

Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 99

January 2011

Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter



The school's new weather vane designed by pupil Harry Platts – see page 12.

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NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Maurice Smith (to retire 2012)
Roger Gabriel (to retire 2012)
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Mike Palmer (to retire 2013)
Alistair Gardiner (to retire 2013)

AUDITOR: Neil Beverton

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ANNUAL MEETING, LUNCHEON AND FOOTBALL MATCH 2010

The annual meeting of The Old Pharosians' Association, held at the school in September, dealt with a number of interesting issues. The meeting was attended by 20 members who welcomed our President Antony Hook and former headmaster Dr Michael Hinton. Three old boys at the meeting were celebrating 40 years since joining the school.

Chairman Jack Kremer reported the committee had this year, as an experiment, decided to hold a luncheon at the school instead of the traditional annual dinner. Only a week or two before the luncheon only 18 members plus guests had agreed to attend so a decision was taken to abandon the idea.

At the meeting a vote was taken on the preference for dinner or lunch and (with one abstention) there was a unanimous vote for the traditional annual dinner. Now all we have to do is to find a member willing to organise it!

The school's busy business manager Helen Simmonds confirmed reports that the proposed move of the school to Whitfield, under the Labour government's BSF programme, had been "cancelled" by the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat government - a move welcomed by some members but not others.

There was an interesting discussion about the school's Steinway piano in the Great Hall. Helen told the meeting the cost of restoring it (in Hamburg) would be £35,000 towards which several thousand pounds had already been donated. She believed after restoration the piano would be worth £130, 000.

This revelation resulted in a suggestion by a member that following restoration it could be sold and the money raised could be partially used to pay for the £30,000 cost of the restoration of the school organ. Helen agreed to put this idea to the school governors.

Our archivist Peter Burville appealed to members if they knew of any surplus shelving for the archive centre. He requires about 30 metres of

it. Another request was for members to provide membership secretary Paul Skelton with their e-mail address.

There followed the election of officers and committee. Re-elected were: President Antony Hook, chairman Jack Kremer, secretary Phil Harding, assistant secretary Graham Tutthill, treasurer John Sheather, membership Paul Skelton, newsletter editors Graham Tutthill and Terry Sutton, archivist Peter Burville and the committee strengthened by the addition of Alistair Gardiner.

Our chairman Jack Kremer points out all members were informed in the July Newsletter that a buffet lunch was planned for Old Pharosians' day in September 2010. The buffet lunch, it was planned, would be instead of the usual annual dinner. A sub-committee was formed to organise the luncheon and members were asked to book before 18 September. However, because the response was very poor, it was decided, with regret, to cancel the luncheon. Members who had booked for the luncheon were informed and their cheques returned.

Now our committee will be discussing whether next year there will be a return to the annual dinner while a provisional date of 10 September 2011 has been set for the next Annual General Meeting.

FOOTBALL MATCH

This year's football match saw both teams holding a lead at some stage but ended as a 3-3 draw. In the past this outcome has seen the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup shared, but it was decided, in accordance with common practice in the modern game, to hold a "penalty shoot-out" to decide the winner. In this, the Old Boys' team triumphed by 4 goals to 3, thus retaining the trophy.

The Old Boys were represented by Ryan Cochrane, Luke Cochrane, John Castle, Paul Castle, Neil Castle, Ryan Doel, Simon Gretton, Paul Henwood, James Durrant, Gary Beeden, Dan Young, Alex Baker and John Ellender.

CRICKET MATCH 2011

The annual cricket match has been provisionally arranged for Friday 1 July with a 3.30 p.m. start. Any cricketers wishing to play should contact Mick Palmer.

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings.

As frequently reported in these columns we have a welcome continual flow of material into the archives. At the moment most of it is in a room in the Caretaker's House with some of it stacked on the floor. With some free-standing shelving in the room the material could be better accommodated and we would be able to more easily access it. The question is does anyone have any surplus shelving that we could recycle? Ideally a multilayered structure, of some modular form that us old duffers could easily put together, would suit our purposes. In addition I would be able to bring the archive material to the School that is currently stored in my study at home.

