

Winston R. Bartlett, Esq., Deputy Headmaster, 1933–71

Mr. W. R. BARTLETT, 1933 – 1971

The retirement of Mr. Bartlett from the school at the end of the Summer Term was something which had to come, yet could never be conceived as actually happening. For so long Mr. Bartlett has seemed as much a part of the School as the Clock Tower, and many generations of schoolboys could not imagine Old Swinford Hospital without him. Not only did each boy who passed through the school know him, but in an astonishing way Mr. Bartlett knew each boy. To say he was an integral part of the School is not enough, he became part of each boy's life and by his disinterested devotion to their welfare occupied a unique position in the life of the school.

His humanity and concern for others are probably the aspects of his character which are uppermost in our minds as he takes his leave of us. This must be, too, the impression which hundreds of boys will have carried through life. His management of many aspects of daily life in the school was designed to give each boy opportunity to make the best use of the resources available. To this end he gave meticulous care to all aspects of school planning, whether it was the arrangement of beds in the dormitories or the whole set up of the school timetable. So much of the administrative detail which enabled the school to run smoothly owed its effectiveness to Mr. Bartlett's foresight. His colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, will know how much their burdens were eased by his conscientiousness and be grateful for it.

Nobody who had been at the school would entertain the idea that this amazing competence would be linked to a rigid and formal personality. Mr. Bartlett's temperament was too well understood for that. The latest comer to the school would know by instinct to whom he should apply when, out of pocket money, an urgent need arose. On larger matters all would find a sympathetic listener and counsellor.

If the subject of conversation was sport then there was a ready bond which bridged any generation gap. His encyclopaedic knowledge of games, especially cricket, was a constant source of amazement. This was not mere book knowledge. For many years he was responsible for all the school games and continued as referee and umpire up to fairly recent times.

In the wider field of County cricket, especially the establishment of the schools County sides, Mr. Bartlett's name is well known in Worcestershire. There is little doubt that in this sphere he could have gone further, had he not always felt that his first concern was Old Swinford. The same feeling curtailed the use he made of his quite remarkable singing voice, which would certainly have brought him more than local fame.

There will be mention on other pages of the debt which the Old

Foleyans Association owe to their former President and indefatigable Committee Member. His guiding spirit and help was not confined to the Association; no individual old boy of whatever year would think his visit to the school complete without a talk with Mr. Bartlett.

The Old Boys of pre-war years would find the Hospital School changed almost out of recognition, but the unchanging feature would certainly be the Second Master's welcome and smile of recognition. Many of the changes here would owe more than a little to his intimate knowledge of our developing needs. Although always acutely sensible of the school's past achievements he would have reason to feel some pride in its present size and standing. We are sure that he will continue to follow the future of Old Swinford Hospital—in whose history of three hundred years few can have served it so well as Mr. Bartlett.

HEADMASTER.

We, the present boys of the School, would like to thank Mr. Bartlett for his contribution to our education.

He will be remembered as a helpful, generous and understanding Master whose concern was for his pupils. His duties were done with cheerfulness and his sense of humour was very evident in his leave-taking speech to us.

When he disapproved he said so bluntly but never lost an opportunity to give praise where it was due. His concern for our welfare took many practical forms and he encouraged us in social activities within and out of school.

His knowledge of the past history of the School and its old boys was impressive, his anecdotes entertaining, and his knowledge of cricket and many other subjects was very great.

We wish you a long and happy retirement, Sir.

But for the difference of one year, I might well have been able to say that I was a new boy along with Mr. Bartlett at Old Swinford Hospital, but then what is one year when a span of close on forty years is under consideration.

As with many aspects of life, one must experience boarding school life before one can justly comment about it; likewise without having lived through a period of time it is not easy to fully appreciate all the changes that have taken place during that period of time. In view of the six years spent as a pupil at Old Swinford Hospital, together with the close association with the school which I have maintained, I feel that I can comment with some degree of authority.

