

# Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 97

February 2010

## *Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter*



## **LIST OF CONTENTS**

### **NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- Officers and Committee Members
- Annual Meeting, Football Match and Dinner 2009
- Cricket Match
- From the Committee Room
- Archivist's Corner
- Items for Sale
- Where Are They Now?

### **NEWS OF THE SCHOOL**

- Head Teacher On The Move
- The Future of the School
- Business and Enterprise Specialist Status
- Exam Results
- Visit to Conference in Taiwan
- Junior Prizegiving
- Remembrance Day Event
- Lorry Grant
- Holocaust Visit
- An Exciting Idea
- Mr Brian Haines
- Concerts
- Friends of the School

### **NEWS OF OLD BOYS**

- Obituaries
- Still Living and Learning
- Are you there?

## **NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2009-2010**

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Mike Palmer (to retire 2010)  
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Maurice Smith (to retire 2012)  
Roger Gabriel (to retire 2012)

AUDITOR: Neil Beverton

HEAD TEACHER: Sally Lees

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES: Francoise Lloyd  
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## **ANNUAL MEETING, FOOTBALL MATCH AND DINNER 2009**

At the age of 29, barrister Antony Hook (1991-98) was elected as the association's youngest ever President. He succeeded insurance broker John Graeme who was completing his busy two years in office. Antony is a former Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal. The ages of those attending the meeting ranged from those in the 80s to the 20s.

This year's football match took place in hot, sweaty weather which would have been more appropriate for the cricket fixture. Despite these tiring conditions, the game proved to be an entertaining one with the Old Boys overcoming the concession of an early goal to win 2-1 and so retain the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup.

The Old Boys were represented by Joffy Towe, Steve Marsh, Neil Castle, Paul Castle, Ryan Doel, Simon Gretton, Jamie Sadler, Steve Law, Paul Henwood, Luke Cochrane, Ryan Cochrane, John Elleder, Shane Golden and Alex Baker.

The annual dinner was attended by more than 70 guests, when the new President, on behalf of the association, presented a cheque for £4,631 to headteacher Mrs Sally Lees for repairs to the school's Steinbeck grand piano and to the school organ. In his presidential address Mr Hook spoke of members' unity of warm memories for the school which, he said, had given him "dreams and visions."

Headteacher Mrs Lees, referring to the proposed relocation of the school to Whitfield, said they did not know if and when it would take place because of the nation's financial crisis and possible change of government.

## **CRICKET MATCH**

With the artificial wicket at the school fully operational, it was decided to restore the Old Boys' match to the school fixture list. A 30 overs per side evening match was therefore arranged and proved so popular that each side was able to field 12 players and a competitive game was won by the Old Boys by seven wickets.

The Old Boys' team consisted of Clive Towe, Mike Shelvey, John Castle, Henry Haste, Tom Bird, Dale King, Richie Hulks, Richie Ferrall, Ian Pascall, John Sheather, Toby Kember and Steve King, with John Shepherd acting as umpire.

With the success of this fixture it has been decided to make this year's match on Friday 25 June a 2.30pm start. Old Boys wishing to participate should contact Mick Palmer.

## **FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM**

Our new President Antony Hook joined us for our committee meeting in November when we agreed to donate £550 to the School and pledged a further £500 for future projects.

One of the main issues discussed was the annual re-union dinner and, it was decided, that in 2010 there would be a change. Instead of holding an evening dinner there would be a buffet lunch at the school, after the association's annual general meeting and starting in time (around 1.15pm) for the annual Old Boys versus School football match in the afternoon. This will be an experiment so test the success of the idea.

One possibility is to alternate, each year, between an evening dinner and a lunch time event. Now all we have to do is to find an organiser after Maurice Smith has decided to give the task a rest after so many years of successfully running the event.

One possibility is that those attending the luncheon, on 25 September in 2010, will have the opportunity of a guided tour of the school building to see the changes that have taken place.

The school's business manager Helen Simmonds attended the meeting with a "shopping list" that she hoped the association could help to finance. Helen was accompanied by headteacher Sally Lees. After some discussion it was agreed to donate £400 towards the cost of a visualiser (a sort of updated overhead projector) and £150 covering the cost of a series of aerial photographs of the school building. The ownership of the DVDs of the shots remains with the School and it was suggested copies of the photographs could be sold in aid of school funds.

There was also a request from Mrs Lees for a donation towards the cost of a new flagpole for the school tower and for the renewal of the four-year-old school flag. It was agreed to pledge £500 towards these two items when the cost of the new flagpole was known. The renewed flag was expected to cost around £500.

## ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings. It is pleasing to report that archive material continues to pour into the OPA collection. One item that can be shared easily with members is yet another DVD, as recorded below. Mrs Dorothy Mannall has created a DVD which covers some School activities during the time her son David (1991-98) was at the School. These include a Carol Service of 1993, Junior Prize Giving in 1992 and 1993, Middle School Prize Giving in 1995 and 1996, and Timothy Courtney (1991-98) on the television. Mrs Mannall has agreed to us making copies of the DVD and any profits going into the OPA funds to support the School. Also donated were Prize Giving Programmes for the years 1992 to 1996.

Derek R Haines, son of the late Raymond William Stephen (1932-39), sent a splendid collection of his father's school memorabilia. These included several Pharos magazines; University of London General School Examination papers of 1937 and Higher School Examination papers of 1939; his School reports of 1932-39; seven rather academic school prizes in the form of embossed books; a Maxton House relay certificate of July 1938; a School boater in excellent condition complete with ribbon and badge; and an autograph album. Derek's father was certainly a very clever fellow. The album contains autographs of both staff and pupils and is charmingly illustrated. It even features a self-portrait by art teacher Charles Rowlands (1932-65) sporting a bowler and pipe.

Astor (nee Maxton) House man Roger Hurst (1956-61) has donated a 1956 school panoramic photograph, an Astor House blazer badge (red background) and a 17 December 1956 Carol Concert programme. Roger says the front illustration was probably generated from a linocut, which was one of the art-forms of his period, created by a teacher. The style of the surround to the illustration of the School organ reminds me of the Memorial Book to those lost in WWII, so it would seem we have another example of the creativity of Charles Rowlands.

Roy Naylor, a brother-in-law of the late Roland Boakes (1934-36), emailed a general enquiry about Roland's life at the School. Roy informs us that Roland died on night exercise with HMS Tracker 26 August 1943 in Scotland as recorded on the Fleet Air Arm Memorial, Lee-on-Solent. He had married on 01 May 1942. We were able to tell Roy that my fellow archivist Arthur Tolputt (1934-40) remembers Roland. It seems that in those by-gone days teachers, such as woodwork teacher Alec Coveney (1934-70), might improvise in administering on-the-spot punishment and he used piece of dowel as a

substitute cane but Arthur tells us Roland took his punishment very well.

Staying in the war-time period, following our annual reunion meeting earlier in the year fellow ex-GPO/BT engineer Charles Hutchins (1936-41) sent me these memories of a war-time experience.

"I am writing to relate the incident that occurred on Dover Priory Station I mentioned at our re-union last Tuesday.

It happened a week or so before the school was evacuated to Ebbw Vale in 1940. There were a number of us from the school waiting for our train home on the island between platforms 2 and 3 of Dover Priory Station, some of us going to Deal or Walmer and others to Shepherdswell or Elvington. Also there were some French soldiers in smart khaki uniform, very friendly and giving us French newspapers, some even giving us the badges they wore. We then realised that they were from the Maginot Line, for the badges were inscribed "On Ne Passe Pas", but we knew that "They" had passed: the German forces having out-flanked the Maginot Line by invading Belgium. So the friendly Frenchmen were the evacuees that we were soon to become! I wonder if any of the boys there that day still have that badge.

Some time later my mother told me about a meeting of the Mothers Union of St Leonard's Church, Deal. The Rector's wife, Mrs Bowser, told the meeting that earlier in the week she had answered a knock on the door of the Rectory, to find a filthy-looking stranger on the doorstep. But it wasn't a stranger; she was unable to recognise her son standing there, arriving home from the beach at Dunkirk. My mind went back to those smartly uniformed Frenchmen on Dover Priory Station!"

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

The new item on offer is the DVD *Prize Giving One*, which has been described above. The cost is £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the same purchasing arrangements as described below.

The excellent response to the goodies on offer continues. Unfortunately Old Pharosians can no longer buy a 1905-2005 centenary tie from the School. However, an OP maroon tie can be obtained by sending a cheque for £6, payable to "DGSB", to the School. This includes the cost of package & posting. The hardback *Fifty Years on 1931-1981* history of the School have all been sold but a computer version can be bought on CD. The cost is £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the same purchasing arrangements as above.



There are still plenty of copies of the booklet *The Dover County School 1905 to 1931* at a cost of £3 including p&p.

There are still a few tape video versions of *The School on the Hill* film, made in 1965, available from the School at the cost of £10 including p&p. The same purchasing arrangements apply. In an attempt to “move with the times” *The School on the Hill* is also offered on DVD at the same cost. My attempts to produce a “running sheet” of the film have made some small progress identifying the stars featured but there are still many people to be named. If anyone would like a copy of the running-sheet, a self-addressed stamped A4 envelope, sent to me, will secure a copy (even better would be an email address to which it could be sent). Any help with the naming of people would be greatly appreciated.