Recently there have been several enquires that you may be able to help with. John Macintyre is trying to track down a teacher of English who was at the School in the period after WWII. The teacher was called Ernest and his wife Jean – no surname could be offered. The two Ernests that I could finger were Ernest Large and Ernest (Ego) Smith. My recollection is that the former taught metalwork~woodwork and the latter Latin. Any suggestions?

Another enquiry that no help could be offered on was from Garry Mighall. He thought his uncles Edward George William Mighall and John Mighall may have come to the School. Are any bells ringing as you read these names?

Jim Smithers is trying to find out more about his late father's early life. Matthew Albert James Smithers joined "upper trans" on 10 January 1935. I am reliably informed that the usual sequence of classes were prep, lower trans, upper trans and then the first form, with each class

normally occupying 12 months of the pupil's life. Young Matthew, who is reported to have won school swimming prizes, went into the Royal Navy and became a Chief Petty Officer.

Between them Joseph (Joe) Holyer (1971-78) and Rex Fletcher (1970-78) have sent Paul Skelton (1972-79-2005) some 1974 photographs for Paul to post on his brilliant website (dovergrammar). Rex was in the RAF section of the CCF and had Bill Bradbury as his captain. Rex reports that the section was involved in the production of a video instructing recruits on the mysteries of marching and drill. Does anyone have a copy of the video which would probably be far more entertaining now than when it was made without having lost any of its instructional qualities?

Finally can anyone provide Ronald Napier (1949-54) with any information relating to his time at the School? Ronald lived in Barwick Road.

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 & 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 and a few “double namings” that need to be resolved even if only by a majority vote. 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.

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) 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).

STUDENT'S TRIP TO NEPAL

Our association helped finance an educational trip to Nepal by Liam Milroy, one of the students at the school. Here is an edited extract of his letter of thanks, which included photographs, to the association.

First of all I thank you for the donation I received from the association towards my trip that proved an amazing experience which I shared with pupils from Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone. I hope this experience has developed me into a more mature person and has prepared me for life in the outside world.

The first day consisted of mainly a travelling day during which we flew from London Heathrow to New Delhi and then caught a connecting

flight to the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu. After a few days in the busy capital proceeded to take an eight hour bus journey to our starting point of the trekking phase at Bhulbhule. Our trekking lasted 12 days with some days totalling some 12 hours of walking, covering an estimated 160 kms reaching Throng La Pass to the highest point which was 5,416 metres above sea level, on the tenth day.

We then began our project phase in a small town called Marpha, known as the apple capital due to its cider and brandy distillery in the town. Our task was to demolish a Gompa (monastery) so it could be rebuilt. This project has been ongoing since 2005, however lack of funds and manpower has meant that not much had been achieved.

While I was there I also had the opportunity to do some teaching in a local school where we attempted to teach English. Some of the younger children's English was better than we expected. We were also treated to a cultural dance put on by the locals and we also had a lesson with a travelling Tibetan monk that proved very interesting.

We were to fly to Pokhara, the second biggest town in Nepal, but bad weather prevent the flight and instead we had a 14-hour bus journey catching a total of eight buses, sometimes having to push our bus out of deep mud and also trek across landslides. From Pokhara we caught another bus to Chitwan National Park where we spent two days. We spent an afternoon at the King's Royal Elephant Stables where we were given an elephant to wash in a river. During this stage we saw eight rhinos in the park.

The next day, after the best two days of the trip, we caught a bus back to Kathmandu from where we were to fly back to London Heathrow. This last day of our 30-day trip was spent exploring the capital, interacting with the local public, and buying souvenirs for families and friends.

"My trip to Nepal is by far the best thing I have been fortunate to have completed so far in my lifetime from crossing the Throng La Pass to riding elephants in Chitwan National Park. I hope to think that Nepal has given me experiences that will help me later in life," writes Liam.

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

REMEMBRANCE

More than 100 old boys of Dover Grammar School who died for their country in the two world wars were honoured in a moving ceremony in the school's Great Hall on 11 November, 92 years to the day after the guns fell silent in World War One. More than 750 boys and girls stood silently for two minutes in memory of the Fallen.

