

Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 98

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Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter



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NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Roger Gabriel (to retire 2012)

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Vacancy

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ANNUAL MEETING, LUNCHEON AND FOOTBALL MATCH 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Pharosians' Association will be held on Saturday 25 September, 2010, at the Dover Grammar School for Boys, commencing at 11 a.m.

Agenda

To read the notice convening the meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
 - President
 - Chairman (J Kremer)
 - Secretary (P J Harding)
 - Assistant Secretary (G Tutthill)
 - Treasurer (J Sheather)
 - Membership Secretary (P Skelton)
 - Newsletter Editors (T Sutton and G Tutthill)
 - Archivist (P Burville)
 - Auditor (M Beverton)
 - Committee Members (retiring members M Palmer and B Crush)
6. Any Other Business

Philip Harding (Hon Secretary)

Old Pharosians' Day is Saturday 25 September 2010. The annual meeting is at 11 a.m. with coffee being served from 10.30 a.m. This year, for the first time, we are having a Luncheon instead of an evening dinner, and a booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. The Luncheon will be at 1.15 for 1.30 p.m. and the cost is £15 (including sherry and wine). To reserve your place(s), please complete the form and return it, together with your remittance (cheque made payable to "Old Pharosians") to Jack Kremer 37 Old Park Hill, Dover, CT16 2AW. E-mail: jackk-37oph@supanet.com as soon as possible and certainly by 18 September.

The Football Match is scheduled for 2.30 p.m. and will be organised, as usual, by Mick Palmer.

CRICKET MATCH

The Old Pharosians scored a 20-run victory over the school at the cricket match on Friday 25 June. The annual fixture was re-introduced last year following the installation of the artificial wicket.

The OP team members were Clive Towe, Andy Arter, Richie Ferrall, John Stokes, Tom Bird, Ritchie Hulks, Toby Kember, Ben Newton, Dan Taylor, Steve King and Mike Shelvey. Umpires were Mick Palmer and John Shepherd.

The photo on the front cover of his newsletter shows Ritchie Hulks playing a masterful stroke during the match.

FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM

The committee met on 9 March and 18 May. At the first of the two meetings, membership secretary Paul Skelton reported there were about 162 annual members, of whom there was no known address for 16 while there were 474 life members with 46 with unknown addresses. The cull of the membership list, following non-payment, cut membership by 94.

With his webmaster hat on, Paul also reported the website was receiving about 1,000 "hits" a month with an overall total of 115,000.

The date and location of the annual meeting and luncheon was discussed (see item on page 5).

At the meeting in May the longest discussion was about arrangements for the annual reunion. There will be an opportunity for those attending to take a tour of the school building to see the changes that have taken place, before attending the luncheon. After the meal the annual football match will be held. It was decided to set up a small sub-committee (Jack Kremer, Maurice Smith and the school's business manager Helen Simmonds) to finalise arrangements.

Headteacher Mrs Sally Lees and Helen Simmonds gave us an update of the proposal to move the school to a site at Whitfield but it was pointed out that much could change as a result of the change in government and the nation's financial problems (see Future of the School on page 14).

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings. It is pleasing to report that more material continues to flow into the archives. Mike Nice (1965-78) donated a blazer colours badge 1961/2 for swimming & gymnastics. It would be interesting to know what the range of colours badges were awarded over the years especially if illustrated examples could be associated with the information.

Robyn Tank, wife of Richard John (1959-65) from Deal, ordered a full set of the DVDs offered for sale below for Richard. These have been duly shipped out to Australia where they are now living.

