

## Bangers & Mash in the Lady Chapel

Those present at supper:

Bryan Addison	Frere Family & Friends	David Hogg	Wraxall Biographer
Stephen Allen	Cambridgeshire Rowing Association	Duncan Holland	Head Coach – CUBC
& Irene Allen		Ken Howard	
Christine Ambrose Smith	Member – East Cambridgeshire D C	& Pam Howard	Member – Diamond44
& David Ambrose Smith		Matt Ibbotson	
Brian Ashton	Leader - East Cambridgeshire D C	John Ison	Steward – BRFS
& Dene Ashton		Frances Jenkins	Member – BRFS
Catherine Atkinson	Journalist – Ely Standard	Kris Jenkins	Merivale Family & Friends
Jane Atkinson	Isle of Ely R C	Miari Johnson	Merivale Family & Friends
Felicity Blake	King's School	Harriet Kemp	Hydro International
& John Blake		Rachel Knowles	Wordsworth Family & Friends
Rita Boswell	Archivist – Harrow School	John Marks	Merivale Family & Friends
Nick Bradley	The Boat Race Company	Maureen Marshall	Co-Author 'Battle of the Blues'
& Mary Bradley		Christian Merivale	Glenalmond College
Ron Bradley	City of Ely Mayor	Jane Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Kathy Bradley	City of Ely Mayoress	John Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Victor Bridges	Merivale Cox	Jocelyn Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Linda Brereton	King's School	Amyas Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Derek Brown	Consuta Trust	Thomas Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
& Sandra Brown		Philippa Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Fred Brown	Chairman – East Cambridgeshire D C	Nicola Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
& Vivien Brown		Stephen Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Andrew Burge	Steward – BRFS	William Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Will Burton	City of Ely Perspective	Finola Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
& Heather Burton		Ann Merivale	Merivale Family & Friends
Frances Campbell-Colquhoun	Merivale Family & Friends	Peter Nissen	Merivale Family & Friends
Toby Campbell-Colquhoun	Merivale Family & Friends	Stephanie Norris	CUBC – Wartime Blue 1945
Very Rev Dr Michael Chandler	Dean of Ely Cathedral	Shirley Overall	Member – Isle of Ely R C
& Janet Chandler		Terry Overall	Member – City of Ely Council
Gordon Chesterman	Local Steam Boat Enthusiast	Jim Paice MP	Chairman – Diamond44
& Dee Chesterman		& Ava Paice	South East Cambridgeshire
Jo Cotgrove	Wordsworth Cox	Vicky Parry	
Maria Cowell	Member – BRFS	David Pearson	Vice Chair – Isle of Ely R C
James Crowden CVO	CUBC Blue 1951/52	Paul Pearson	Merivale Family & Friends
Edward Curtis	Merivale Family & Friends	Alice Pearson	Merivale Family & Friends
Jerry Dale	OUBC Blue 1969/70/71	Ian Phillipps	Merivale Family & Friends
Debbie Davies	Editor – Ely Standard	Derek Pickersgill	CUBC – Wartime Blue 1944
Andy Dicks	Reprographics Dept – ECDC	& Angela Pickersgill	Chairman – Isle of Ely R C
& Linda Dicks		Michael Powell	
Mike Dixon	Deputy Mayor - City of Cambridge	Wendy Powell	Sponsor – Diamond44
& Anne Dixon		Dick Pryce-Jones	Sponsor – Diamond44
Alexandra van Duivenbode	Merivale Family & Friends	& Reine Pryce-Jones	Executive Secretary – CUBC
Bernard van Duivenbode	Merivale Family & Friends	Rosemary Rallison	
Ben Duncan	The Boat Race Company	Cathy Rallison	Merivale Family & Friends
& Shirley Duncan		John Rallison	Merivale Family & Friends
Bill Ebdon	Merivale Family & Friends	Philip Rallison	Merivale Family & Friends
June Ebdon	Merivale Family & Friends	Ella Rands	Isle of Ely R C
Philip Eden	Chairman – City of Ely Perspective	Peter Rawlings	Hydro International
& Sue Eden		Sue Thompson	President – Rotary Club of Ely
Sue Freestone	Principle – King's School	& Mike Thompson	
& Rupert Freestone		Becky Tilbrook	Merivale Family & Friends
Sarah Frere	Frere Family & Friends	Lynne Turner	Member – BRFS
Jeremy Friend-Smith	Member – East Cambridgeshire D C	& Graham Turner	
Sheila Friend-Smith	Deputy Mayor – City of Ely	Andrew Turton	Isle of Ely R C
Stuart Green	Member - Diamond44	John Warburton	Merivale Family & Friends
& Rosemary Green		Jack Waterfall	Chairman – BRFS
Alan Hampton	President – Hereward Rotary Club	& Christine Waterfall	
Christopher Hancock	Merivale Family & Friends	Mary Waterfall	Member – BRFS
Suzie Hancock	Merivale Family & Friends	Nick Waterfall	Steward – BRFS
James Hanson	Head of Rowing – Harrow School	Anna Waterfall	Photographer – BRFS
& Jenny Hanson		Martin Whitworth	CUBC Wartime Blue 1944/45
Tracey Harding	Events Officer - ECDC	& Betty Whitworth	
& Mark Harding		Mark Wilkinson	King's School
Right Rev Dr Michael Hare-Duke	Retired Bishop of St Andrew's	Gordon Woods	Warden – Glenalmond College
Gary Hartwig	Mayor's Guest	& Emma Woods	
Lorraine Hartwig	Mayor's Guest	Jeremy Wordsworth	Wordsworth Family & Friends
Avril Hayter-Smith	City of Ely Town Crier	Elizabeth Wordsworth	Wordsworth Family & Friends
Graham Hayter-Smith	Town Crier's Bell Minder	Matthew Wordsworth	Wordsworth Family & Friends
Richard Hobbs	Member – City of Ely Council		
& Pat Hobbs			



