

2013 OBITUARIES

PETER HORSFIELD QC (50)

His friend **Richard Gompertz (50)** wrote:

Peter died at home in Kingston on 15 April after a long illness. He was one of my closest friends at Beaumont, between 1946 and 1950. We enjoyed the golden years of the college under Fr Boyle when the school won most of its rugby and boxing matches, as well as scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge. Peter was a classicist and won an open major scholarship to Trinity, Oxford, to read Greats. He occupied the rooms of John Henry Newman, one of his heroes. He gained a double first and entered the Navy for his national service, where he took the opportunity to learn Russian.

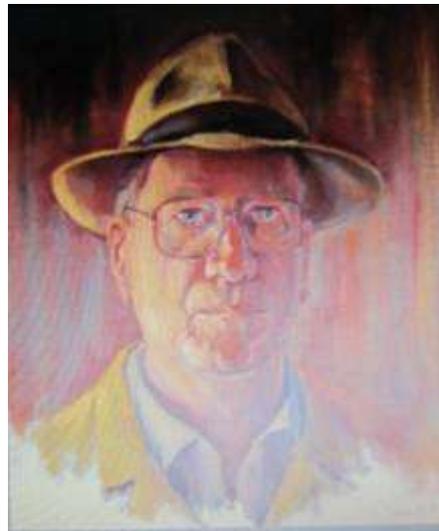
Peter then studied law and entered the Chancery Bar, where he became the pupil of Christopher Slade. They later appeared in the television series "The Lawyers" as Mr Brimmercom and his pupil. He took silk in 1978 and was elected a bencher of the Middle Temple in 1984. He involved himself in knotty problems of tax and estate duty and when he retired in the mid-1990s he acted as a Special Commissioner on VAT cases. On one occasion his argument was rejected by the Court of Appeal and by the House of Lords. But Lord Hoffman dissented which pleased Peter: "Well at least Lennie and I got it right!"

Peter was born on 15 February 1932 and grew up in the Vale of Evesham, the fourth of six children, one of whom died at birth. His elder brother Hugh, who preceded him to Beaumont, served in the RAF and was killed in action in North Africa in 1942. Peter's father had served in the Army Flying Corps in the First World War, carrying out reconnaissance missions over enemy lines.

Peter married Charlotte Debenham 1962. Andrew, Charles and Thomas were born in short order. Peter and Charlotte shared a love of walking that brought them to the purchase of a traditional Welsh farmhouse on the Wye near the Brecon Beacons. With the same interest I and my family by chance rented a cottage near them in 1973 and met for the first time in twenty years at the local dairy farm. We bought the cottage and for years the two families joined in walks and expeditions together.

Peter's mother Lily was a talented portrait painter and Peter inherited her skill. He received training from his friend and mentor Keith Grant and took a studio near his home. His main interest was in trees, which he painted in strong colours thickly applied. He held two one-man shows, in 1997 and 2004. Both were followed by bouts of the debilitating illness that dogged him during the last fifteen years of his life.

The clear skies over the Welsh farm offered Peter the opportunity to engage in his other great interest, astronomy. He built himself an observatory with a sliding roof at the end of the barn and many a cold night our two families spent observing the universe through his great telescope. Peter was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society and published an article in an astronomical journal.



He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1988.

Two other institutions important to Peter were Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street, where the family would meet for dinner, and the Garrick Club about which he claimed he always came out feeling better than when he went in. He once told me that his father would take the family to Bertorelli's for ice-creams before the war.

The last years have been very difficult for Peter and Charlotte, with Peter unable to engage with the outside world as his health deteriorated. Charlotte devoted all her time to caring tirelessly for Peter, with invaluable support from Peter's younger sister Gill, who had been a medical missionary sister in Africa.

A requiem mass for Peter was celebrated at St Agatha's Church in Kingston-upon-Thames on 1st May. His old friend Francis Barlow gave the eulogy, to which I am indebted for much of the information in this obituary. RIP.