Headmaster Dr Richard Moxham explained the significance of the service, conducted by school governor the Reverend Andrew Bawtree of River. An honour guard was provided by the school's army and RAF cadet corps, with their Standard, while the Last Post was sounded by Harry Yarney. Head prefect Toby Fuller recited the Exhortation.

There was special mention this year of the death in action of Battle of Britain pilot Keith Gillman, an old boy shot down while patrolling over Dover. His great nephew Thomas Adams laid a wreath in his memory.

Representing the Old Pharosians was Terry Sutton (1940-1947) who laid a wreath in memory of his brother RAF pilot Roy, and all old boys who died in the two world wars. Deputy head prefect Emily Stickler laid a wreath in memory of David Kirton.

A new weather vane now points the wind direction on the roof of the school and this was dedicated by Father Bawtree.

The Battle of Britain weather vane, pictured on the front cover of this newsletter, was designed by year nine student Harry Platts, 13, of St Margaret's who received a certificate of congratulations for his work. It was designed to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Cheques were presented to two charities - the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Battle of Britain Memorial Centre at Capel.

NEW HEAD TAKES UP POST

News that a new grammar school campus will not be built at Whitfield and the school will remain on its present site has been welcomed by new head teacher Dr Richard Moxham who took up the post in September. He succeeds Sally Lees who moved to Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre in Tenterden.

Dr Moxham said the character of the buildings was one of the things that impressed him when he came to the school. He has brought with him an experience of European schools and was pleased to find pupils studied for the International Baccalaureate. He regards foreign languages as important and believes young people should be fluent in at least one other language to compete in today's world. Year eight pupils are already receiving humanities lessons in French, and Dr Moxham hopes this will spread to other subjects, so that the pupils use another language naturally in their everyday lives.



After teaching at Wilmslow Boys' Grammar School he was appointed head of English within the British section of a state-run international school in Saint-Germain-en-Laye in the western suburbs of Paris. In 1990 he became head of sixth form at St Olave's School in Orpington but seven years later was heading back to the continent to join the staff at the European School of Brussels II where he eventually became sixth form co-ordinator across eight language sections. Limited to working there for 10 years, Dr Moxham came back to England in 2008 to become deputy head teacher at a

sixth form college which was part of Treloar School in Alton, Hampshire, a school for young people with severe physical disabilities.

He has paid tribute to Sally Lees for bringing the school through three Ofsted inspections, improving from satisfactory to good and then outstanding. "But I believe there is still more that can be done and I am looking forward to my time here," he said. He hopes that more facilities will now be added to the school.

In his spare time, Dr Moxham enjoys hill walking, ridge scrambling – particularly on the Isle of Skye – playing the guitar and writing popular songs, from rock to folk. He also writes verse and has directed more than 30 school plays.

ISABELLA SMITH

Just as this newsletter was being prepared, we heard of the death of Isabella Smith aged 85. Former pupils will remember her as the chemistry and biology technician at the school for about 20 years.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

OBITUARIES

GORDON BAILEY (1943-50)

Gordon, who lived in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, died on 9 September.

DOUGLASS CONSTABLE (1950-58)

Douglass died of pancreatic cancer in June 2008. He was 68 and although he received an engineering degree he went on to work in social services where he was senior manager. At school he was involved in the Marionette Club and loved running.

DR ALBERT D. DEWAR (1923-34)

Dr Dewar (known as Bill), who died on November 28 in 2010 aged 95, was one of our oldest Old Pharosians who spent a surprising ten or eleven years at the school. Records show that Bill, in 1924, did well in the school's sports day and a year later was playing cricket for the junior school and by 1933 was the school's swimming champion ("notably for his exceedingly good diving", said the 1933 Pharos magazine). He also wrote a poem for the magazine and since leaving school has helped identify old boys in the school's selection of photographs. He was also involved in persuading the headmaster to allow sixth formers to wear boaters (instead of those horrible caps: Ed.)

ROGER FRAYNE



Dover Town Council chamber was packed for a memorial service for Roger who was a member of the town, Dover district and Kent County councils. At his request, the memorial service was a light-hearted celebration of his life.

From his teenage years as a Young Conservative, he rose to the senior ranks of local government, becoming vice-chairman of the district council and chairman of the local Conservative Association.

