

# Legacy..... Times Gone By

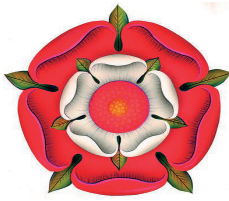
## Omnia Mutantur, Nihil Interit

### Westbrook Days

By: David Lyne-Gordon

Meanwhile back at OWS headquarters, the phone did stop ringing and the postman did not struggle to the door with sacks of mail! My first instalment of the Westbrook House School story obviously fell on deaf ears and blind eyes as only two people contacted the office with amazing comments/contributions to add more threads to the tapestry. The first was/is a teacher at the school who put together a piece on events at the school from 1968 to 2005, and the second was a pupil who was there from 1984-1991. I have received a lot of encouragement from work colleagues and relations, but contributions were sadly lacking. However, my own ongoing research is bearing fruit and the many of the questions posed in last month's episode have been largely answered.

I still do not know the fate of Athelstan and Feltonfleet Schools or who attended the Folkestone Trained Nurses' Institute, and still no word about Bicester-Ellenborough-Foster



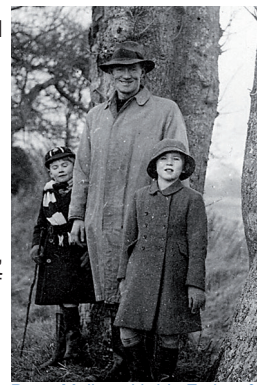
triangle. Group Captain Foster's World War 1 service came to light – he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment in September 1914, was

wounded on the Western Front and after recovering, transferred to the RFC.

Clues as to how Fozzie financed his purchase of the various buildings which make up Westbrook House emerged from a pile of correspondence found in a school lodging as did a number of letters between him, Charles Whitney, Richard Rottenbury and Tim Cobb about the "takeover" by Dover College in 1968. The 'Playroom' mystery remains, though new information suggests it was an old army hut before Beachborough School acquired it for their chapel, where it went after Westbrook Hall was built is still unknown.

A plethora of new leads has emerged – Captain Pugwash, Tony Hart, Sally Gunnell, Pope John Paul II, the Silverwings Trampoline Team, Winston Churchill, Captain Cook, Doncaster Racecourse, lady visitors driving Rolls Royces, the Princes Hotel and the Radnor Club. All these new lines of enquiry will take some tackling, but with your help, I can perhaps make more sense of their connection to the school and eventually publish the results under the title of this piece – Westbrook Days.

welcoming. Peter and I were seated at the front of several rows of seats in a section reserved for Old Westbrookians and there were several other sections for parents, other guests, the local press and of course the Property Matters' roving editor. Some of the older children humorously explained the origins of the school, its various name changes and its eventual rebirth as Westbrook House Prep School. Certificates were presented to pupils by Mr Howard and afterwards during a refreshment break we were taken in groups upstairs to view the renovations which were impressive and which had preserved some original features despite the head's "bring it into the 21st century" remit!



Peter Mellor with his Father & Sister 1952

### So, the questions this month are –

- If the school opened in 1947 and pupils stayed approximately five years each – where are all the Old Westbrookians?!
- Where did Professor Mallard learn his trade? Rumour has it he was a Royal Marine.
- Who was the mystery lady in the Rolls Royce who Fozzie used to go racing with?
- Who built the 'covered way'? And, which Folkestone company did all the minor building work and decorating?
- Fozzie's father, Robert John Foster, was awarded one of the first OBEs. What did he get it for?
- Where are the tiger skins bagged in India by Groupie during WW2 and which used to hang over the stairs?
- A school cap found recently in a cupboard belong to 'Flashman'. Is this the same lad whose family owned Flashman & Co in Sandgate Road?

If you would like more information about any of these questions or can provide the much-needed answers, please contact me by email

[officeoldwestbrookians@gmail.com](mailto:officeoldwestbrookians@gmail.com)

If you were a pupil of Westbrook House Preparatory School, Dover College Junior School (Westbrook House) or St Mary's Westbrook, please visit our website

[www.oldwestbrookians.cjb.net](http://www.oldwestbrookians.cjb.net)

and leave a message in our guestbook.

All contributions/messages will be acknowledged and all information provided and used in my forthcoming book 'Westbrook Days' will be accredited to you. Until next time, Adieu.

top left: Cpt Pugwash. Bottom left: Old school cap, bottom right: Hall foundations

On Friday 22nd September, I was invited along to the school for the Grand Opening of the Senior Department by Michael Howard, Roger De Haan and the Mayor of Folkestone. A slightly damp start did not deter me or my colleague Peter Mellor and the Westbrook Hall was warm and



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