ROBIN DEANE (50)

Brian Deane wrote:

I wanted to let you know, that my brother Robin Deane - Beaumont 1945-1950 - passed away August 30th. 2013, from a severe lung infection, at the age of 80. He was buried in Buenos Aires, August 31st. Robin was married with four offspring and 12 grandchildren. He will be sorely missed.

Ronald du Poulpiquet du Halgouet (59)

Ronald came to Beaumont from Ladycross in 1957 and stayed in the "A" stream till leaving in Syntax. Born at the Chateau du Brassy near Renac in Brittany, his family had played an important role in the region since the 12th century. Both his father and grandfather served in the Senate and were members of the Regional legislature. Ronald eventually inherited the Chateau and title of Vicomte and managed the estate and lands.. He married Veronique de Chabot-Tramcourt but the marriage ended in divorce; Veronique later married the Prince Alain Murat. Ronald then married Marie-Josephina Teixeira Salgado. A daughter Corentine married Clovis Tattinger heir to the business empire that includes the champagne house and the Hotel Crillon. Ronald died on the 17 September.

William Dunn Holt (39); England' Oldest Morris Dancer



William Maurice Dunn Holt was born in Cairo in 1920 the son of an OB - Colonel Herbert Holt. Bill and his younger brother Arthur were sent to Beaumont during which their holidays were normally passed with their paternal grandparents. Their father spent these years commanding the Somaliland Camel Corps and then on the diplomatic staff at Addis Ababa. Their Grandmother owned a house near Farnborough and the boys would attend mass at the nearby abbey where they acted as altar servers and also helped with the cider apple harvest. Their grandfather General Sir Maurice Holt lived for most of the year on a yacht which was moored on the River Beaulieu at Bucklers Hard and the boys spent memorable days with him on the boat and sailing the Solent.

Bill left Old Windsor to follow the family tradition and enter Sandhurst in one of the last intakes of Gentlemen Cadets. With the outbreak of War he was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles of the Indian Army and was initially sent to recruit men in the rugged Himalayan foothills before deployment with the remainder of his Division to North Africa. Bill's regiment was deployed to the Eritrea Campaign and to territory well known to his father. He was wounded in the elbow by shrapnel fire and with a permanently disabled arm was evacuated. He had the choice of having the limb fused straight or at right angles and chose the latter so that he could continue to ride a motor bike. When he returned to regimental duty it was as an officer training instructor. After the War with the disbandment of the Indian Army, he transferred to the Gunners spending time in Cyprus where he met his wife Jan and took up exploring underwater archaeological sites around the Mediterranean. His last posting was to the Isle of Wight to retire as a Major in 1958.

Bill decided to become school master and obtained a position of teaching maths and geography at St Bernadette's RC School in Bristol in 1961 moving with his young family to the village of Corston near Bath. He was much involved with Outward Bound and the Duke

of Edinburgh award scheme taking pupils off to trek both Dartmoor and Exmoor. Over the years teaching took its toll and he left the profession in 1979, he and Jan also took a mutual decision to live apart and Bill bought a house with his sister at Bradford on Avon. He stayed independent till moving to sheltered accommodation in 2009.

Bill might have retired from work but not from life. In 1991 at the age of seventy-one he became a residential student at Plater College Oxford where he obtained a diploma in theology and philosophy before continuing to obtain a degree in divinity from the Maryvale Institute in 1997. Bill had started going out to Lourdes while at St Bernadette's and he became an enthusiastic volunteer with the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes helping as a brancardier on the annual pilgrimage each May. Later he travelled as an ordinary pilgrim and in the last couple of years as a member of the disabled; he was planning his next trip shortly before his death. Apart from this, he found time to be involved with the University of the 3rd Age, the European Studies Group, the Co-Workers of Mother Theresa, the Local Arts Association and act as a school governor. He was an energetic footpath walker completing the length of the Kennet and Avon Canal having the stamina of men half his age. For many years, he attended the reunions of the Gerwhals and in 1987 went out to the Himalayas to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the regiment hosted by the modern day Indian Army. Bill often travelled to South Africa to see his brother Arthur (39) who had settled in the Transvaal after the War but who died in 1998.