The *Film Clips One* DVD, featuring films made by the School Cine Club during the 1960s, is still available at the cost is £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the same purchasing arrangements as described above.

The *Film Clips Two* DVD features three monochrome 8mm silent films created by teacher Archibald Coulson (1928-71). These feature the Silver Jubilee of George V (6 May 1935), the School Cadet Corps camp at Sandwich in August 1935 and another Sandwich camp, possibly in 1938. In addition there are two more School films from the 1960s. The cost is £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the same purchasing arrangements as described above.

An outline running-sheet has been produced for the DVDs and, as for *The School on the Hill* film, the identity of the participants in the films would be greatly appreciated by your archivist.

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Katie Eastwood has contacted the School regarding OP Geoffrey Thomas Heard (1959-63). The lady is researching the history of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club for whom Geoffrey played during the late 1960s. Any information about Geoffrey would be welcomed.

Mike Sharp (1950-55) wants to contact Derek Burns (1950-55), once again any information would be welcomed.

These notes have been written as Christmas approaches, the season when old acquaintances are contacted and the latest news exchanged. My third cousin Margaret, who is married to Bob Jarvest (1951-1958), wrote from

Canada that "We always read your words of wisdom in the Pharosian, you have been in that job for years, the pay must be good". Isn't that sweet!

On another personal note, yesterday (06DEC) Henry Benjamin, son of my son William Burville (1983-86) and his wife Emily, arrived in this world. What a delightful present. I leave you with the hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and a splendid year to come.

Regards.

**Peter Burville (1946-51)**

## **NEWS OF THE SCHOOL**

### **HEAD TEACHER ON THE MOVE**

Sally Lees will be leaving in July to take charge of a 2,200-pupil comprehensive. Mrs Lees, who was appointed head at our school in September 2004, said she has mixed feelings about the move. "I have loved every minute of it here. It's been quite a journey for the school and I am proud of the way the staff and students have come with me." When Mrs Lees was appointed it was a foundation school with about 600 pupils. It was given its business and enterprise specialist status in 2005 and received an International Schools Award in 2008. Several other awards, including Healthy Schools, have also been achieved. There are now 760 boys at the school. "We have a more outward-looking approach and links with other schools across the region, Europe and beyond, including one with a school in south east Asia. We have introduced the International Baccalaureate and students are now getting a real international dimension to their education."

Mrs Lees is to become head teacher at Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre in Tenterden. "I will be leaving with mixed feelings. There are new opportunities for me, but I have been, and still am, very happy here."

### **THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL**

An outline planning application has now been submitted for a new joint grammar school at Whitfield. It will be situated near the present Archers Court Maths and Computing College. The plan is for accommodation for 1,320 pupils and 166 staff, with access from Melbourne Avenue. Residents in the area are concerned about road safety with the increase in traffic.

Both the grammar schools are also sponsors, together with Christ Church University College, Canterbury, for a new academy which is due to replace Archers Court in September.

And just as this edition of the newsletter was being produced, we heard that grammar schools in Dover could be forced to cut pupil numbers under controversial plans by Kent County Council to expand places available at selective schools in west Kent. County education chiefs say they intend to reduce pupil numbers at four south Kent grammar schools. The council says it is acting because it wants to tackle the problem of rising demand in west Kent grammar schools. KCC cabinet member for children's services, Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "We know rolls will fall in secondary schools in Shepway and Dover and we also know there are more grammar school places available than there are pupils who are assessed of grammar ability. Filling the place at the expense of other excellent, non-selective schools in the area is not sustainable and threatens their viability. In order to redress the balance, we intend removing some of the surplus grammar places in Dover and Shepway.

## **BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE SPECIALIST STATUS**

Head teacher Sally Lees writes:

We are now in our fourth year as a specialist Business and Enterprise School and in that time we have benefited a great deal from our specialism. Enterprise skills, which we believe are the skills our students need to be able to gain the most from their learning, and which prepare them for the world of work, are now embedded into everything we do at DGSB. Those skills include teamwork, leadership, creativity, perseverance, risk-taking – put simply, the ability to “make things happen”. I think we have very enterprising students and I think this helps them to achieve better in their examinations and to be able to make a really positive contribution to their community. It is very much my hope that once they have completed their University courses, some of these “leaders of the future” will come back to their home town of Dover and play an active part in the regeneration of this part of Kent.

It is now time for us to apply to be re-designated as a Business and Enterprise Specialist School. This process will begin in January and we hope to have our status renewed by the end of the academic year. The Specialist Schools Trust offers schools an additional £25,000 on re-designation provided that we can match this amount in fund-raising ourselves. I would be very grateful to any Old Pharosian who feels he would like to support our application by

donating towards this sum. If you would like to do so, please forward your cheques to Mrs Helen Simmonds in the Bursary. Cheques should be made payable to "Dover Grammar School for Boys". With £50,000 additional funding we can improve our facilities to provide even better opportunities for our students.