He was involved with the launch of Neptune Radio, which eventually became KMfm, he was closely linked to Radio Caroline and ran, with others, a pirate radio station in Dover in the 1970s. His broadcasting interests also took him regularly to Dover Athletic Football Club where his voice was that heard over the public address system.

For many years he had a deep involvement with the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, numerous swimming groups and various green organisations.

He was a long-term school governor both at Guston Primary School and Dover Grammar School for Girls. He was a great supporter of Sunday jazz nights at the Louis Armstrong pub, was a quiz master and for a long period was involved in Dover Carnival.

He was fanatical about his swimming and his allotment where he grew considerable amounts of vegetables, giving most of them away.

"He was an asset and one of Dover's own," said town clerk Mike Webb at the service. "People have spoken of Roger's straight dealing, his passion, his steely determination. Indeed, if he got his teeth into something he would follow it through to the bitter end, in support of anyone or anything that he believed worthwhile. He will be sadly missed. He did it his way!"

Music at the ceremony included Danse Macabre, Habanera from Carmen and Miss You by The Rolling Stones.

Donations in his memory are being made to the Pilgrims' Hospice

LAWRENCE HOBBS (1945-48)

Laurie Hobbs, aged 80, died from a heart attack at his Dover home in October. In 1946 he was presented with the Pascall Cup for the best individual performance at the Inter-House Sports. He played rugby at the school as a full back and was noted for some good games. In 1947 he was appointed a Deputy Prefect.

He was a teacher at Castlemount School for 38 years following training at Goldsmiths. His first wife Hazel, who predeceased him, was a teacher at the same school now closed and demolished. The Old Pharosians' Association was represented at his cremation at Barham.

ANDREW KNOTT (1974-79)

Andrew, who left our school to join the Royal Navy, has died. He enjoyed his time while in the navy section of the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and at one time lived at worked in Plymouth.

Andrew's death was reported to us by Royston Stone (1972-1977) who had been in touch with Andrew via Facebook. Royston also sent his best wishes to former head Dr Michael Hinton.

PERCIVAL STROUD (1931-35)

Percival James Stroud (Major retired) died in October, aged 89. His son Ian, writing from Hertfordshire, says his father joined the army when he left school. "My father enjoyed reading the Old Pharosians' magazine over many years," writes Ian.

PAUL M. TWEDDELL (1951-57)

Paul Markham Tweddell died in November, aged 72. The Guardian newspaper provided an obituary saying he was born in London and attended a number of schools because his father was the principal of a series of further education colleges, including Dover Technical College, resulting in him moving from post to post. Paul was awarded a music degree and in his early days was a professional musician. He was, to quote the article, a polymath with interests in geography, history, botany, geology, science, philosophy, the arts, transport, languages, genealogy, and gardening. He worked as an educationist in various parts of the country before his retirement in 1995 due to ill health. In his retirement he investigated the family name and discovered he was descended from a long line of activists, Chartists, including an Archbishop of York who led resistance to the demolition of the city's walls.

On 20 November 2010, The Guardian printed an appreciation of him by his daughter, Hannah Tweddell.

Clyde Binfield (1951-1958) recalled that Paul was very musical at school, playing in the school orchestra.

Tony Bradley (1945-52) writes: I remember Paul at school as being very musical, showing skill on the cello, both in the school orchestra (he was the solitary cellist) and in the Dover orchestra playing in the Town Hall. He was a lively and cheerful person. Hannah's account tells us that he took a degree in music at Durham University, and was for some years a professional musician.

But Paul was a polymath with a wide range of interests. In the 1950s, Paul's father had been principal of the then Dover Technical College and for many years Paul too worked as an educationist in various places that included London, Lancashire, and Bath.

In Tameside (Greater Manchester), he was head of the multicultural support team, establishing the first programme to train Asian adults without British degrees to work as classroom assistants to support children newly arrived in the UK. At Exeter University, he advised on new programmes to promote the teaching of dance, drama, music and art in schools, subjects which he regarded "as forms of language that should be available to all".

