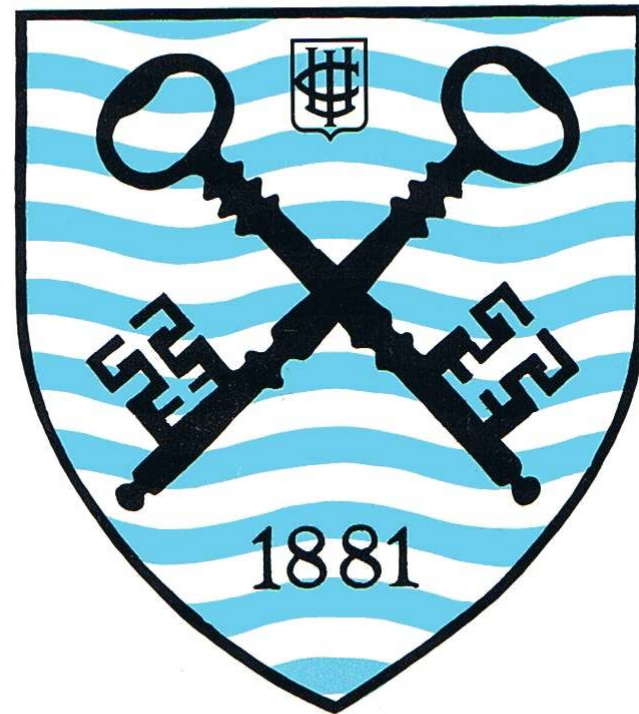


Old Windsor Working Men's Club



SOUVENIR CENTENARY PROGRAMME  
25th May to 31st May 1981



The association between Old Windsor Working Mens Club and Thomas Wethereds has been a long and fruitful one to us both.

We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating you in completing 100 years of service to your members, and we raise our glasses to wish the club and all its members every success for a very healthy and prosperous future.

The Brewery, Marlow  
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FOREWORD  
BY THE  
CLUB  
PRESIDENT

FRANK NICHOLAS



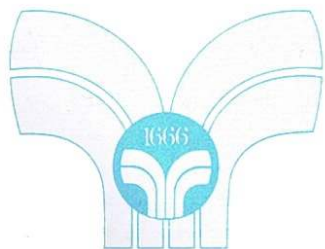
Dear Members,

On behalf of my fellow officers, committee members and all who have been involved in planning this gala week to commemorate our centenary, it gives me great pleasure to offer you, the Member, this booklet giving a brief outline of our achievements over the past 100 years, and I feel sure you will keep this book as a tribute to a very well run club. Wishing you all every success for the future.

---

Frank was born in London, came to live in Old Windsor in 1960, and joined the club that year. Frank is a holder of the Club and Institute Union Silver Badge and certificate.

TRUMAN



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THE  
CLUB  
CHAIRMAN

FRED STEVENS



Fred Stevens has been responsible as chairman of the club over the past eight years for keeping the committee on a sound footing, and his attendance at meetings is second to none. Fred was also building officer during our rebuilding programme, and his building knowledge was used to its full advantage during the builders' presence on site.

Fred was born in London, and lived in Old Windsor for many years before moving to Windsor. He served on the committee from 1960 as entertainment chairman and was elected chairman in 1972. He is also a holder of the Club and Institute Silver Badge and certificate.

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## THE CLUB SECRETARY

---

KEITH WATSON



Keith Watson has been secretary of the club since July 1961, when he took over from Alby Joel. Keith has been a keen club man since the age of sixteen and first served on the entertainments committee in 1959. One of the greatest achievements in his career as secretary was the opening of the new club building in July 1969, and after that, the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in May 1970.

---

Keith was born in Maidenhead, lived in Old Windsor up until September 1957 and is now a resident of Hayes, Middlesex. Keith is a holder of the Club and Institute Silver Badge and certificate.

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## OLD WINDSOR WORKING MENS CLUB

1881 to 1981

The first mention of a Working Mens Club in Old Windsor was recorded in the parish magazine during February 1881, and Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods had definitely agreed to let a desired piece of land for the purpose of an iron building to be erected as soon as possible, generously donated by Colonel Follet.