Mariner Captain Brian Middleton Bacon, known as Rashers when at the school from 1939 to 1948, sent some wonderful war-time items for the archives from Queensland Australia where he lives. Brian was one of those who was evacuated to Ebbw Vale to be in the TLC of Miss O. M. Rookwood, who was known as Rooker to the boys of the Trans-

Prep form. Brian sent his Child's Identity Card, issued by the Ebbw Vale Urban District Council, made out for Brian Bacon age 8. Brian was billeted, by invitation, with police constable Jack Powell and his wife Catherine who, despite being married for some years, had no child of their own. A month later Catherine was pregnant. Brian remains in contact with the son John William. In July 1940 Miss Rookwood wrote to Brian's mother, from The County School, to assure her all was going well and that the schooling was based on a half-day shift scheme so there was plenty of time for sport. A Christmas 1940 school report for the Prep form records Brian excellent performance. He came top. Miss Rockwood's class only had six in it so maybe at that level the double-shift scheme was not needed.

John Hendy (1963-65) emailed a copy of the 1964 School Choir complete with names. Confirmation of some forenames would be helpful to be certain of the individual's identities. The photograph can be found at Paul Skelton's (1972-79) splendid Website (www.DoverGrammar.co.uk) and the names offered are: Back row: Vardon, Graham Tutthill, Wells, Ashbee, G. Russell, Miller, John Hendy, Sanders, Jarvie, Mitchell, Newman, Eckersley, Mack Middle: Dargan, Wheeler, A Russell, P Smith, Smith, Fleming, Burgess, Powell, Standing, Dixon, Fagg, Lindsley, Front row : K. F. Best (T), William Fittall, King, Towe, Thomas, Andrews, Stubbs, Dench, Davies, White M. G. Hinton (HT). John Hendy tells me David Powell is now the British Ambassador in Oslo.

Any other information on the choristers would be greatly appreciated.

ITEMS FOR SALE

The "newest" item on offer is the DVD *Prize Giving One* at a cost of £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the purchasing arrangements as described below. The DVD for sale is based on a DVD created by Mrs Dorothy Mannall and 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.

The excellent response to the goodies on offer continues and the purchasing arrangements for all items are the same: sending a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to “DGSB”, to the Dover Grammar School for Boys, Astor Avenue, Dover, CT17 0DQ.

As previously reported, 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 and posting.

The hardback *Fifty Years on 1931-1981* history of the School have all been sold but a CD computer version can be bought. The cost is £10, plus £1 p&p (making £11), with the purchasing arrangements as described 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 (06MAY1935), the School Cadet Corps camp at Sandwich in AUG1935 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.

Outline running-sheets have been produced for the *Film Clips* 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.

Brian (Bunger) Coatsworth (1948-53), having recently joined the OPA, wrote to seek information as well as passing on some information on his career. Having joined the old Dover Borstal as a basic grade officer he retired from the service, some 17 years ago, as Governor of H.M.P. Dorchester. On the family side he is equally successful. Brian lives with his wife in Dorset and they have two married sons and a grandson who also live nearby in the county.

On the seeking side Brian would like to hear news of Ronald Obree (1948-55) of first team rugger and cricket fame, Roger Carless of the 1953 rugger 1st XV and Albert (Bert) Wall (1948-1953). Brian is already in contact with Dennis Ivory (1951-54) and Brian Stevens (1948-53).

Closing with the hope that when you get this Newsletter the weather (in the UK) will have warmed up more than a little. Regards.

Peter Burville (1946-51).

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

NEW HEAD APPOINTED

Dr Richard Moxham has been appointed to become head of the school in September. He will succeed Sally Lees who is to become principal of Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre in Tenterden.

Dr Moxham is currently deputy head teacher at Treloar School in Alton, Hampshire, a school for young people with severe physical disabilities. Born in Swindon, Dr Moxham grew up in the Midlands, attending Wolverhampton Boys' Grammar School. He went to Manchester University and gained a first class honours degree in English, French and drama, followed by a PhD in comparative literature. His career has taken him across England and continental Europe, having worked at St Olave's Grammar School in Orpington as head of sixth form before taking up positions with the European School of Brussels for 10 years.