Bill's claim to fame was as England's oldest Morris Dancer. In 1968, he had joined the Bathampton Morris Men and took particular pleasure dancing of a summer evening around the local villages. He also travelled with them all over the United Kingdom and also to Germany, France, Spain, Hungary and Poland. Bill was still dancing with them at the age of ninety when he was proclaimed as the oldest active dancer and indeed his final appearance was at Tytherington on Plough Sunday in January of this year.

Bill Holt died peacefully after a short illness at the Royal United Hospital Bath. He leaves three children Chris, Justin and Anna and numerous grandchildren and wider family who hold his memory in wide affection and love.

Patrick John Dudding (38)

Patrick came to Beaumont in 1935 from St Anthony's Eastbourne leaving in '38 having been in the Cricket XI. Prior to the War he went to the College of Estate Management but with the outbreak of hostilities he was given a commission in the 9th Royal Lancers to serve alongside other OBs Michael de Burgh and Victor Berry and for a part of that time under the command of Ronald McDonnell. Patrick saw service in the Middle East, the Desert Campaign and Italy and was mentioned in dispatches.

He had a couple of narrow escapes; one in Tunisia when his squadron was ambushed coming out of a wadi by a battery of 88s. The British thinly armoured tanks had no chance and five tanks went up in flames. Patrick was lucky to survive. On another occasion he came under heavy artillery fire and his tank was hit four times. He rapidly closed his turret hatch and the next shell landed on top of it causing him mild head wounds. Finally, he was reduced to fighting with his bare fists when some German Infantry tried to mount his tank and take his crew prisoner. As the war drew to a close in Italy, he had the pleasure himself of herding several hundred prisoners into a barn with a stout stick for safe keeping on a day when they took a huge “bag” of armoured vehicles and artillery as well as 12 horses, 2 Alsatian dogs and a pony and trap.

After the War he returned to Land management with the company of William T Bolam & Son at Newcastle upon Tyne of which he became a partner and director. In 1954 he married Eve the daughter of Major General F I M Crossman who had commanded the Anti -Aircraft defences in London during the Blitz and they settled in the village of Woolsington to the north of the city.

Among his interests was scouting and Patrick served as District Commissioner for the West Castle District and was later Chairman of the Northumberland Scout Council

Patrick died peacefully on 13 June after a short illness at the age of 92; a wise counsellor and much loved by family and friends.

Geoffrey Bernard Auty (43)



Geoffrey came to Old Windsor from Carn Brea Prep school, Bromley in 1938 and was best remembered at Beaumont for his love of music where he formed his own jazz group. His

great friends from those days were John Herbert and George Collier and in those early War years they cycled to Cornwall and back during a long summer vacation sleeping under hedgerows and in barns. They also more than sampled the local “scrumpy” which as he later wrote “put us in good training for Service life that soon followed. Geoffrey went into the RNVR as did George while John went to the RAFVR.

After the War with his music interests he joined Boosey and Hawkes and in 1948 married Margaret O’Connell with John Herbert as best man. Ten years later, his company sent him to Australia where he became overall sales manager and the family lived in Victoria. His children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are now settled in Australia. Geoffrey died this summer after 65 years of happy marriage.

Julian Kwolek (67)

Julian was one of the last boys at the school and the younger brother of Richard. He left in 1967 having captained the 2nd XV and awarded his crest at tennis.

We have no further details.

