

Blues in Cape Town

Cape Town Blues recently spent a happy lunchtime and afternoon at the home of Michael and Andrea Dunn, on a spring Sunday when the weather was perfect for indoor chatting and exchange of ideas and news. **Geoffrey Corbin (ThA, 31-36)** doyen of Cape Town OBs was with us, although he had been unwell not long before. He said the first grace and was congratulated on having celebrated his 90th birthday shortly before. We learned for the first time of his two years as a POW, after being shot down in a Beaufighter off the Italian coast, during WW2. His internment in Germany was made much less painful by his fluency in German, ascribed by him to the excellent teaching of **Jack Massen (master, ca 1932-57)**. Geoff still participates in the Baptist Church, though less actively than before. With Esmé he is now in a retirement home, which they find comfortable, though "deadly dull". **Matthew Sharples (PeA, 95-97)** and his wife, Leanna will soon celebrate their first wedding anniversary. Matt is relishing his new employment as Youth Pastor in a church, a member of the New Frontiers Church Group. It is a very active community with seven Elders (Adult Pastors) of whom six work full time for the church. The church members are as varied as is possible in today's South Africa. Some live in shanty towns and others in typical, upper middle-class neighbourhoods. Challenges they pose are equally varied, including language, effects of poverty and familiarity, or not, with modern Western life. Since we all last met, Matt has climbed Kilaminjaro, with no ill effects apart from headache. After leaving South Africa, a year ago, he worked in the UK as a programmer to earn enough to get married and then returned to Cape Town for his real life - service to others. **Robin Dennison (ColB, 53-60)**, like very many business men world-wide, is still seeing the effects of the recent recession, but optimistically is hoping that in a year or so things will improve enough for him to retire. However he now has a new activity, mentoring those running small business enterprises, but with little or no previous business experience. Since BEE (black economic empowerment) is an important part of the South African government's social policy, this is likely to increase once he is retired. **Michael Dunn (BaA, 53-61)**, still is very active in aiding those with severe mental and physical disabilities by teaching them to ride horses and, apart from its pleasure, they also benefit greatly by achieving more self confidence and establishing a trusting relationship with the horse. This is especially important for the mentally challenged, who frequently have difficulty when interacting with humans. **Terrill Nicolay (née Middlebrook, 1s/6s 50-56)** continues to administer part of the local university's outreach programme, a Summer School, with universally acclaimed success. However in addition she teaches for the university's Centre for Open Learning, mostly in upgrading English language skills in the public and NGO sector, and as a volunteer in a primary school located in a very poor socio-economic area. **Diana Muzik (née Goodliffe, 1s/2s 48-56)** has moved to a retirement village, but is far from inactive, still working part time and moving well after interactions with the surgeons. She had a joyful aura about her the results of a recent birthday, the "51st", as she said. **Christine Stephenson (née Clemenson, 3s/ 5s 61-68)**, who was not able to join us, has had her year dominated by a National Junior Music Competition in which her pupils participated together with others from many other nations. Her pupils achieved moderate success. Much varied music was played, including compositions by her husband Alan. Further success for him was a first time recording of his music by an international label. **Elizabeth Allen (née Nettleship, 5s 76-83)** continues her researches at the local university in collaboration with the WHO, concentrating on safety of new drug treatments for malaria and other diseases currently ravaging Africa. She recently had a reunion with four contemporaries, all 5s, in Salisbury, Wilts and also saw her brothers, **Miles (MaA, 74-81)** and **James Nettleship (PeA, 79-86)**. **Leanna Laing (née Linnegar, 7s 75-82)** is still working part time with an architect, preparing presentations for clients, especially colouring them (the presentations). On her last visit to the UK a reunion was organised (in a Soho pub) with 8 contemporaries, some not seen since their schooldays. Also she is supervising an extension to her home (guest bedroom and children's play area) and painting the necessary furniture. All should be ready in two weeks. **Sinclair Wynchank (BaA, 48-57)**