The first ever meeting of the club or institute, as it was sometimes known, was on 27th February 1881 to form a working committee, with Mr. Keer as secretary, and Mr. Bitmead as treasurer. Colonel Follet was unanimously elected president, and the vicar and F. Ricardo vice presidents, and twelve committee men made up out of the fifty members who had said they were willing to join.

In March 1881, the first ever annual general meeting was held and the drawing up of the rules was implemented; and the committee was listed as below.

### Committee

#### Senior Members

Mr. Christopher Sainty  
Mr. Alexander Sinclair  
Mr. James Willis  
Mr. James Gould  
Mr. William Hunt  
Mr. George Cocks

#### Junior Members

Mr. Walter Blake  
Mr. Richard Collins  
Mr. William Barker  
Mr. William Swabey  
Mr. John Williams  
Mr. Joseph Tindall

The name of the Reverend W. H. Rooper was added to the list of Vice Presidents.

### The Iron Room

#### May 1881

The Working Mens Institute was ready for use, and on 25th May 1881 the institute was officially opened by Lady Julia Follett in the presence of the officers and committee and members. The vicar of Old Windsor said prayers and wished every success to the project, and Colonel Follett said it had given him much pleasure to donate the building as he felt it would benefit the people of Old Windsor.

The "opening" ceremony was brought to a close with three cheers for Lady Julia and Colonel Follett, and the secretary and treasurer then proceeded to take the names and receive the contributions of the new members, some of whom remained to read the newspapers and magazines, and a Mr. Hunt supplied refreshments.

Some of the newspapers and magazines for the members to read were:- The Times, The Standard, The Daily Telegraph, The Daily News, The Graphic, The Windsor Express, The Illustrated London News, The Windsor Gazette, The Daily Chronicle, Punch Funny Folks, News Of The World, The Gardeners Chronicle, The Builder and Cassells Family Magazine.



#### May 1882

The club still continued to flourish, and the accounts for the year showed a profit of £9.00. Mr. Rumbold was the caretaker.

#### November 1883

On 22nd November 1883, a concert was held in the institute consisting of ventriloquism, mimicry and duets, and a recitation of "The Dream of Eugene Aram" by Mr. Freeman. The vicar presided, and the entertainment was brought to a close by the singing of God Save The Queen.

#### 1919

The club continued from strength to strength and a licence to sell intoxicating liquor was granted in 1919. Dr. A. P. Shaw and R. Gosling arranged to purchase a nissen hut from the army at Salisbury Plain and had it moved to Old Windsor. The hut was joined on to the main building.



#### 1920

A lending library was started with Mr. Franklin as librarian.

#### 1921

The club committee decided to join the club and institute union and purchase shares worth £1.00 in the club movement.

#### 1926

The Old Windsor Boxing Club held many boxing competitions and was well supported by the members.

#### 1938

Plans were drawn up for a new brick building.

#### 1939

With the outbreak of war, the new building never got started. The steward of the club

was Norman Butler on a wage of £2.00 a week.

#### 1941–1945

Many of the members were in the armed forces and the steward was Mr. W. Nicholls.

The club was used by many organisations during the war, as an overflow school for evacuee children, A.R.P. lectures, ante-natal clinic, British Legion, a catholic church on Sunday mornings, and later, a doctor's surgery. Mrs. Nicholls took over as stewardess.

After the war, the NAAFI organisation donated some money towards club funds. Many children's parties were held in the village to celebrate victory, and a firework display was held in the recreation ground. The fireworks were donated by Lupino Lane, who, at the time, was a member of the club.

#### 1956

Mr. A. G. Eymor took over as club steward. The floor of the hall was strengthened and a new floor installed.



1959 Left to right: M. King, treasurer; P. S. Cotterell, vice president; A. G. Eymor, steward; A. Blake, chairman; A. Joel, secretary; T. W. Allen, trustee.

#### 1959

The club seemed to be on the decline and Mr. W. E. Ellis, the club president, called a special meeting to ask members to rally round and decide what to do. A vote was taken and a new committee was formed, with younger committee members being elected to serve with the older generation. Volunteer painters and decorators from the committee and members gave the club a face lift and two sixpenny fruit machines were installed.

