



Back Row: Alistair Lyttle, Headmaster (1984) and Davidson Taylor Gordon (1957)
Front Row: Clive Smith (1957) and Richard Hardwick (1956)

Birmingham in 1948 from Baltimore, Maryland, where he had attended kindergarten.

The American connection was early established. His father, Dr Christie Wilson Gordon had obtained his PHD in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

He had a successful time at West House winning the Hulme and Pound Cups and captaining the Spartans.

He involved himself in carpentry, long distance swimming and mastering maths – thanks to D T Cary Field's innovative teaching scheme - but also attended elocution lessons – which at the time he found embarrassing but since has stood him in good stead – particularly when reading the lesson in Church.

From WHS, he returned North with a scholarship to Fettes College. His success at sport and other aspects of school life continued, including Head Cadet in the CCF and Pupil Editor of the Fettesian. Stumbling on the entrance exam to Fitzwilliam, he opted for law at Birmingham University and received his LLB degree in 1965 and his LLM in 1967.

While in Birmingham he, or he thinks more likely his father, came up with the idea for WHOBA. In hindsight, he considers it a “good idea”!

He continued his involvement in all sorts of sporting, cultural, legal and religious activities in Birmingham in the 1960s, including the Midland Old Fettesian Association, the Young Professionals Club and Priory Tennis Club.

Prior to returning to the Law Faculty, he worked as an orderly in the Queen Elizabeth Teaching Hospital, taught seven year olds in a primary school (resigning after four weeks to preserve his social life) and drove a grocery van.

In Spring of 1966 he studied Comparative Law in Luxembourg and in the Summer attended the Institute of World Affairs in Connecticut for a course on international relations. He visited several parts of the eastern seaboard and decided a period of study in the US was essential.

He was articled at Pinsent & Co., Solicitors, in Birmingham from 1967 to 1969 and was an assistant solicitor there for the following year, establishing his skills at what is usually now known as private client work. In 1970 he departed to the USA to obtain an LLM at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

In 1971 he married Hazel Jean Cameron McLaren (sister of Old Boy **JOHN (1963)**). He worked for a year and a half at Coudert Brothers in New York while his wife worked at New Rochelle Hospital where they lived.

They returned to the UK to spend 5½ years at Freshfields (which he regards as the high point of his legal career) reversing course in 1978 to return to NY to Coudert Brothers and then on to AEIBC (a banking subsidiary of American Express), establishing and managing trust companies in Cayman, the Bahamas and Guernsey.

In 1997, leaving the Bank he joined a boutique law firm which ultimately became 400 lawyer firm, Day Pitney, where he still works as Special Counsel.

Sadly Hazel died fifteen years ago leaving their four children, one of whom was born in Shipston on Stour village hospital (which had no maternity ward as it had been closed by his grand father Christie!). His fourth child was born in the US and is thus eligible to become President of the US.

Outside activities include active membership of Rye Presbyterian Church, local sporting programmes and six years on the Rye School Board of Education.

For exercise, he walks and spends an inordinate number of hours on golf courses in the hope that one day he will be regarded as a golfer.

He recalls a conversation which he had with Professor Jo Unger, a fearsome socratic Professor at Birmingham, who advised him, as an LLM student, that the most important aspect of attending the Faculty of Law for three years, as an Undergraduate, is the friends one makes in that time.

Davidson has opined that the same is true of the friends made at WHS.