## **EXAM RESULTS**

Head prefect Jack Williams secured his place at Cambridge University after gaining six A grades in his A-level exams, making Jack, who also gained distinctions in two advanced extension awards, one of the school's most successful students. He is studying law at St Catherine's College. Jack and his fellow students also achieved success in the Young Enterprise scheme. Other high achieving students were Jay Crush (three A grades and three B grades), Katy Tipping (three As and two B), Lloyd King (three As and one B) and Ruhul Khan (three A grades). Jay will study law at Bristol University and Lloyd will study maths at Durham. In Year 12, Visar Beqiri was the outstanding student, with two A-levels at grade A, and two AS-levels at grades A and B.

Headteacher Sally Lees has spoken of the "outstanding achievements" of pupils who passed their GCSE exams with top grades. With 99 per cent of the boys gaining at least five A\* to C grades, and some achieving up to 14 GCSEs, Mrs Lees said it was a time for celebration. Outstanding students included Mark Osmond with seven A\* and six A grades, Laurence Cox (six A\*, seven A and one B), Robert Howell (six A\*, four A and three B) and Chris Chattaway (five A\*, seven A and one B). "Our students achieved and exceeded challenging targets and the average points score per student of 550 equates to over 10 A grades each," said Mrs Lees.

## **VISIT TO CONFERENCE IN TAIWAN**

Four students from the school, together with head teacher Sally Lees and assistant head teacher David Howarth, were the guests of the British Council at an international conference in Taiwan. The conference brought together students, teachers and leading educationalists and politicians from the UK and seven Asian countries as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms project. The Asian students were from Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Korea and Thailand. The DGSB group spent the first two days in Changhua province visiting local sights and spending a day in a large high school working on science experiments alongside students from all the participating countries.

"Our boys - Chris King, Aidan Flynn, Tom Ewbank and James Smith - were treated as celebrities by the 4,000 Taiwanese young people at the school," said Mrs Lees. "They were invited into an English lesson to exchange information about their countries and their schools. They were great ambassadors for their school, their town and their country."

The second part of the trip took place in Taipei at the international conference where the students were involved in developing an International Expo to display what they had learnt at their school in Changhua, and to showcase their home towns and countries. This Expo ran in parallel with workshops for teachers, two of which were led by Mrs Lees and Mr Howarth, and a conference for educationalists and politicians. "The opportunity to meet and share with people involved in education across so many countries was very exciting," said Mrs Lees, who gave a keynote presentation on the Global Dimension in UK Education on the last day of the conference.

## **JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING**

There is a waiting list of pupils wanting to join the first four years at the school. Speaking at the junior prizegiving, head teacher Sally Lees said the past year had really put the school on the map. "We are known as the school at the heart of our community," she said. "Our links with the community through businesses, our successful Saturday Academy, our wide range of work with primary schools and our involvement in local, national and international competitions and conferences means we are being noticed as a school where the opportunities for students are far greater than at many other schools. Our reputation is very good indeed. The school is oversubscribed and from September we will be holding waiting lists for all our year groups up to Year 10." Mrs Lees paid tribute to the staff and said credit was also due to the students.

"Led by an outstanding prefect team this year, they have developed their own ideas and activities, planning events and had the pleasure of seeing their efforts rewarded with success. Jack Williams as head prefect, Jethro Thompson and Katy Tipping as deputy head prefects, and a band of hard-working, reliable prefects have supported their peers and younger students in leading a whole range of events and activities throughout the year.

"We have had students developing the Office of the Future at Pfizers, a team of students re-branding Margate, successful businesses being set up as part of the International Baccalaureate CAS programme or through the Young

Enterprise competition. Our Fairtrade and Amnesty groups have been very active throughout the year and the students involved in the BSF Focus Group have met regularly to plan the school of the future. Their ideas about the use of external spaces have led to detailed plans for a school garden and amphitheatre which we are hoping to implement on our current site during the next year.

"Our first cohort of International Baccalaureate students are just finishing their first year. It is proving to be an excellent choice of course. Building on our international approach, next year we will have 30 Year 8 students joining our bi-lingual stream – learning history and geography through the medium of French." The prizes were presented by Brian Haines who was retiring after 38 years of teaching classics.

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT**

The staff and students marked Remembrance Day with a special assembly in the School Hall. As it was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the focus was on the people who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and the staff and students of DGSB who fought and died between 1939 and 1945.