#### 1960

The committee sampled a new bitter – Anchor at 1/4d a pint. The men's bar was renovated and a new beer store was built. A telephone coin box was installed. Mr. Arthur Blake, an ex-chairman and village blacksmith passed away.

#### 1961

The concert hall was renovated and a new floor was installed in the lounge bar.

**1962**

A temporary bar and stock room was built onto the side of the concert hall, so a full bar service was provided for club dances and other functions.

**1963**

The committee proposed plans to be drawn up for a new brick building, and the four club breweries the club traded with were asked if they were interested in the project.

**1965**

A new crown lease was applied for, as the existing original lease had expired.

**1966**

Sir George Bellow was appointed building officer, and he submitted a sketch of the new club building. Mr. T. Allen Jnr. was appointed to draw up plans.

**1967**

Plans of the new club building were shown to the committee and an offer of help came from Messrs Thomas Wethered & Son of Marlow.

**1968**

The club, with its long association with the officers and committee of the Old Windsor Football Club, came to an agreement, and a temporary building was hired and erected adjacent to the Old Windsor Football Club pavilion in Queen's Close, which was ready for use during the month of August. The old club premises closed on Sunday 25th August 1968, and the temporary club was open to members on Wednesday 28th August. The footings were laid for the new building in St. Luke's Road.



The official opening Wednesday 1st October 1969. Back row left to right: B. G. W. Boyer, K. Watson, F. Stevens. Front row left to right: A. Buckingham, P. S. Cotterell, P. McCarten, S. D. Arnold.

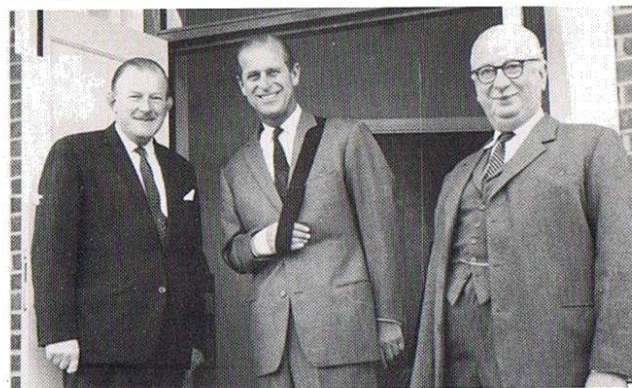
**1969**

On 12th July 1969, the new club building opened its doors to the members, and on Wednesday 1st October 1969, the club was officially opened by Mr. B. G. W. Boyer JP,

a director of Messrs. Thomas Wethered & Son. Many local dignitaries attended, and representatives of the firms who helped in the new building project.

**1970**

On 22nd May His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh made an informal visit to the club. He was welcomed to the club by the club president Major J. O. K. Purdy and Sir George Bellow, and then introduced to the officers and committee, and their wives who were seated in the lounge. After drinks, the Prince made his way around the club, meeting many of the members present.



**1971**

A colour TV set was installed for sports programmes, and bench seating was installed in the concert hall.

**1972**

An outing to the Whitbread brewery at Luton was arranged for committee members and bar staff.

The annual club firework display was held on the old allotments adjoining the recreation ground.

**1973**

The club was presented with a royal portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh from Windsor Castle.

**1974**

A new lift was installed to carry crates and bottles from the cellar to the bar.

A club emblem design competition was won by Roger Hill, and the design is the one used on the club ties and badges.

50 year membership awards were implemented by the committee, and presentations



took place to Messrs. G. Giles, H. Best, A. G. Eymor and at a later date, S. D. Arnold.

**1975**

Plans were drawn up for a joint car park scheme, and a new porchway on the main front door of the club.

**1976**

The new porchway was completed during May. The club president Mr. S. D. Arnold was presented with a gold watch for loyal service to the club.

**1977**

A Gun & Rifle section was started. The lounge was redecorated. A letter was received from Buckingham Palace on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen thanking the officers, committee and members for the loyal greetings and congratulations on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee Year. All the members' children were given a Silver Jubilee coin.

**1978**

A doorkeeper's office and cloakroom with bench seating was installed in the lounge, and new chairs installed to match the door.