Edmund McIlvenna (59)



The brother of David and Richard died on the 1st July. Edmund would not have wished for an obituary but it would be amiss not to mention his boxing ability which will always be remembered by his school contemporaries. “McIlvenna, true to form, walked calmly into the middle of the ring and after a few testing lefts soon had his opponent in the corner and down; fight stopped”. This report on one of his bouts was repeated time after time, season after season. Edmund was one of those that continued to maintain the highest reputation Beaumont had in the sport.

JOHN IVERSEN (56)

Anthony Miles wrote;

After leaving Beaumont, John did National service in the Army and on release he started his career as a hotelier as I believe a commis waiter working his way up through various departments.

He then came to Madeira and was assistant Manager for 6 years at Reid's Hotel. This is when I caught up with him and cemented our friendship started at Beaumont and which ended so sadly with his sudden death on the 2nd of August.

When he left Reids He went to Paris and managed the prestigious Hotel Lancaster. Following this, he had a short stint in Canada with I believe the Dreyfous Corporation, who were grain merchants I believe but wanted to diversify into hotels. He then returned to France and spent some time managing the Hotel accommodation at Chateau Margaux, which had just been bought by a Japanese company. Finally he turned his hand to being an antiquarian, where he met and became friends with Sir Paul and lady Hamlyn, and cooperated with them in restoring Chateau Bagnols as a luxury Hotel just outside Lyon.

Recently in Paris he had got very involved in supporting the Church of Saint Eustache.

At Beaumont we played rugby together in the Colts and 1st.XV, He was a good student and was well known when serving at High Mass for swinging the thurible very vigorously .I believe he also enjoyed the ceremonial part of CCF.

He was a kind and generous man with very strong beliefs in his faith, based on his Catholic upbringing and values, as well as being a loyal friend.

(Ed. My "in – Laws" always stayed at the Lancaster and spoke most highly of its service. John was also responsible for my receiving 12 ferrulas after inviting me to enjoy a glass or two in The Bells when he was down watching a cricket match and I was apprehended by Fr Costigan).

DAVID HENRY (59)

William Henry wrote:

Shortly after receiving Holy Communion, with his wife Pat, son and daughter at his bedside. my younger brother David died on 3 August. His Funeral Mass was held at St. Michael's Church, Hayling Rise, Worthing on Wed 14 August.

After Beaumont, David became a Surveyor. He moved to Worthing and joined Building Contractors A.D. Mc Neal of Shoreham eventually owning the organisation. He worked on many projects along the Sussex Coast including the building of the R.C. Church at Shoreham. He was a keen sea fisherman.

David will be sadly missed by Pat, Andrew, Anna and the six grand children.

PETER HORSFIELD QC (50) Peter was the younger brother of Hugh who was killed in action as a Sgt Pilot with the RAFVR when his bomber came down near Tobruk in May 1942. Peter died at his home at Kingston on the 15th April after a long illness.

A full Obituary will appear in the Winter Edition.

Nicolas Preveraud de la Boutresse (60)

I heard from family friends that Nicholas died last year from Leukaemia. His family lived at the Chateau de Grosmesnil in St Romain de Colbosc not far from Le Havre. Nicholas was the youngest of six and had five elder sisters. He was sent to Ladycross and came to Beaumont in 1957. The de la Boutresse's had lived at St Romain for generations and Nicholas was related to among others, the writer, poet and aviator Antoine de Exupery. Nicholas left Old Windsor for further studies at Bad Godesberg in Germany and excelled at languages. When family fortunes and inheritance laws forced the family to sell the Chateau and lands, Nicholas became a school master.

Peter Colesworthy (43)

Ludo de Vleeschauwer (43) - The kindness Peter showed us, my late brother Yvo and myself, when we arrived at Beaumont in 1940 as vulnerable refugees grew into a lasting friendship.

Straw Colesworthy was an amiable, mild tempered young man who turned out to be a good class mate to my brother and a good rowing mate to me. And as a purple-cassocked thurifer, he gave the most

stately performance in chapel, a sight which unaccountably stayed ever with me.

I saw a lot of him when we went up to Christ's Cambridge for a first time in 1943 and again when we returned from the wars in 1948.