The School's Combined Cadet Force led the assembly with a formal guard of honour. The chimes of Big Ben were followed by two minutes' silence which was observed by the entire school. Trumpeter Harry Yarnell played the Last Post and Alex Judd played the Reveille. The school sang "I vow to thee my country" and crosses were presented in memory of those who had lost their lives. Mrs Lees shared her own reflections following the loss of one of her ex-students in the war in Afghanistan and the assembly concluded with prayers led by members of the CCF. It was a moving occasion and the school was united in its promise never to forget those who had given their lives in the pursuit of peace in our world.

### **LOTTERY GRANT**

The school has been awarded £10,000 in the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme. The money will be used to provide professional sound and lighting in the school hall. The hall is already used by various community groups, but this money will mean there is lighting and sound to a professional standard, and it can be used for more concerts and drama.

## **HOLOCAUST VISIT**

Pupils, accompanied by MP Gwyn Prosser, took part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. They joined more than 200 other sixth-formers from around the South East exploring the lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The group was shown around the camp's barracks and crematoria, and witnessed the registration documents of inmates, piles of hair, shoes, clothes and other items seized by the Nazis.

## **AN EXCITING IDEA**

A group of boys from the school are inviting Old Pharosians to help finance a project for the school. They are members of the School's breakfast club as well as the Young Chamber, Fair Trade and another group entitled Building Schools for the Future. They write: "We care very much about the legacy of our School and this is why we are currently working on a project to develop an exciting new school garden and amphitheatre.

"The idea of this garden is to enhance our learning and create a dynamic outdoor space where we can learn in quiet and therapeutic surroundings. This could enhance many subjects such as Science, Latin and Art."

## **MR BRIAN HAINES**

When Brian, as a young teacher, travelled from his home in Exeter to Dover for an interview to join the staff of Dover Boys' Grammar School, he was delighted to be told he had got the job ... for a year. Thirty-eight years later, Brian retired from the school in July having taught classics, including Latin and ancient history, and was surrounded by former colleagues, students and friends at a presentation ceremony to mark the occasion.

As a mark of the respect in which he is held, current students at the school paid for a plaque to be installed in the school hall to mark Mr Haines' teaching career. Head teacher Sally Lees said Mr Haines loved his subject and had passed that passion on to his students. "He has also been supportive of the students, talking to them about their lives," she said. "He had a desire to serve, and that's something he has done throughout his career. He has a tremendous sense of humour and his strong Christian faith underpins everything he does."

Mr Haines admitted that the workload had sometimes been heavy, and the work-life balance had been difficult. He recalled the days of teaching in mobile

classrooms, and even behind the curtains on the stage of the school hall. He played cricket for the staff in a match against the boys, and led school trips to various places to give the students a better understanding of their subject. "This school has been an important part of my life for such a long time," he said, recalling some of the pupils who had inspired him. He also paid tribute to the support he had received from his wife Marie. They have four children, six grandchildren, and adopted a deaf 11-year-old Chinese girl. "We may go and spend some time in China, working in a school there," he said.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

As well as Mr Haines, Mr Pullen left after five years as Deputy Head of the school. He moved on to a Headship at Dane Court Grammar School in Broadstairs. Mrs Lees said Mr Pullen played a central role in helping the school to improve and develop into the outstanding place it is today. "His constant energy and enthusiasm, his love of learning and his genuine interest in and respect for all students and staff have been so valuable to us all."

Others who have left include Ms Plasseraud, Ms Ball, Mr Baker, Mr Saywell Mrs Howarth, technician Mr Cornell – who is training as a teacher - and student teachers Mr Gisby and Mr Vanhecke.

Ms Keeler and Mr Martin-Short have been appointed to the permanent teaching staff.

Mr Ralph became Deputy Headteacher in September, and Ms Grilli and Mr Howarth were promoted to the Senior Leadership Group as Assistant Headteachers.

## **CONCERTS**

A new season of concerts was launched at the school with a fascinating and enjoyable oboe recital by Robert Hinchliffe, Accompanied by Charles Spanner, the school's director of music, gave a varied and interesting programme which included Telemann and Handel as well as a number of compositions by Mr Hinchliffe himself. It was also the occasion for the world premiere performance of one of Mr Spanner's own compositions, his Oboe Sonata. This second concert in the series was by Helen Arnold who played her harp. Other concerts include pianist Adrian Oldland on February 3 and the Beresford String Quartet on May 5 when head teacher Sally Lees will be playing her viola.



## **FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL**

### **MRS ROSEMARY CARTER**

Rosemary, the wife of our former head of art Kelvin Carter, died in August, aged 72. Mrs Carter was herself a teacher who enjoyed art, as well as walking and running. She was particularly concerned with children who had special needs.

She and Kelvin were married in July 1960 in Woodford and moved to Dover when Mr Carter joined our school and his wife taught in Walmer. They had four sons, Simon, Ian, Andrew and Jeremy. Rosemary founded a playgroup at Capel and later taught part-time in a number of Dover schools. She also taught literacy skills to inmates at the Borstal on Dover's Western Heights. She sang with Folkestone Choral Society and she enjoyed listening to music, swimming and cycling. She was also a member of the Deal Life Drawing Group. The funeral service took place at St Peter's Church, River.