Dr Moxham said he was looking forward to joining our school. "Working with these young people, these colleagues and this governing body to make great things happen is going to be the most invigorating experience imaginable," he said. He paid tribute to Mrs Lees for her "inspirational" leadership of the school.

Incidentally, Girls' Grammar School head teacher Judith Carlisle has announced that she is also leaving.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Our school has become the first secondary school in Kent to achieve the Governor Mark. This is a national accreditation awarded by the Governance, Leadership and Management organisation, and recognised by the DCSF as a rigorous Quality Mark for effective governance of schools. The governors had to gather evidence to show that they meet a range of standards linked to their strategic leadership of the school, their statutory responsibilities and the support and challenge they provide for the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team. A team of assessors then spent a day in the school reviewing

the evidence and interviewing staff and students before making their decision to award the Governor Mark to the school. The assessors summarised the work of the Governing Body in glowing terms.

“Yours is, in our view, a really good governing body with very good partnerships within the school, particularly with senior leaders. The assessors were particularly impressed with governor involvement with departmental reviews, including the fact that these also involve students. You are well organized, with an effective committee structure, good use of the Strategy Committee and the deployment of community governors.”

They were impressed by how well the governors know the school, and the direct contribution they make in working with groups of students, for example on the Young Enterprise programme. Ian Donald, Chair of Governors, was very pleased with the outcome of the assessment.

“Our Governing Body has developed a very strong working relationship with the staff of the school which means we can really support the work they do in providing a first class education for the students,” he said. “There is a real team approach at DGSB, and the Governors are pleased to be able to play a key role in that team. The Governor Mark recognises that we are all working together successfully for the benefit of our students.”

Members of the school choir enjoyed a successful tour, singing services in York Minster and St Paul's Cathedral, London. Thirty pupils, led by their director of music, Charles Spanner, travelled to York over Easter and spent five days practising and singing for services in the Minster. The cantor for the responses was the famous composer Dr Richard Shepherd. At the end of the week, he praised pupils for the standard of their singing, and the choir has been asked to return to York Minster. On their way home, the choir sung Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral.

"Over the years, our choir has gone from strength to strength, singing at such prestigious venues as St Alban's Abbey, Guildford Cathedral and Lichfield Cathedral," said head teacher Sally Lees.

Three of the school's gifted young mathematicians attended a series of maths master-classes at the University of Kent. Max Goldfinch, Sam Nimmo and Ben Strachan were among a group of 20 pupils aged 12 to 14 from eight schools who were brought together as part of a Royal Institution of Great Britain scheme to encourage young mathematicians. Topics at the six-week sessions at the university's School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science included how to build a stable bridge with blocks, number puzzles and how to explain the curves obtained by cutting up an ice cream cone.

It's not often that a lecturer from a top university brings an electric guitar along with him. But that's what happened at the annual Enterprise Lecture at the school. Each year, the school celebrates its Business and Enterprise Specialist Status by inviting a well-known academic to speak on the topic of enterprise. This year it was the turn of Dr David Acheson, Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford who gave a lecture on Enterprise in Mathematics.

The title of his lecture was Maths, Magic and the Electric Guitar and the audience of staff and students were enthralled by his examples of the magic and beauty of mathematics, and by his talented performance on the electric guitar. He described how the mathematics of wave motion was applied to the sound of the guitar, and the way harmonics could be used to enhance the music. He posed a number of mathematical puzzles, and told the audience about his own original mathematics research linked to the classic problem of the Indian Rope Trick.

All of the school's sixth form students attended the lecture and they were joined by younger students who had a particular interest in maths. The lecture was followed by a lunch for all the guests, and students who are considering studying mathematics at university in the future had the opportunity to talk to Dr Acheson informally about their interest in the subject.