Charles & Judith Merivale's memorial in Ely Cathedral



Wordsworth's bust in Glenalmond College



The Merivale Family memorial in Harrow School Chapel



## The Boat Race Founders



Charles Wordsworth



Charles Merivale

## The Chronicle of a 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008



### Sponsors

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### Supporters

Cllr & Mrs R. Bradney; Cambridge Rowing Association; Cambridge University Boat Club; Very Rev Dr Michael Chandler; Consuta Trust; Coveney Village; Mr G. Cross; Mr M. Day; Diamond44 Community Group; Dorney Lake Trust; Mr P. Eden; East Cambridgeshire D.C.; Ely Cathedral; Ely Museum; Glenalmond College; Mr & Mrs G. Godson; Right Rev Dr Michael Hare-Duke; Harrow School; Mr & Mrs G. Hayter-Smith; Isle of Ely Rowing Club; Mr & Mrs K. James; King's School; March Veteran & Vintage Cycle Club; Marine Film Services Ltd; Mr P. North; Oxford University Boat Club; Paxton Lakes Sailing Club; Peacock's Tearoom; Right Rev Dr Anthony Russell; Stretham Old Engine.

### Thank you

The society would like to thank all their sponsors and supporters who enabled this event to become such a successful reality.

## Our Rowing Heritage

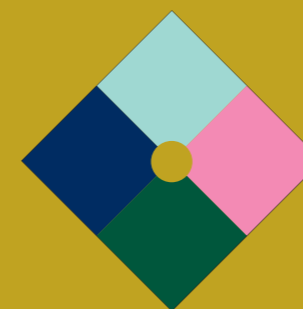
The focus of the University Boat Clubs is their next race rather than their heritage. Similarly, for the Church, celebrating their own comes very low on the list of priorities. It is therefore easy to see why Merivale's and Wordsworth's contribution to starting what is now a national institution could so easily be forgotten.

For many years, the Ely Ouse has been CUBC's main training water and, in 1944, it was the scene of the only Boat Race not rowed on the Thames. From 2001, this

wartime contest was the subject of keen local research which not only uncovered the names of the otherwise forgotten oarsmen but also highlighted the role of Merivale and Wordsworth in founding the race. A consequence of this detective work was that, in 2004, we reunited the surviving oarsmen sixty years on to celebrate their race. Furthermore, in that same year, when the 150th, peacetime race was contested on the Tideway, we ensured that the two founders were remembered in both Ely and Perth.



Terry Overall – Chairman  
Diamond44 Community Group



The Boat Race Founders Society

# Merivales Triumph in First Rowing Match with Wordsworths

~ Umpire's Narrative of Events ~

An ominous sky and a blustery, strong wind formed the backdrop to the busy scene on the Ely waterfront as Mr. Matthew Wordsworth and Mr. Toby Campbell-Colquhoun called the outcome of the toss of an 1829 farthing. The significance of the result - Wordsworth on the Ely and Merivale on the Stuntney stations – although not evident at the time, would be crucial given the weather conditions that later revealed themselves on the actual course.


One by one, the coxes invited the crew members to take their places in the boats and faces paled visibly at the prospect of the titanic struggle ahead. The first boat to leave was the red and white craft of the Merivales and this rapidly disappeared down river helped by a strong tailwind. Meanwhile, a delay occurred in the Wordsworth boat which, if the Umpire's eyesight is to be believed, was caused by some of the crew seating themselves facing the bow and subsequently having to be coaxed into the correct orientation. The crew members having eventually composed themselves, the boat was cast off and it too headed down to the start. At this juncture it is important to stress that neither crew had rowed in gigs before and many of the rowers were strangers to one another. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the most assiduous use was made of the opportunity for practice afforded by the paddle downstream. Happily, all showed the flexibility and skill of experienced oars and the confidence and cohesion of both crews improved noticeably with every stroke.