We express our sympathy to Kelvin and the other members of the family..

### **GREETINGS FROM MRS BARBARA RUFFELL**

Copies of the newsletter are always posted to Mrs. Ruffell, (widow of Ken Ruffell) and their daughter Christine Flecknoe contacted us to correct the address, and said she was interested to see that her father still gets a mention. "Thank you for all the work that goes into this interesting newsletter which I am sure is valued by many," she said.

## **NEWS OF OLD BOYS**

### **OBITUARIES**

#### **STEPHEN DAVID BRADLEY (1933-43)**

Stephen died in June, aged 84.

His brother, Tony Bradley (1945-52) writes: Stephen was born in Temple Ewell and at the age of 8, he became a pupil at the Dover County School for Boys, two years after the opening of the present building in Astor Avenue. Fred Whitehouse was still headmaster, and along with the youngest boys Stephen was taught by the legendary O M Rookwood, the only woman teacher on the staff. In 1940, he was evacuated with the school to Ebbw Vale, where he was

billeted (along with his friend John Williams) with the Russ family, in a terrace house in the mining village of Cwm. In the Science Sixth, he was taught physics by W E Pearce, maths by A E Coulson, and chemistry by A B Constable and F L Kendall.

When he left school, still during the war years, call-up was deferred as he studied medicine, first at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and from 1946 at King's College Hospital, London. After qualifying, he did national service as a medical officer, spending two years at the RAF base in Padgate, in Lancashire, where he examined the ears, noses and throats of all incoming recruits. Later, he worked in several hospitals in and near London, mainly with children and with geriatric patients.

Following a serious breakdown of his health, he had to give up his hospital work and he was never able to return to it, although he always remained deeply interested in medical matters. From 1970, he lived in the family home, supporting village events in Temple Ewell and helping various voluntary organisations – notably the Dover branch of Victim Support, with whom he was a volunteer and committee member for over 20 years. He was for over thirty years from its foundation Treasurer of the Egerton Road Maintenance Association in Kearsney, helping to organise working parties and fund-raising events. During these years, he was much concerned with the welfare of neighbours and friends in Dover and often gave a helping hand to those in need. In January 2008, as his strength declined, he was unable to remain at home and spent a year in a care home in River. Latterly, he received excellent nursing care in the Kearsney Manor nursing home, where he passed away peacefully on 5 June 2009, only a few hundred yards away from the house where he was born.

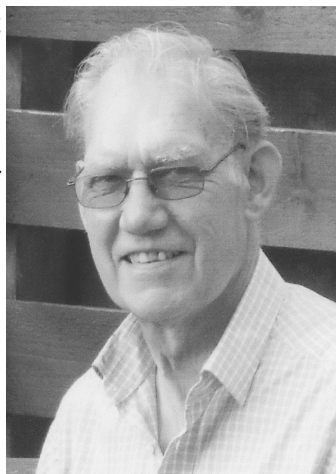
### **BRIAN GAMMON (1955-61)**

Early in 2009, Brian had been reflecting on the fact that he had not visited the school for many years, and had not attended an annual dinner. He asked for details of the 2009 event and was planning to attend. Sadly, in August, at the age of 66, he died.

Born in Tunbridge Wells, where his mother was evacuated during the Second World War, Brian was the son of Alfred and Margaret Gammon, and lived in Oswald Road. He went to Buckland School before our school and then gained an apprenticeship at Buckland Press in Dover. He spent a year in Tonbridge to widen his experience before working as a printer at the Dover Express for a very short time. Returning to Buckland Press, he worked as a compositor,

typesetter, sales representative and then print estimator. He retired in May 2005.

As a teenager he joined the youth club at London Road Methodist Church where he had a life-long association, serving as church steward, senior steward, and a Dover and Deal Methodist Circuit Steward. Brian joined the voluntary organisation Toc H in his younger days, helping with various projects which benefitted the community. He spent 20 years as a member of Dover Lions Club, serving as secretary and twice as President. After retiring, he became a voluntary driver for the NHS and earlier this year for the Dover Volunteer Bureau. Three years ago he joined River Bowling Club, and also played short mat bowls in the winter, as well as indoor bowls at Betteshanger. Brian was a vice-president of Dover Rugby Club for three years, enjoyed gardening, listening to jazz and big band music, and was also interested in politics and history.



Brian Gammon

Brian married Rita in 1966 and they had two sons Paul, now 38, and Mark 36. Rita died in 1983, and in October 1984 Brian married Lynn, and they have a daughter Claire, who is 23. Brian and Lynn would have celebrated their silver wedding anniversary a few weeks after he died. He had suffered with heart problems since 2000, and had undergone surgery in London hospitals.