The school is among those involved in a new scheme to create better links between businesses and students. The Ashford-based Kent

Invicta Chamber of Commerce has created Young Chamber, which aims to give students at schools and colleges direct contact with local businesses. Young Chamber seeks to give 11 to 19-year-olds a greater understanding of, and involvement with, the world of business and enterprise. In the past, firms have complained that students had no understanding of business life until they arrived in the workplace. Young Chamber aims to overcome that.

It has its own interactive website, where students can get direct help on a large number of business issues. This helps individuals, as well groups, to understand the business world throughout their education and track their individual progress with possible inclusion in their curriculum.

Students from the school won both senior and intermediate categories in a public speaking competition organised by Dover Rotary Club. Issues ranging from over-protective parents to asylum seekers were among the subjects debated by young people who took part. The senior winning team comprised sixth-formers Daniel Coleman (chairman), Toby Fuller (speaker) and Mark Osmond (vote of thanks) who rejected the idea that Britain is a broken country. In the intermediate category the winning team members, on asylum seekers, were Robin Savage (chairman), Arthur Davis (speaker) and James Coe (vote of thanks).

The three main candidates called in at the school during the General Election campaign to put their views to the pupils.

The GCSE league tables produced a mixed bag of results for schools in Dover. The Girls' Grammar School came out top again, with 100 per cent of pupils gaining five or more grades A* to C including English and maths. The Boys' Grammar School figure of 88 per cent was up on the previous year's 79 per cent, and equal with 2007. Head teacher Sally Lees said one difficulty was that depending which criteria are used to rank schools, they can come out in a very different order. "To gain a full picture of a school, it is important to look at the examination grades achieved, but it is equally important to look at the rate of progress

made by children in the school in comparison to their starting point, and this is best measured by the Contextual Value Added figure. At Dover Grammar School for Boys, we are delighted that our examination grades in 2009 were once again well above predictions and our CVA is excellent, rising every year."

THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL

In the last edition of this newsletter we told you that an outline planning application had been submitted for new grammar schools to be built near the present Archers Court Maths and Computing College at Whitfield.

In June, following the general election, government cuts were announced which meant that the multi-million pound plans to build two separate but adjacent schools for Dover's two grammar schools at Whitfield were in limbo. The proposal is one of many projects under the Building Schools for The Future programme which could end up being abandoned or delayed for years. Some schools where rebuilding work was earmarked to get underway soon are now on hold and may be forced to remain in their present buildings until the situation becomes clearer. The potential impact of the spending freeze was set out in a report considered by county councillors at their cabinet meeting. It was recommended that the outline planning stage of the grammar school scheme should still be completed. School chiefs say the educational impact of not going ahead with certain rebuilding schemes was "very significant and probably cannot be underestimated".

It also warns that some of the huge sums already spent developing schemes could now go to waste and KCC could pick up the tab for "significant abortive costs" associated with preparing bids for money and consultancy costs. Cllr Sarah Hohler, KCC cabinet member for children's services, said: "We obviously want the best for our children and schools had been led to believe that they would get new buildings. They will understandably be disappointed if they don't but we are doing all we can. I cannot say they will definitely go ahead but we will be doing our best." Education officials say abandoning or delaying rebuilding may make some schools less popular.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

EVELYN TUTTHILL

Last year we reported that Leslie Tutthill, who had been chairman of the Parents' Association, had died aged 95. His widow, Evelyn – mother of Keith and Graham – died on 30 April this year aged 96. She had also been a great supporter of the school. She was one of the oldest surviving former pupils of the Girls' Grammar School where one of her classmates was Lillian Kay, who went on to become head teacher. Lillian is still living in Dover.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

OBITUARIES

KEITH AYLING (!953-60)



Keith died on 30 March and there was a glowing tribute in the magazine of the Huddersfield Canal Society about Keith's great interest in canals. He had been chairman of the Chesterfield Canal Society, retiring in 2009, but continued his work with the trust as Vice-President.

