

## **Laurence McDonald Leapman** - *personal profile*

I was HC around 1935, the Headmaster was Mr. Horsey. Have a few photographs from those days depicting my "best friend" Graham Dowson, spent weekends with him at his mothers big house in Chalkwell, (Westcliffe).

Lost contact with old friends from September 1939, other things interfered. Heard about him some 40 years ago, plump lad still recognisable from press pictures.

He rose to head RankXerox, was publicly dismissed by puritanical J Arthur Rank for Marital Infidelity, quite a scandal in the City.

In 90th year memory by flashes but noticed photograph showing my dormitory with high gothic windows to left of entrance, recall high ceiling, no electricity, gas lighting only operated by prefects with long pole.

There was no heating or hot water, all suffered from chilblains, treated by Matron, who also used wire combs over bowl of water for routine knit removal.

Sundays black "bum freezer" jacket and trousers with starched Eton Collar. Dark Blue Cap with inverted light blue cross in winter, straw boater in Summer with duo blue band.

Pre plastic the resin would melt in sun, when cooled glued to forehead for removal by Matron with hot water. Agony when school attending rehearsal day for RAF Display at Hendon.

If anybody interested contact me for reminiscing. My Mothers Brothers were at Harlow before me, name of Green.

**You can email me at [Laurence McDonald Leapman](#)**