Donations in his memory were made to the British Heart Foundation.

### **RONALD S HARMAN (1929-37)**

We have received belated news of the death of Ronald Harman who joined the school in 1929 and was pictured in the 1936 school photo. He joined the army on leaving school and was a prisoner of war in a German Concentration Camp. On his release he was appointed manager of H Hart's china and glass department, and by 1961 he was a buyer manager at Cowell's, a flourishing store in Ipswich. He spent much of his working life at Riceman's in Canterbury and lived in Whitstable in his retirement, keeping busy with political and church activities. He was among those who attended the celebrations in 1981 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the present school buildings, and joined the Old Pharosians Association in the late 1980s..

## **ROY KEMP FRSA FSIAD (1942-1947)**

After a long illness Roy Kemp died at Elsing, Norfolk on 29 November, 2009, at the age of 78. He was cremated at Mintlyn crematorium, Gayton, Kings Lynn on 9 December.

Roy was an artist of rare ability. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Art and a Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers.

Roy, whose home while at our school was in Stanhope Road in Dover, was one of the many evacuated to Ebbw Vale during the war years. After school he attended Dover School of Art and then did his National Service as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, serving mainly in Germany. He then formed Kemp Associates which operated for many years from a studio in Kensington providing commercial artistic work to a very high standard. He lived first in Lenham and later in Egerton, before retiring to Elsing in Norfolk in 2002. He is survived by his wife Janette.

## **THOMAS WILLIAM JAMES SOLLEY (1926-31)**

Thomas's daughter Lynne contacted our webmaster to say she had been looking at the archive pages of our website, and that she believes she has picked out her father on the 1930 photo of the whole school. "He would have been about 15 or 16 then, having been born in November 1914. He died in August 1996. I have all his old school reports (my father was very organised and methodical, as well as being interested in the family history!) and he must have started at the County School in September 1926, leaving in July 1931."

Lynne also sent a photo of Thomas outside the Hope Inn with two friends, one of whom might be Herbert Charles (Bert) Young, his friend from the County School, also his Best Man and Lynne's Godfather.

## **STILL LIVING AND LEARNING**

### **JAMES BATES**

James, 20, has graduated as a Pilot Officer from No 15 Initial Officer Training Course at the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. James joined 137 other cadets outside the historic College Hall to parade in front of Air Vice-Marshal Barry North, Air Officer Commanding No 22 (Training) Group and Chief of Staff Headquarters Air Command. Music on the day was provided by the Band of the Royal Air Force College and there

were flypasts by King Air aircraft from No 45 (Reserve) Squadron RAF Cranwell and Tornado GR4 aircraft from No 14 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth.

James worked for Deacon Landscape Management after leaving school and joined the RAF in January 2009, He has now begun his professional training as a pilot. James is a former gliding instructor at 615 Volunteer Gliding School.

## **DAVID CLOKE**

David writes to say he is finishing his orthopaedic training by undertaking a six month fellowship in shoulder and elbow surgery in Sheffield. Following that, he starts as a consultant in Northumbria Trust in February, specialising in shoulder and elbow surgery, based in North Tyneside and Hexham. "I'm particularly looking forward to building a service in arthroscopic (keyhole) shoulder work," he said.

David passed his end of training Fellowship exam (FRCS (Tr & Orth)) in 2008, and last year finished an MSc in Sports and Exercise Medicine through Bath University where he was kept on as a clinical tutor for the course.

"Away from the NHS, I remain in the Territorial Army, and hope to deploy as a surgeon to Afghanistan for a two month tour in the next year or two. I also enjoy instructing on the military trauma (BATLS) course whenever I can."

David and his wife Rachel have a six-year-old son Alex. "They enjoy having me out of the house all week while I'm at work in Sheffield!"

## **CHRIS COOK (1979-86)**

Appointed to the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, in September 2009, Commander Chris Cook Royal Navy is now studying on the Advanced Command and Staff Course. Lasting 11 months, this course is designed to prepare Officers for senior appointments in HM Forces by developing their command, analytical and communications skills, and by providing a broad understanding and knowledge of joint, single-service and combined operations, and of Defence as a whole. The course also leads to an MA in Defence Studies from Kings College, London.

Chris has recently completed a two-year tour in the Defence Equipment and Support organisation, managing delivery of a replacement command and

control information system to ships, submarines and to our Forces deployed to current theatres. On completion of the Staff Course, it is planned that Chris will take up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence.

Chris and Josie still live happily in Godalming, Surrey, home now for some 13 years, and where James (10), Maddy (8) and Lottie (6) keep them both on their toes!