"Keith was one of the genuine stars of the waterway restoration movement. He was chairman of the Chesterfield

Canal Society until 2009. When he took over as chairman there were 16 navigable locks on the canal. When he retired there were 51 and another 11 miles of navigable water," detailed the Pennine Link.

The e-mail containing the tribute was sent to the editors, we believe, by Old Pharosian Peter Green.

Keith had been one of the leaders in the formation of the Chesterfield Canal Partnership which has representatives on all of the councils on the canal, plus waterways bodies and conservation concerns. During his tenure 11 miles of canal were restored including 35 locks. His period of office saw a small organisation with an apparently impossible dream become a major player in canal restoration. He oversaw the transition from Canal Society to Canal Trust Ltd. with its extra responsibilities.

Trust representatives said Keith's drive and enthusiasm were key factors in the trust's success and they doubted as much progress would have been made without his leadership. Trust chairman Robin Stonebridge said: "Keith would not want us sitting about with long faces. He would have said 'We have a job to do, let's get on with it and get this canal restored!'"

RAYMOND BEAN (1933-1938)

Raymond Philip Bean died in April at the Bedford Hospital, aged 88. He was educated at Dover County School and, living at Whitfield, was placed in the Country House. He enjoyed playing cricket and football playing for the School in both.

His brother Peter, another Old Pharosian, points out that many of his close friends and classmates were killed in the war but because Raymond did not pass his medical examination he was not drafted into the Forces. Instead he worked as a lathe operator in a factory at Letchworth.

He married in 1945 and returned to Whitfield where he ran the village post office and stores for many years. He later returned to Hitchin and for the remainder of his working life was employed by Vauxhall Motors. Raymond leaves a widow and one son, Gordon. His elder son Philip died in 2000 from leukaemia.

ALBERT EDWARD CADMAN CB, LDS, RCS Eng (1929-37)

Born in 1918, Albert died peacefully on April 24 aged 91 years. He lived in Alverstoke, Hampshire.

His career was as a dental surgeon in the Royal Navy. In 1968 he was promoted from Surgeon Commander to Surgeon Captain and in 1974 he was appointed Surgeon Rear Admiral as Director of Naval Dental Services. In the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1977 he was awarded the C.B. (Military Division)

A thanksgiving service was held at Romsey Abbey in May and donations in his memory are being made to Cancer Research UK and may be sent to A H Cheater, Funeral Directors, 122 The Hundred, Romsey, SO51 8BY.

RONALD S HARMAN (1930-39)

We have heard, belatedly, that Ronald died a few years ago, and his widow now lives in the West Country. As a boy he lived at Crabble Hill.

During his time at the school he donated several books to the school library. Ronald joined the army on leaving school and was posted as missing in May 1940. But several months later, his parents received the news he was safe, although he had been wounded and spent several weeks in hospital.

He was a Prisoner of War in a German concentration camp. He sent a postcard to the school in December 1942 from M Stammlager XXB (22) to say he had played rugby with Moseling, former Country House Captain.

On his release he was appointed manager of H Hart's glass and china department and then became buyer-manager at Cowell's, a furniture store in Ipswich. He had one daughter

STILL LIVING AND LEARNING

BRIAN BACON (1939-1948)

Captain Brian Bacon, living with his wife Joan in Queensland, Australia, has donated to the association archives one of his treasured possessions – his wartime evacuation identity card.

Brian explains the identity card, issued by Ebbw Vale Urban District Council, was issued to him in June 1940 when, aged eight, he arrived at Ebbw Vale railway station along with the rest of the school. The pink ID card gave details of where he was to be billeted, a precaution taken so that none of the children got lost.

"I was just an eight year old child in the school's trans/prep form under Miss Olive Rookwood. I doubt if many of the pink ID cards have survived after nearly 69 years."

Brian underwent a frightening experience (which we will not go into here) at his first billet, ran away and was picked up by a kind policeman who, taking pity on the child, provided Brian with a happy home. Several months later his lady host gave birth to her only son.