Our paths did not cross again until retirement age. Twenty-five years ago we picked up our companionship where we had left it, with Peter showing the same kind attention as ever. Our encounters provided the most enjoyable moments of my annual visits to England .Good reasons to be thankful to Peter and to the Almighty. May the Lord receive Peter in His Mercy; I will for ever cherish the memory of the friendship shown to my brother and to me. RIP 5/8/12.

Editor; Peter studied law and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple and served in the war Sub-Lt RNVR. He spent part of his career in The Gold Coast.

Colonel Charles Anthony Crouch OBE

We heard from Rose McQueen the wife of Andrew that Tony Crouch died peacefully at home at Sidmouth on 30th January 2013 at the age of 92.

Tony was the son of Captain C H Crouch RN and came to Beaumont in 1934 from Hillcrest, Frinton on Sea. He played in the Cricket XI before leaving in 1939 for Woolwich and a commission in the Royal Engineers. He served throughout the War as a young Sapper officer mainly in Burma and stayed on at the end of hostilities to reach the rank of full Colonel. He enjoyed army life and the opportunity to travel especially in Germany, where he acquired a classic car he named Anna Lisa. In 1957, he married Joan Wallis and together they had three children. It was at this time, Tony specialised in bomb disposal and his skills were in great demand; he was one of the experts in this field. He had a tremendous self-discipline and was meticulous in his planning and execution of tasks so was well suited to the hazardous occupation. Tony was given command of the Bomb Disposal Unit at Horsham and was awarded an OBE in the Birthday Honours of 1967. On retiring from the

Army, he went to work for the Crown Agents and travelled the world building Airstrips, roads and bridges in the Yemen, Belize and the Caribbean. He even took one of his daughters to Papua New Guinea on a most unusual and adventurous gap year. For the most part, he was modest about his achievements and his family had little idea of the complexities of his work. On retirement, he loved playing chess, listening to old fashioned musicals and reading the poetry of Tennyson and Rossetti. In his Eighties, he and Joan moved to Sidmouth to be close to their children and near the sea. Tony remained a devout catholic throughout his life with a great love of the Latin Rite and managed to get to weekday mass till prevented by a slow decline in health. A Requiem Mass was said for him at the Church of The Most Precious Blood in his home town on 7th February.

Gleaned from the Royal Engineer Journal.



Andrew Doughty (35)

One of the country's leading anaesthetists died peacefully on the 4 June. He was born during a Zeppelin air raid in 1916 and came to Beaumont in 1930 from St Anthony's Eastbourne. He excelled at rugby and was part of the XV that beat Eton 40-0. He left in 1935 to study medicine at St Thomas's and his connection with war continued as he did his pathology finals during another air raid before qualifying as an obstetrician in 1941. War service followed in the Burma campaign, where finding there was no great need for his speciality, he volunteered as an anaesthetist. His patients included a pet cocker spaniel and cage loads of mice for the Typhus research unit.

On return to England he went back to Thomas's as a registrar before moving to a "Hell Hole that was the General Hospital at Kingston-upon-Thames. As Senior Registrar he transformed the place and his name will

ever be associated with three areas of innovation. He invented the Doughty Gag for use in the removal of adenoids and Tonsils, secondly with welfare in mind, the introduction of the Intensive Care Unit. Finally, he introduced innovations in epidural analgesia for expectant mothers on request. He set up a special course at Kingston on the latter and students came from all around the world; it was booked up years in advance. He retired in 1980 to indulge his passion for classical music. Peggy, his wife died in 2008, after sharing a long and very happy marriage. Andrew was on numerous occasions the medical officer to the Beaumont group to Lourdes.