## **KEVIN DOUGHTY**

Kevin has been in touch by e-mail with our webmaster Paul Skelton remembering with affection the days when Paul worked in the CDT department. Kevin is now teaching at the Bishop Vesey Grammar School at Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. He also mentions in his communication teachers Messrs Gardiner and Fieldwick.

## **SCOTT FARRELL**

Scott was appointed as the new director of music at Rochester Cathedral in 2008, and Christmas 2009 was a particularly busy time. With three radio broadcasts in as many weeks, the famous cathedral choir were heard in homes all over the country. The choir sang Choral Evensong live on Radio 3, a programme that has been broadcast since 1926, recorded a carol service for BBC Radio Kent and took part in a concert for Classic FM. These were in addition to the many other carol services with which the choir are involved.

Scott broke with tradition when he joined the choristers in the annual dash on the Paddock at Kings School, Rochester. It was the first time in living memory that the choristers had been joined by an adult for the race which marks the end of term cricket match. In September he gave a recital at St Clement's Church, Sandwich.

## **NICK HEADON**

Nick, former drummer with The Clash, is supporting an annual drumming scholarship for music students at Canterbury Christ Church University. "I am in a fortunate enough position to give help and it would be wrong of me not to give something back," he said. "When I was in The Clash we tried to make a difference, so if I can do it now as well, then that's great." He is also President of the newly-formed LA Music Club which encourages young musicians in Dover.

## **CARL JEPSON**

Carl, e-mailing Paul Skelton from Australia, says he has just viewed the OP's archive website and realised "just how scruffy we were." when at school. Carl qualified as a chartered accountant in London and then moved to Australia in 1990 and, he adds, he hasn't been back to the UK since 1994.. He comments: "I have very fond memories of the school although I now realise I was probably an awkward person (not the word he used) at best while there. After seeing how scruffy we were when at school I will be easier on the boys and take off coloured glasses." Carl, Principal of Luminate Corporate Advisors, gives his contact address as: 11 Friendship Place, Beacon Hill, New South Wales 2100, Australia.

## **JOHN MASLEN**

Old Pharosian Clive Maslen has told us some better news about his Old Pharosian father John Maslen who, at one stage, was not expected to survive a fall from a ladder at his home in August in 2009. "It's been a long hard slog for my father but I am pleased to report he is now back home and working to get back to some degree of normality," says Clive.

Following his fall John was lifted from near his Whitfield home by air ambulance and has spent many months in hospital. He was for months an in-patient at Kings College Hospital in London following two major operations to his brain but is now back home.

Adds Clive: "My father's progress is despite the predictions made by consultants at Kings. He has confounded their expectations by going from strength to strength and making a better recovery than anyone imagined possible."

## **MICHAEL MITCHELL (1959-66)**

Michael, who has been teaching in China, recalls his days at DGSB with pleasure. Although he has been teaching English as a second language in China, his home is in Perth, Western Australia. While at our school he was captain of both the cricket and football teams, in 1966, and also played rugby for the school.

He e-mails to say: "I was at the school for the diamond jubilee celebrations. I was glad to get a general education from the school, although obliged to do far too much homework for my A levels.

"I realise a specific or general education gives the grounding for being versatile enough to settle in any country and it seems to me that no destination is out of reach. I hope these are encouraging words for the present students at the school. Get educated. It's a short cut to opening up the world to you."

### **CARL PHILPOTT**

Carl has been made an honorary consultant in ear, nose and throat and rhinology. He will teach undergraduates and post graduate trainees in disease of the ear, nose and throat. Carl, who is a father of three, will be offering a diagnostic, treatment and research facility for patients with smell and taste disorders, a service which does not currently exist in the UK. A GP in Suffolk he will take up his post for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals in March.

### **CHRIS WILSON (1951-58)**

Chris was looking at the photos on the website and came across the photo of the School CCF for 1958. Chris noted that it was a composite photo as the copies available were damaged. So he kindly attached a copy of his complete photo of the occasion which he hoped would be of some help. The photo was taken in July 1958 when Chris was about to leave and join the Royal Navy. "The RAF did not want me as a pilot so I became a Fleet Air Arm pilot instead - much better choice!"

Having read the last newsletter about the plans to move the school to Whitfield, Chris says he is not too impressed – but will wait and see!

### **ARE YOU THERE?**

Here's a request to locate the whereabouts of the Clare brothers who, possibly, were at our school between 1962 and 1971. Phil Fouracre (not from our school) is keen to make contact with John, the eldest of the Clare brothers. He e-mails to say the brothers were at Farnborough Grammar before moving to Dover in 1962. Phil was at Farnborough GS from 1957 to 1965 with John, which is why he wants to get in touch again. Phil can be contacted on [phil\\_fouracre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phil_fouracre@yahoo.co.uk)