"I still have the letter that Miss Rookwood wrote four days later to my mother assuring her I was in good hands. Returning home to Dover was a happy occasion but it was sad for me as I was losing people that meant so much to me. Of course both my host parents are long deceased but having held their son in my arms at birth, both he and I have remained in touch ever since. Whenever I return to the UK we meet and talk of old times," he writes.

DEREK BELSEY (1941-49)

A photograph from New Zealand arrived on the computer of our webmaster Paul Skelton showing a group of military veterans, one of whom was wearing a jacket sporting a badge of The Pharos. Investigations proved the wearer was Old Pharosian Derek Belsey who was taking part in an ANZAC remembrance parade in New Zealand.

Derek, who visits the Old Pharosians' website from time to time, did his two years National Service with REME including 12 months in the Suez Canal Zone in 1951-1952. "Bit sad to read about plans to move the School to a new site at Whitfield," he comments in an e-mail to Paul.

GRAHAM GISBY (1965-72)

After being Head of Markham College Secondary School in Lima, Peru for 15 years, Graham moved on to take the headship of the oldest IB school in the world: The British Schools of Montevideo, Uruguay. This was a seriously failing school which he led for four years from 2004 to 2007, being chiefly responsible for the introduction of ICT throughout the school and teaching staff how best to incorporate this into their teaching. When he finished there, Graham moved back to Lima, to Newton College, where he also oversaw, for the third time, the development and introduction of academic and administrative, educational intranets.

"I am currently involved in this and have recently been appointed as educational Consultant to the Minister of Education in Peru.," writes Graham. "I am advising on the international component within a brand new school uniting the 900 most able students in Peru in a custom built boarding school just outside Lima. This is a very exciting and rewarding initiative founded by the central government (<http://www.minedu.gob.pe/noticias/index.php?id=9480>).

"How good is your Spanish?" he asks.

DAVID HANNENT (1957-63)

David, a prominent Dover businessman serving on Dover Town Council, was elected Deputy Mayor of the town in May. An Independent representing the Castle Ward, he had chaired the council's finance and general purposes committee responsible for a budget of more than £500,000. He recently gave a talk at a public meeting about how he saw an opportunity to redevelop the town.

WALFORD JOHNSON (1950-58)

One of the few spectators at the Old Boys cricket match the other day was Walford who was making his first visit to the school for more than 40 years. Now 71, he is enjoying retirement in Ireland, where he has lived for some 42 years. When he left the school – inspired by



economics teacher Gordon King – Walford went to the London School of Economics. He already knew much about the history of Ireland thanks to the teaching of Bill Lister, so he went to the University of Ulster in 1968 and spent his career lecturing in economics and statistics. Having played cricket at school,

he also played for his university side. A member of Kent County Cricket Club, he has sometimes met up with Dick and John Booth at county matches around the country. He is also a member of the Irish Cricket Union, and has played the odd game. He has been treasurer and chairman of a members' licensed club at the university. Walford lives near Coleraine.

Having studied the American depression, the banking crisis in the UK from the 1820s to the 1860s and the Japanese financial crisis, he now finds himself in demand as a lecturer again comparing those situations to the present-day financial difficulties.

Walford has also enjoyed sailing, and once sailed on the Ocean Youth Trust yacht the Lord Rank, which sank last month off the coast of County Antrim.

He enjoyed his brief visit to the school to watch some of the cricket before having to return to London to look after his grandchildren.

NICK STEVENS (1969-74)

Nick, one of the top public relations officers in the ferry industry, was



featured in May in the specialist Cruise and Ferry magazine. Nick, educated at Dover Grammar and Goldsmith's College, University of London, runs his own PR business from his Hawkinge home (nlchassociates@gmail.com) and has spent 30 years representing a range of companies in the ferry industry including Sealink, Hoverspeed, P&O European Ferries, P&O/Stena and Norfolkline. Current clients include Boulogne Chamber of Commerce (the Boulogne port authority), French-owned LD Lines with its network of ferry services, and tourism centres

in Northern France. His French grandmother lived in Boulogne where his late father Gerry was the British Consul from 1974 until his death in 1989.