An Obituary was written in the Daily Telegraph 13th June 2013

John Walter Douglas Ewart, DL, CBE, 1924-2012 (42)

John was born in London and educated at Beaumont, a school which he loved and where he made lasting friendships. He played in the first XV and rowed in the VIII. He was still at school when war began but after initial training as a member of the school corps he joined The Blues as soon as he could, and found himself part of The Household Division fighting in Egypt, Italy and Germany. He kept a diary during this time and this forms a large part of the recent book “The 1st Household Cavalry 1943-44: In the Shadow of Monte Amaro” by Garry O’Connor (Editor; controversial biographer of Pope Benedict).

John’s father died before the end of the war and when discharged John’s first task was to restore the fortunes of the family business of trading in the Far East. He worked late into the night and at weekends as he had taken a job on the Money Market at the same time to provide an income.

In 1946 he met and married Valerie Hoghton with whom he shared his faith and a lifelong love of horses and they had a daughter, Lavinia. They both hunted with the Bicester and Warden Hill hounds (now the Bicester with Whaddon) for many years and lived first in Warwickshire and later in Northamptonshire.

Sailing was a new sport for both John and Valerie and it became a major part of their lives, first in the Swallow Class at Itchenor, and later in international competition in Dragons, Sigmas and various one-ton cup boats, the most successful of which was Golden Apple in which he was the overall winner of the Round the Island Race in 1975. He continued to race in the Solent in the Daring class into his 80's and was a member of all the Cowes yacht clubs including The Royal Yacht Squadron.

Meanwhile, his business life blossomed and he sold the family company continuing as Managing Director. This allowed him to buy the Northamptonshire farm which remains central to the lives of all the family.

The second part of John's business life consisted of his involvement with Carclo, an engineering company in the north of England. He bought into it and became Chairman and Managing Director through a period of considerable expansion including the takeover of the larger 'English Card'.

During this period he also served as a County Councillor in Northampton for 26 years and became leader of the Council and leader of the Association of County Councils. In addition he was a member of the Oxford Regional Health Authority and a Governor of Chenderit School. In 1977/78 he was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and was made a Deputy Lieutenant in 1993. He was awarded a CBE in 1995 and was made an Honorary Alderman of Northamptonshire County Council in 2012.

When John retired he bought land on Exmoor and spent a number of happy years hunting with the Devon and Somerset Staghounds and the Exmoor Foxhounds. He loved to entertain and his Exmoor weekends were legendary.

Valerie died in 1996, one month short of their 50th Wedding Anniversary which was a great sadness to John. However, he re-married Susie Jackson who survives him along with his daughter, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

He fought Lymphoma courageously for his last few years and died on 6th September 2012. A huge character who will be sorely missed. (Editor –I am grateful to his daughter Lavinia for this tribute).

Robert Ouseley (43)

Ludo de Vleeschauwer (43), - Robert was a good friend of my brother Yvo and spent his early years before the war in Italy. On leaving school he served in the RAFVR before returning to Rome at the end of hostilities He married and had a son who emigrated to Australia. In later years, Robert moved to Portugal and ran the subsidiary there of J Walter Thompson. When he retired, he stayed on with a new companion to breed cats at Cascais.

Aubrey (Beric) Raymond-Barker (49)



Beric came to Beaumont in 1944 from St Louis Banbury, a prep school owned by his father who was also the headmaster. Beric is remembered in those post War years as a good all round sportsman rowing in The VIII (see photo Spring 2013 page 7) and as one of the colours in the famed unbeaten XV of 1948.

He did a Post graduate education course at Bristol and made a career in teaching mainly in the State sector. There is an interesting article he wrote for the Catholic Herald in June 1973.

“The writer is a schoolmaster with experience in both private and state schools. He acknowledges the benefits he received from his own education at an independent school, but he has chosen to send his own children to the local primary and comprehensive schools.

