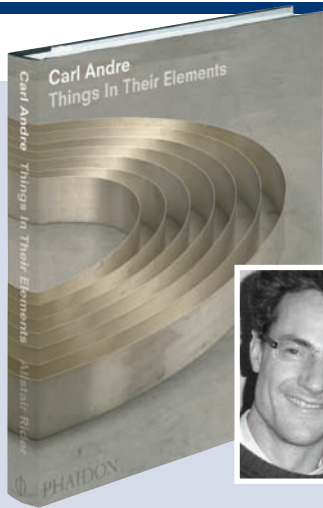
“I'M REALLY PLEASED TO CONTINUE THE **EDWIN DORAN SPORTS BURSARY** THROUGH THE EDUCATION TRUST AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING THE NEW RECIPIENT(S) NEXT SEASON.”

## AUCTION FOR PRIVATE SUITE AT O2 ARENA FOR glee

An auction will be held for a private suite at the O2 Arena for a performance of **glee** on 30th June 2011. All proceeds will go to the Neil Laing Bursary Fund. The private suite is situated on Level 2 of the O2 Arena and holds 18 people. Inside the suite there is a lounge area with sofas, a bar and dedicated show seating area of three rows of six seats. Parents, OEs and friends of Epsom College are invited to place on-line bids, which will end on 29th April at 5pm.

Final bids will be accepted and the winner announced at 'The Fabulous King & Queen Show' in Big School on Saturday 30th April. To learn how to place a bid and read about the terms and conditions, visit the Epsom College website. The Trust thanks Dr Chai Patel and his family who have generously supported the Neil Laing Fund through this fabulous gift.





## ALISTAIR RIDER IN HIS ELEMENT

For Alistair Rider (H 1984-89) the importance of education is elemental. In particular, Alistair, a lecturer in the School of Art History at St Andrews University, believes that society benefits significantly from graduate contribution. He argues that further education in the

liberal arts facilitates an appreciation of 'the bigger picture' in life. "Although it may be a cliché, students – especially those who have studied the humanities – are better at *blue sky thinking*," Alistair says.

It was *blue sky thinking* of a kind that led Alistair to begin exploring relations between artists and the environment. After reading books such as Mark Lynas' *Six Degrees*, Alistair felt compelled to educate both himself and his students about how to respond to climate change. "I saw an opportunity to challenge thought patterns, to enable my students to think creatively about the problems facing us," he explains.

Alistair has found inspiration in the work of artists such as Roni Horn, whose *Library of Water* installation incorporates meltwater sourced from 24 endangered Icelandic glaciers. He also identifies internet artists, such as Thomson & Craighead, who can use computer networks to promote a broader world

perspective. "It is about looking beyond *my place*," Alistair underlined, "as humans are not the only life form to be affected by global warming."

Alistair's new book, *Carl Andre: Things in Their Elements*, encompasses the American artist's career, his ideology and his approach to materiality. "To achieve a deeper appreciation of manufacture, we must consider where a material came from, what it is made from, where it is going." The book represents the culmination of a decade's work and he hopes it will make Andre's abstract sculptures more accessible to a broader public.

Alistair, who studied English, German and History at A-level, fondly remembers Stephen Oliver's inspiring teaching and the College campus as "incredibly beautiful". Alistair recalls that his proudest endeavour was making a desk in ash and elm under the guidance of woodwork teacher, Fred Eames, which he uses daily in his university office.

## A SPECIAL HONOUR AT THE TWELFTH ANNUAL OE MEDICAL SOCIETY DINNER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Current 6th Form pupils considering careers in medicine; Upper Sixth pupils and Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen; Dr John Ford and Sir Richard Thompson

Epsom College Chairman of Governors, Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen (Fa 1956-70), presented the President of the OE Medical Society, Sir Richard Thompson (P 1954-58) with a hardbound copy of *Epsom College: A Tradition of Medical Excellence, Reflecting on the Early Years* in recognition of his distinguished medical career and service to Epsom College. The author, Dr John Ford

(Fa 1950-55), commented, "It describes the lives of a few pupils who were part of the original intake and set the stage for the tradition of medical excellence that would follow. I was delighted to help the College recognise Sir Richard's outstanding contributions." Guests at the dinner received copies, as will all members of the OE Medical Society in due course.