Without wishing to dwell too long in the past, it must firstly be realised that in 1934, when I arrived at O.S.H., the atmosphere and facilities in no way compared with the present day. Whilst we had little to complain about, the measure of understanding and the little extras were sadly lacking. Along with many other boys, from our early days at school, we soon became aware that "the little extras" in various forms, not only were instigated, but very often provided, by W. R. Bartlett at his own expense. When one starts to think back it soon became apparent that the little extras are far too numerous to record, but whether in the field of sport, leisure, Society activities, reading matter or an appreciation of serious music; many of us who experienced life at O.S.H. can look back and be truly thankful for the generosity of Mr. Bartlett.

It was, amongst us boys, a well established fact that even if Mr. Bartlett's eyes failed to penetrate the solid walls, his astute hearing plus his ever continuous surveillance, very nearly always enabled him to know exactly what was going on at any given time. While on occasions this could prove to be an embarrassment, it was with this knowledge that Mr. Bartlett was so able to understand our needs, and no doubt prompted him to make any changes he thought necessary.

Since leaving school, by virtue of my membership of the Old Foleyans' Association, I have continually experienced the depth of Mr. Bartlett's concern for the boys, for he has always been able to guide us how best our funds could be used, in some cases to enable a boy to complete his studies or to equip another about to embark on further studies elsewhere—we could do with seating around the school grounds . . . the library is in need of . . . it would be very nice if our funds could provide . . .

I would hate to give the impression that Mr. Bartlett only assisted us in disposing of our funds. Far from it, for never could an association have been endowed by such a person. The same encouragement which we enjoyed at school was continually given with all our activities and efforts. So often, when all the rest of us had forgotten, or neglected to do something, W.R.B. had taken care of it. Furthermore, the same generosity we had experienced while at school became even more in evidence when we commenced our fund-raising activities: raffle prizes — gifts for stalls — all sorts of things just appeared in addition to regular annual contributions to our 300 Fund and of more recent times an elegant chain of office for our President.

At our Annual Dinner earlier this year it was my privilege to present, on behalf of the Old Foleyans' Association, our retirement gift to Mr. Bartlett. Bearing in mind that the time we sent out our appeal coincided with many weeks of postal strike, and having been treasurer of the association when similar appeals had been made,

even I was astounded at the speed at which contributions were made, enabling us to reach the target, which in the first instance I thought was much too optimistic.

There can be no doubt that this was a positive indication of the respect that so many Old Boys have for Mr. Bartlett and was their way of saying may you enjoy a very well deserved retirement.

D. OAKLEY.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

September 1970 – July 1971

Senior Prefect: N. P. CARTER (Foster).

School Prefects: C. J. EDMUNDS (Foley), N. S. HUMPHRIES (Stone), J. L. TAYLOR (Foster).

Sub Prefects: P. HARVEY (Foley), P. HORTH (Dudley), S. A. BILLINGTON (Foster), P. R. KAY (Foley), J. L. MANDERS (Chance), G. D. P. MATERNA (Dudley), S. J. MESSENGER (Lyttelton), A. BLAKE (Dudley), R. EDWARDS (Dudley), A. G. GROSVENOR (Foster), P. R. HAGGETT (Lyttelton), R. D. JONES (Foster), I. G. KEIGHTLEY (Chance), P. E. LOUDOUN (Foley), C. C. McMANUS (Stone), G. RADFORD (Foley), R. J. C. SPOONER (Foley), G. E. THOMPSON (Lyttelton), C. T. WATTS (Stone).

Captain of Rugby Football: J. L. TAYLOR (Foster).
Captain of Association Football: J. L. TAYLOR (Foster).
Captain of Cricket: N. P. CARTER (Foster).