In spite of the difficult conditions, the boats were turned at a point downstream of Cuckoo Island without mishap. The crews now came under the orders of the starter, Mr. Pryce-Jones, who, in the manner of a border collie rounding up his charges, skillfully ensured that both boats came up to the start line level. In the time-honoured fashion he asked them once if they were ready and, on receiving no reply, his beautifully clear and well-modulated "Go" rang out over the water. In a trice the Merivale cox, Mr. Bridges, steered for the shelter of the Stuntney bank. This left the Wordsworth cox, Miss Cotgrove, in midstream and at the mercy of a vicious wind fine on the port bow. In spite of their power and skill, her crew could do little to remedy the advantage gained by the opposition. As both crews battled the elements and each other they were cheered on their way by supporters from both families and a goodly number of the population of the adjacent countryside arranged on the riverside. The race presented a glorious spectacle as both crews strove gallantly to the end but it was the red and white boat that crossed the line first. In victory the Merivale crew were very civil to their opponents and gave them three rousing cheers. These were returned in a hearty manner by a Wordsworth crew which appeared not much cast down and had an air of patrician contempt for the particular vicissitudes which the hand of fate had dealt them on this occasion.



After due consultation with the Finish Judge, Mr. Friend-Smith, and in the absence of any breaches of the race rules, the Umpire declared the Merivale boat to have won by two and one half lengths.

The race appeared to have had no effect on the crews beyond the fatigue of the minute and once back at the landing stage they were soon compensating for such abstinence as had been practised prior to the race by the enjoyment of goodly amounts of drink and victuals at the Cutter Inn. During an interlude in the refreshments, the retired Bishop of St. Andrews, the Rt. Rev. Michael Hare Duke DD, presented certificates to both crews and the officials.

 Derek Pickersgill – Chairman  
Isle of Ely Rowing Club



## RACE CARD

### Merivale Crew – Cambridge Gig

Colour – Lady Margaret Red

Cox	Victor Bridges	IoERC
Str	Andrew Turton	IoERC
7	Andy Nicol	Simoco
6	Toby Campbell-Colquhoun	Merivale
5	Josephine Boorman	Merivale
4	Ed Curtis	Merivale
3	Justyna Matwiejczyk	Simoco
2	Elspeth Nicol	Simoco
Bow	John Rallison	Merivale

### Wordsworth Crew – Oxford Gig

Colour – Balliol Green

Cox	Jo Cotgrove	IoERC
Str	Mark Goddard	IoERC
7	Trevor Littlewood	IoERC
6	Matthew Wordsworth	Wordsworth
5	Bill Key	CRA
4	Melanie Telford	Simoco
3	Harriet Kemp	Wordsworth
2	James Tipping	IoERC
Bow	Dan Jeffries	IoERC

Substitute: Stephen Merivale Merivale

### Race Officials

Umpire:	Derek Pickersgill	BRFS
Starter:	Dick Pryce-Jones	CUBC
Starter's Launch:	Steve West	Paxton Lakes SC
Finish Judge:	Jeremy Friend-Smith	OU
Boatman:	Richard Carless	Dorney Lake

**154<sup>th</sup> University Boat Race Result**  
**Contested at 5.15pm on Saturday 29th March 2008**  
**Putney to Mortlake, River Thames, London**  
**Winner OXFORD by six lengths in 20 min 53 sec**  
 Slowest time since 1947 in appalling rowing conditions

Cumulative series tally:  
 Oxford 74 wins; Cambridge 79 wins; 1 dead-heat in 1877.




Commemorative Tablet in Jubilee Gardens, Ely.  
 L-R John Merivale, Jeremy Wordsworth and Christian Merivale.

### An occasion to remember.....

The Boat Race Founders Society was very pleased that so many of the Merivale family were able to participate in the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of Charles Merivale's birth. The Wordsworths were thinner on the ground, but the quality of those attending more than made up for the quantity.

It was good to welcome you all to the local communities of Ely and Cambridgeshire, and we hope we helped you re-establish some historic family links with Harrow School, the University Boat Clubs, Ely Cathedral, Glenalmond College and St Ninian's Cathedral.

From time to time I am sure we will find good reasons to meet again, and I urge our younger members to plan ahead for another memorable party on the 10th June 2029, at a venue of their choosing.

 Jack Waterfall – Chairman  
 Boat Race Founders Society



The wreath placed on Charles & Judith Merivale's grave, Beech Lane Cemetery, Ely, on Sunday 9th March 2008.

Portraits by kind permission of Rev Jeremy Wordsworth and Mrs Alexandra van Duivenbode (née Merivale)  
 \*Photographs provided by Glenalmond College; Harrow School; Anna Waterfall; Jack Waterfall and Stephen West\*.