This is his apologia : he outlines what his children have gained. First, they have gained by being at home. If you have what you hope is a good home, why send your children away from it for 36 weeks of the year? Children and parents benefit by being able to discuss matters as they arise, whether it is curiosity to be satisfied or a problem to be solved. With the children at home, much of their education takes place where it should do, at the family table. or in the kitchen helping to prepare the meal, or by the fire after family prayers. Children and parents get to know each other, with all their blemishes, and to accept each other as people. The children are part of the family community. But they are also part of the local community. They know everyone in the village. They know all the children; they know their homes, their parents. their way of life. They all go to the same primary school, and on to the same comprehensive school. As in the family, they accept each other. They know their strengths and weaknesses. They live together in the community as children in preparation for contributing to the community as adults. Sunday Mass is like Mass in most Catholic parishes. There seems to be every age and kind of person there. The children are an active part of the parish. serving Mass, taking their turn with others in their family for the readings, occasionally taking a leading part when there is a Children's Mass. There is no Catholic school in the area, so there are catechism classes and discussion groups. In the fullest possible way the children are members of the parish, in term and holidays. They develop a rugged independence. It is not the independence of being away from home, though they learn this. from Scout camps and from going to stay with friends. It is the independence of having to cope with the exigencies of ordinary life. like an adult who goes out to work each day. They have to cope with travelling to school and working with a heterogeneous group of children. often in conditions which are not ideal. This of course is the anxiety point for many parents. They work within a familiar framework. The teachers are as varied as those anywhere, including the dedicated and the gifted. The range of subjects is wider than in many independent schools. Classes are often too large, but this is a recognised problem, and teaching methods are increasingly geared to individual work and progress. They have to organise their life so that homework is done, whatever other attractions there may be. The self-discipline will stand them in good stead. So. in brief, the children have gained the freedom to develop as

individuals in their own community. The fact that they stand on their own merits without privilege is part of their education”.

Peter O'Connor (55) wrote;

“I got to know Beric through the RC Church in Bodmin since 1999 and was press ganged by him into the SVP as Treasurer. He was the most delightful character, always pausing for thought before answering your comments and questions with a succinct and often humourous reply. If there was a menial task to perform there was Beric with a collection plate in hand or making coffee at SVP meetings or manning a stall at some charity bazaar or other. He spoke little about himself and was more forthcoming when mentioning that his brother Paul held the all time record score of 168 not out on the cricket field. I know he kept chickens till he retired on his 80th birthday. Always at the service of others, expert at defusing minor conflicts, he was a man of peace who I was proud to have known”.

Editor; His brother **Paul (52)** will furnish a fuller obituary in due course. In the meantime he informs me that Beric kept all kinds of stock and apart from chickens there were cattle and geese. Beric also increased his score by 12 runs. It was in fact 156 against Douai in 1952.

Roger Venables (29)

Roger Evelyn Cavendish Venables was born in Varna Bulgaria in 1911, the son of the British Consul and a Bulgarian mother. His father died when he was only eight when on a posting to Singapore and Roger returned to England and prep school in Bude before coming onto Beaumont. He read philosophy, politics and economics at Christ Church Oxford where his tutor Lord Longford. He also met with Walter de la Mare and Gandhi. He was to teach at his old school – St Petroc’s in Cornwall before war service with the Intelligence Corps and was lucky to escape death in a bombing raid on the harbour at Bari, Italy. After the War he settled back in Cornwall with his mother in Lamorna Valley where he produced many of his collected poems about the county and its landscape; some of which has been set to music.

He lived for over forty years in his old miner’s cottage and looked after his mother until she died. He could often be seen out walking with his

shepherd's crook, long black cloak that together with his white beard, gave the impression of a character out of Tolkein; Roger was a very eccentric dresser but friendly to all and a marvellous conversationalist and larger than life personality. In his later years, he went blind having suffered from poor eyesight since childhood but he never complained of his affliction. In 1984, he was made a Bard of the Cornish Corsedh for his poetry and knowledge of folklore which he continued to write and recite up until his death. He never married – he had previously said – that world events had conspired against him finding a wife. He died at a nursing home at St Just, a month short of his 101st Birthday. .