**1979**

On 12th July 1979, the new club building was ten years old. A new bar suspended ceiling was installed and a new car park fence erected.

**1980**

A centenary committee was formed to organise events for the centenary of the club. three tables and bench seats were purchased and located in the front outside area of the club. A new bar footrest was installed.

**1981**

So we reach 25th May 1981, and we are 100 years old.



It is hoped that you will find this booklet useful and interesting, and a keepsake for years to come, because without you, the Member, it might never have taken place.

Best Wishes to Everyone  
and success for the future  
from  
The Officers & Committee

**Monday 25th May 1981**

Official opening ceremony by Major J.O.K. Purdey

Snooker tournament – start

Bank holiday band

---

**Tuesday 26th May 1981**

Centenary crib tournament

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**Wednesday 27th May 1981**

Centenary Old Tyme concert

Trumans

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**Thursday 28th May 1981**

Centenary darts competition

Married v Singles competition

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**Friday 29th May 1981**

Singalong

Whitbread

---

**Saturday 30th May 1981**

Show Night

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**Sunday 31st May 1981**

Centenary Bingo

All raffles – proceeds to a charity fund

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In Her Majesty Victoria's reign, in the year of eighty one,  
Colonel Follet donated some land, for the working man's rest or fun.  
Now the working men's club at Old Windsor has been in existence one hundred years,  
Many things have happened in that time, resulting in laughter or tears.  
The first concert to be held was in eighty three, for an audience of thirty two,  
A recitation by Mr. Freeman, a ventriloquist plus a singer or two.  
War years followed, four in all, before peace came again to the world.  
A new era in club life had begun, new plans to be unfurled.  
A licence was finally granted, for the service of spirits and beer,  
By then His Majesty George V was King, nineteen nineteen was the year.  
The club grew to greater strength, more men were to join the band,  
Of the Club and Institute Union to be the greatest in the land.  
Many years passed and war came again, this time for seven long years,  
Many members became part of our fighting force, this was the time for tears.  
Peace came in nineteen forty five, since then many years have passed,  
To bring us up to sixty nine, the building of a new club at last.  
A two storey building made of brick, the dream of members long ago.  
With a concert hall and sports room, a perfect place for all to go.  
In Her Majesty Elizabeth's reign in the year of eighty one,  
The centenary of the Working Man's Club in Old Windsor, let's have some fun.  
This is the time for laughter, but please remember how it all begun,  
And thank Colonel Follet for thinking of us, many years ago in eighty one.

Sylvia Watson

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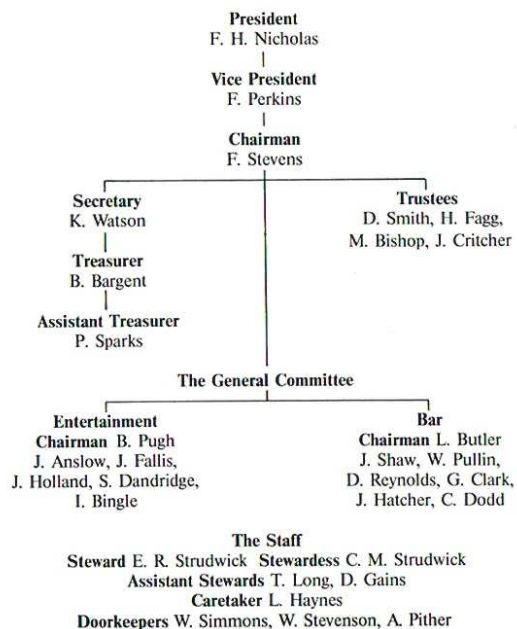
Best wishes to the Officers & Committee and Members  
on this Centenary Year and in the future.

**WHITBREAD**

wish all Members  
of the Club  
every success in the future



The Officers and Committee of the Club. Back row left to right: D. Smith (trustee), L. J. Hatcher, I. Bingle, L. Butler (bar chairman), Middle row: B. Pugh (entertainment chairman), J. Fallis, J. Holland, J. Critcher (trustee), G. Clark, C. Dodd, D. Reynolds, S. Dandridge, V. Bishop (Vice Chairman), W. Pullin, J. Shaw, P. Sparks. Front row: K. Watson (secretary), M. Bishop (trustee), F. Stevens (chairman), F. H. Nicholas (president), H. Fagg (trustee), B. Bargent (treasurer). Left inset: J. Anslow. Right inset: F. Perkins (vice president).



## PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CLUB FROM 1881 TO 1981

**Presidents**  
Colonel Follett  
Dr. A. P. Shaw  
W.E. Ellis  
Major J. O. K. Purdey  
S. D. Arnold  
F. H. Nicholas

**Vice Presidents**  
Colonel Howard Vyse  
W. H. Hooper  
F. Ricardo  
P. S. Cotterell  
Sir George Bellow  
G. A. Giles  
F. Perkins

**Trustees**  
W. P. Chapman  
J. Tindall  
A. A. White  
L. Holt  
T. W. Allen Snr.  
H. Fagg  
G. Giles  
D. Smith  
B. Bishop  
M. Bishop  
J. Critcher

**Chairmen**  
C. Sainty  
The Reverend Napier  
A. Molyneux  
A. Blake  
W. Watkins  
S. Arnold  
F. Stevens

**Treasurers**  
J. Bitmead  
H. Blake  
W. E. Ellis  
W. Bye  
M. King  
K. Watson  
S. D. Arnold  
E. Duncan  
B. Bargent

**Secretaries**  
G. Keer  
J. Bitmead  
W. E. Ellis  
C. Collins  
W. Andrews  
B. Freeman  
P. Thompson  
E. Harwood  
A. Joel  
K. Watson

**Stewards**  
B. Rumbold (Caretaker)  
W. Langton  
N. Butler  
W. Nichols  
Mrs. Nicholls  
R. Dearing  
G. Richards  
G. Maizie  
F. Major  
A. G. Eymor  
R. Meagher  
W. McCaffery (Assistant)  
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Strudwick  
T. Long (Assistant)

## RECREATIONAL SUB-SECTIONS OF THE CLUB

Activity	Team	Contact
Darts	Wednesday	S. Sparks
Darts	Thursday	J. Critcher
Darts	Ladies	
Snooker and Billiards	A	R. Matson
Snooker and Billiards	B	J. Eymor
Snooker and Billiards	C	J. Williams
Cribbage	A	S. Sparks
Cribbage	B	J. Hatcher Jnr.
Golf		Captain C. Lindop
Rifle		L. Butler
Sea Fishing		L. Jones



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. G. Eymor Esq.  
R. Musk

Not forgetting our ladies who have worked behind the scenes of many a club function, providing refreshments and catering, and also arranging charity concerts in aid of various charities.

Congratulations  
to  
The Old Windsor Working Mens Club  
Wishing you every success for the future

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## AUTOGRAPHS

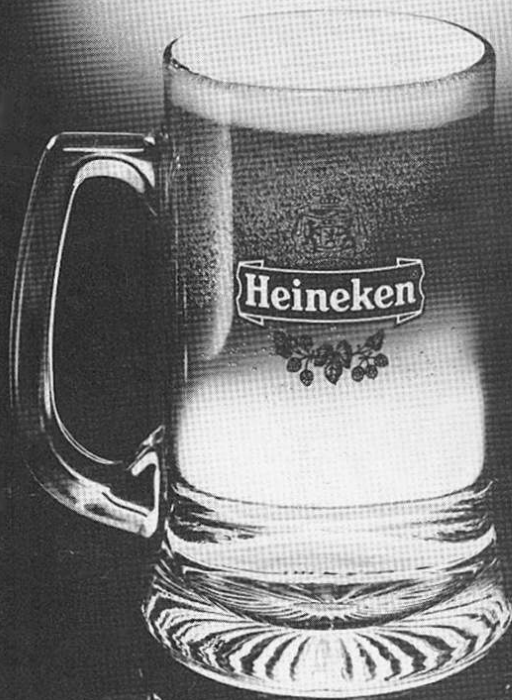
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Every effort has been made to give a true report and if any person has not been included in this programme, we sincerely apologise.  
The Committee

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other beers cannot reach.**

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100 Years



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Many thanks to Keith Watson for providing the original copy.