VALETE

DECEMBER 1970:

E. M. Baker, P. G. Brown, G. Coslett, S. J. Dowler, F. M. Henderson, R. A. Marshall, I. S. Warner.

MARCH 1971:

I. Berry, R. Binnion, L. M. Needham, N. H. B. Parkinson, D. A. Payne, R. J. Thompson.

JULY 1971:

G. Addis, N. H. Boaz, J. F. C. Bowen-Davies, T. Brettell, G. V. Brown, N. P. Carter, M. Castell, M. Clarke, A. W. Cooper, P. W. Cox, S. H. A. Davies, C. J. Edmunds, M. R. Edwards, A. C. Ellis, D. Farrow, P. S. Foreman, M. F. Franks, P. A. Gilbert, S. R. Gray, O. J. Griffiths, A. J. Hardy, I. F. Hardy, P. Harvey, A. R. Hitchman, P. Horth, N. S. Humphries, D. A. Jackson, M. C. Lea, J. L. Manders, N. C. Marshall, S. D. Martin, G. D. P. Materna, G. A. D. Menhard, S. J. Messenger, N. T. Moore, A. P. Morton, D. J. Napier, L. G. Ottewell, P. B. Partridge, G. S. Phillips, P. D. Quinsey, A. Rogers, N. A. Rogers, P. D. Scroggie, J. L. Spragg, S. J. Street, R. J. Tamkin, J. L. Taylor, R. Turley, S. K. Varley, J. Warner, A. T. B. Watson, C. M. Williams, J. S. M. Winks, T. J. Young.

SALVETE

SEPTEMBER 1970:

Boarders: G. Ashworth, D. P. L. Bathe, J. N. L. Bathe, P. Betts, J. Blackwell, A. M. Bonner, L. Chadwick, P. D. Darby, D. E. Fletcher, M. B. Franklin, M. W. Gittoes, Q. W. Grosvenor, C. P. Harbach, K. W. Helme, S. Hemsley, A. D. Hewett, K. A. Holden, J. A. Horth, M. J. Jackson, T. J. Knott, R. O. Lapthorne, A. M. Lewis, P. Lewis, G. S. Lloyd, D. Moore, R. M. Pegg, P. I. Postins, M. A. Powell, S. D. Powell, J. E. Roberts, K. R. Sankey, I. S. Scollay, M. Shaw, R. Skelding, N. R. Tansley, S. E. Thomas, J. S. Thomson, K. P. Toms, S. J. Waring, P. R. Watkins, A. Weaver, G. P. Wood.

Day Boys: J. R. T. Butler, D. M. Chance, C. D. de Lima, N. J. Dolan, M. R. Ford, R. Fox, N. Garrington, A. G. Hall, N. Hammond, A. Jennings, P. Jones, T. J. H. Mason, T. J. Myatt, B. S. Norgrove, T. Ralph, M. G. Richards, J. Skelding, M. Simpson, C. T. Smith, D. Taylor, N. H. Webb.

APRIL 1971:

Boarder: N. Darrell.

SPEECH DAY, 1970

(By courtesy of the County Express)

The difficulties facing boys who had the right entrance qualifications but could not get university places were outlined by the headmaster, Mr. L. W. Sheppard, at Oldswinford Hospital prize-giving 1970.

There were 48 "A" level passes last year and 17 boys got more than two A's, yet only six got university places. Eighty boys were now doing post-ordinary level studies and those capable of coping with two or three subjects at "A" level were well catered for.

"We have this problem in common with the other selective schools, that we have a number of boys studying for an examination which is not entirely suitable to them.

"While this problem is being dealt with at national level and alternative schemes are being worked out, it is creditable to our VI form masters here that they have devised their curriculum in such a way as to make it possible for boys with varying abilities and requirements to obtain evident benefit from this extra two years.

"But", said Mr. Sheppard, "this examination was originally intended for university entrance and only a small proportion, under the present system of competitive entry, reach the universities."

On the future development of the school, Mr. Sheppard said that it was concerned with the change from an 11–18 two-form entry school to a 13–18 three-form entry, with the probability of becoming all boarding. This plan was now with the Department of Education and Science having been passed by the governors and feoffees and the local education committee. "I wish I could add 'for the moment'," but it would be foolish optimism to suppose that we