Sir Richard Thompson hosted the dinner at the Royal College of Physicians, where he currently serves as President. Nearly 90 guests attended including current pupils interested in pursuing medical careers. Tim Cobb (P 2006-11), commented, "It was a fabulous opportunity to meet so many medics and I look forward to joining the ranks of the OE Club in July."

# EARLY WORK WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS PROVES PIVOTAL FOR HER MAJESTY'S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS, NICK HARDWICK



**Nick Hardwick**  
BELOW: Enjoying the  
Proper Reunion

As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Nick Hardwick (P 1970-75) is playing an influential role in the highly topical debate over this country's overcrowded prisons and unacceptable rates of re-offending. "There are too many people for the prisons to cope with effectively. It's now 85,000. Do we all feel safer?" he asks.

In 2008, the Ministry of Justice declared that almost two-thirds of prisoners were re-offending upon their release. "It's not my job to say who should go to prison," Nick continues, "But it is my job to encourage prisoners to be treated in a way that makes it less likely they will re-offend in the future."

Nick believes that as a country we could do a better job rehabilitating our prisoners. He quotes Churchill: "The mood and temper of the public in regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilisation of any country."

Following his departure in 1995 from Centrepont, a charity which works to improve the lives of the socially excluded, especially young homeless people, Nick spent eight years as Chief Executive of the Refugee Council and



the following six as Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. He took up his current position as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons in July 2010.

Having gained a degree in English from Hull University, Nick had aspirations of becoming a journalist and applied for a position on his local newspaper. However, during the application stages, he took a temporary job with the charity NACRO (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders) working with young offenders. Little did he know at the time how much this experience would influence his future career. He comments, "I spent six years there and found it deeply fulfilling. Many of the young people I worked with at NACRO were homeless, which is what led me to Centrepont."

Nick has experienced both ends of the social ladder in his life. As the beneficiary of a bursary at Epsom College, Nick feels truly privileged to have had such an opportunity. He comments, "I attended Epsom during an exciting time when there were huge shifts in social attitudes. I remember feeling a range of possibilities opening up and I was encouraged to take advantage of them and aim high in whatever I did." At A-level Nick took English, History and Geography. He recalls, "I had many inspiring teachers, Michael Squibbs, Roger Lane, Bob Fallows, Stephen Oliver and my house tutor Norman Rice, all of whom persuaded me that I could do more than I thought I could."

He adds, "The pupils of Epsom College are very privileged and I had a limited idea of how other less fortunate people lived." However, during his career Nick has seen first hand the lives of those less fortunate and has put his privileged beginnings to good use in a committed dedication to public service.



## SHARE YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST

John Priest (Crawford 1936-39) spoke at a weekly M4 assembly in January about his time at the College and his interest in aviation. If you have an interest to share with pupils, please get in touch with the Education Trust.

### 2011 CALENDAR

#### APRIL

Friday 15th

**OE Lunch Club**, Cricket Pavilion

Saturday 30th

**Fabulous King & Queen Show**

#### MAY

Thursday 5th

**Piper Lecture and Lunch**

Saturday 28th

**Founder's Day & Reunion for pre-1960 leavers**

#### JUNE

Saturday 11th

**OE Cricket Celebration**

Friday 17th

**Lower Sixth Reception**

Saturday 18th

**Carr House Reunion**

Wednesday 29th

**OE Lunch Club**, Cricket Pavilion

#### OCTOBER

Tuesday 11th

**Oundle v Epsom 1st XV** at the HAC kick off 4.30pm

Saturday 15th

**OE Annual Dinner**

Wednesday 19th

**Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral**

Epsom College, College Road,  
Epsom, Surrey KT17 4JQ  
[www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk)

**OE Club:** 01372 821294  
e: [oeclub@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:oeclub@epsomcollege.org.uk)

**Education Trust:** 01372 821042  
e: [educationtrust@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:educationtrust@epsomcollege.org.uk)

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