TERRY SUTTON (1940-1947).

Terry organised a service at St Mary's Parish Church in Dover to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of Dover children to South Wales in June 1940. More than 100 former evacuees, from various schools, attended including a number of "old boys" from our school who were welcomed by organist Stephen Yarrow (a younger "old boy") playing Forty Years On ... "parted are those who are singing today."

RICHARD TAYLOR-JONES (1986-91)

Those of you who saw the fantastic film of ravens nesting on the White Cliffs of Dover on the BBC Springwatch programme will be interested

to know that it was the work of one of our former pupils who has become a wildlife cameraman. Richard lived in Deal as a boy and says he got his passion for wildlife sitting on Deal beach watching the gulls. He returned to the area this year with the aim of filming the ravens which had returned to the cliffs for the first time in 120 years.

Born in Sweden, Richard moved to Deal when he was one and went to our school and then Sir Roger Manwood's before going on to Nottingham University. He then moved down to Bristol to join the BBC Natural History unit and has been making wildlife films and programmes ever since. Among those he has been involved in are the BBC Springwatch and Autumnwatch series, as well as the programmes featuring Johnny Kingdom.

"Now I've come back to this area and would like to make programmes about the wildlife that can be found around here."

Ravens are important in Richard's life because he met his wife at the Tower of London, where she worked, and, of course, there are ravens there, too. The ravens breeding on the cliffs had not been captured on film until Richard came along with his camera.

"I started my project back in February 2010, when the birds began to nest, but the bad weather made it impossible to find them. I met a fantastic group of people though, as I tried to track them down – from the National Trust warden on the cliffs to local birders. They were able to keep me posted about the birds' activities that I missed. Over a couple of months, I built up a picture of where they were and I managed to fine-tune my plan so as Springwatch kicked into action, I got some fantastic images of ravens flying against the backdrop of Dover docks."

DR JEAN VENABLES

It may seem strange to include a former head prefect of Dover Girls' Grammar School in the Old Pharosians newsletter, but Dr Jean Venables actually studied physics at our school, because it was not

available as a subject at the girls' school. Jean has just been appointed a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to Civil Engineering, for which she was made an MBE in 1997. In 2004 she was awarded the OBE for her work in connection with flood protection along the River Thames.

Born in Dover, Jean is the sister of **ALAN EDWARDS (at our school in the late 1960s)** who still lives in Dover. "When I said I was going to do civil engineering, they said girls don't do civil engineering. It wasn't until I went to Imperial College at the University of London that I discovered they were right!" she said. One of just two women in the first year, she said she loved the subject. Jean and her husband Roger set up their own consultancy business in 1988, based in Surbiton, Surrey, where they live, offering business development, research, technical development and training services to the construction industry, its clients and suppliers. They also run Crane Environmental. They have two sons, Simon and Hugh. In May 2003, Mrs Venables was presented with her Diploma of Fellowship of the City and Guilds of London Institute at a ceremony at the Institute in the City of London. She was the first woman president of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

AND FINALLY ...

Phil Fouracre, who in our last issue sought information about a John Clare, has contacted our webmaster Paul Skelton to say that thanks to the piece in the newsletter he has located John. "A friend of John's younger brother read of my quest for information about him and the message was relayed. I am now in e-mail contact with John," writes Phil.

Keen-eyed **Michael Davis**, after reading the February 2010 edition of the magazine, points out that Alec Coveney (1934-70) was the metalwork teacher and not as stated (page seven) the woodwork teacher. "The woodwork teacher was Ernie Large who kept a boat Esmeralda in the Wellington Dock until it foundered. I was Mr Coveney's sole pupil for an A-level subject," said Michael.