

WILLIAM GREENFIELD LACK (K58-63)

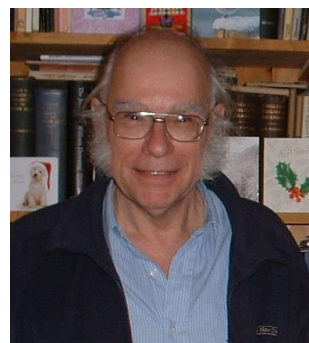
He was born on 13 April 1945 and says he reasonably enjoyed his time at the College but probably didn't do enough work! He represented the college at hockey and cricket, being Secretary of cricket in his last year.

After leaving the College he had a gap year, working in light engineering, where he learnt basic engineering skills and lost half a finger in a milling machine. He read mathematics at the University of East Anglia from 1964 to 1967 and gained a BSc. The university was then in its infancy, with 400 students living in digs and taught in prefabs. This was the first year that maths was offered and among the other 26 students was his future wife, Jenny, who had joined the brass rubbing club, a decision which had future consequences.

After graduating, William joined a small geophysical company in Shropshire and travelled in Eire, the UK, France and Belgium for 11 years, prospecting for lead, zinc, iron ore and china clay. Jenny and William married and when their two daughters were born, it was William, now self-employed, who became a full-time dad. Thirty years ago this was a brave career choice but it was one which he never regretted.

In 1977 a chance meeting with Dr Keith Cameron, who ran the Monumental Brass Society's repair workshop in Cambridge, resulted in his unofficial apprenticeship in brass conservation. He is now the only specialist monumental brass conservator in the UK and has repaired 850 brasses from all over the country and is well on the way to his target of 1000 before he retires.

He has also been writing about monumental brasses, notably collaborating with Martin Stuchfield and Philip Whittemore in the continuing *County Series*. These ground-breaking volumes describe and illustrate the brasses of each county. Starting with *The Monumental Brasses of Bedfordshire* published in 1992, the series is working alphabetically through the historic counties and has published sixteen counties to date. The project has grown inexorably and the series thus far occupies about sixteen inches of shelf space! *The Monumental Brasses of Hertfordshire* will be published in 2010. The picture shows William in 2002 with the then Bishop of Durham and co-author Martin Stuchfield, At the press launch of the Durham county book.



In the picture on the left, William is photographed in front of the newly conserved Foxe brass at Ludford, Shropshire

To the right he is photographed with his 2 brother, Geoffrey (middle) and Donald (right) who all attended the College, with William's wife Jenny.



Publications:

William Lack, 'Repairs to Brasses 1979-81' through to 'Conservation of Brasses, 2006-07', Twenty-three papers describing the conservation of brasses from 1978 to 2007, published in the *Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society*, XIII-XVII (1983-2008, continuing).

William Lack, H. Martin Stuchfield and Philip Whittemore (shown l to r)

The Monumental Brasses of Bedfordshire (London, 1992)
Berkshire (London, 1993)
Buckinghamshire (London, 1994)
Cambridgeshire (London, 1995)
Cheshire (London, 1996)
Cornwall (London, 1997)
Cumberland and Westmorland (London, 1998)
Derbyshire (London, 1999)
Devonshire (London, 2000)
Dorsetshire (London, 2001)
County Durham (London, 2002)
Essex (London, 2003)
Gloucestershire (London, 2005)
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (Stratford St. Mary, 2007)
Herefordsire (Stratford St. Mary, 2008)
Hertfordshire (Straford St. Mary, 2010)



William Lack, Nigel Saul and Philip Whittemore, *The Monumental Brasses in St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham, Kent* (London, 1998).

William Lack and Philip Whittemore (eds.), *A Series of Monumental Brasses, Indents and Incised Slabs from the 13th to the 20th Century*, I, 2000-4, II, 2005-9, continuing.

He became Hon. Bulletin Editor, with *Bulletin* 113 (January 2010) of the Monumental Brass Society. He was responsible for a total of twenty-nine issues during which period many significant advances and improvements were implemented. He also prepared thirty-two reports on conservation for the *Transactions* and was responsible for conserving more than 1,000 brasses during this period.

He died on 30 May 2019 aged 74 and a memorial service was held on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at St. Anne's Church, Lea Cross Bridge, Shrewsbury.