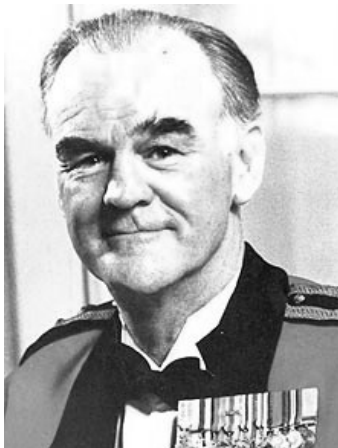
After early retirement in 1995 because of ill health, Paul researched the life of his great-great-grandfather, George Markham Tweddell, who was a Chartist, publisher of a radical newspaper, and a poet. Paul shared such radical principles, and at the time of his death, he had almost completed a book about the role of the Tweddells in the social and political history of Cleveland, which it is hoped will soon be published (much interesting material is at www.tweddellhistory.co.uk).

Paul's family have little information about his time at school.

If any reader of this newsletter remembers Paul and would like to write to his family, messages sent to AWBradley@aol.com will be forwarded to them.

ERIC WILDE

War hero Colonel Eric Wilde MC, who lived at Folkestone, died on 22 September, aged 88. When at our school he was a good sportsman, winning the mile race to be awarded the Farley Cup. He also received a certificate for life saving and as a member of the school's army cadet



force Eric was selected for duty in London with the cadet Coronation detachment. From Dover County (now Grammar) School he was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, reading History before being commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment (RTR) in April 1942 and posted to Egypt. He served in the Royal Armoured Corps and fought in a Dingo armoured car with the Eighth Army in the North African campaign.

The Daily Telegraph, in a long obituary, reported that Second Lieutenant Wilde, born in India in 1922, was a regimental navigating officer during the Battle of Alamein when one of the regiment's Grant tanks was hit and caught fire. Eric Wilde dashed out in his Dingo scout car, drove up to the tank which was about to explode, hauled a wounded soldier from the blazing tank, placed him across the Dingo and returned to the Allied lines. All this time the enemy were shelling and shooting at him. For his bravery under fire Eric Wilde was awarded the Military Cross (MC).

Eric, who visited the school in Ebbw Vale, went on to fight on the Salerno bridgehead in Italy, where he was shot in the chest, and was wounded again in Normandy in June 1944. Then in April 1945, his unit was strafed by enemy aircraft near Bremen and he was again injured when the debris from a bombed house fell on him. But "after a stiff drink and 24 hours rest" Eric was back in the advance again. Still in the army he was appointed to command a Junior Leaders Regiment for which he was appointed OBE (an Officer of the Order of the British Empire). He married in 1955 and lived at Folkestone.

STILL LIVING AND LEARNING

CLYDE BINFIELD (1951-1958)

Clyde, living in Sheffield, was featured on a BBC Songs of Praise programme in December. He was interviewed because of his knowledge about the hymn writer James Montgomery (1771-1854) who is honoured in Sheffield with a statue and having a hall named after him. We learnt that Montgomery was twice imprisoned for his view and that he edited the Sheffield Register (later Register Iris). One of his best known hymns is Angels from the Realms of Glory.

IAN CLARK (1983-1990)

Ian hit the headlines in September when he took charge of the Royal Navy's latest destroyer HMS Diamond. Earlier in his naval career he was in charge of uncovering trans-Caribbean drug shipments.



Commander Clarke, 38, lived in Elms Vale, went to St Mary's primary school and then to our school from 1983 to 1990. While at our school he was appointed a prefect and the senior cadet in the naval section of the CCF.

Now the father of a young daughter, Rebecca, he passed out of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as a warfare officer in 1992. In 2003 he joined the destroyer HMS Manchester which was engaged in disrupting trans-Caribbean drug running

HMS Diamond, of nearly 8,000 tonnes, is the third of the Type 45 destroyers capable of carrying either a Merlin or Lynx helicopter.

REX FLETCHER

In a series of e-mails to our webmaster Paul Skelton, Rex Fletcher recalls that when he was at school in the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force a video was made and he would love to get a copy.

Rex writes: "I remember while I was in the CCF/RAF section being involved in a video production instructing recruits on march and drill. I think Bill Bradbury was our captain then, I would love to find that." He adds that Facebook is an amazing resource through which he had been in contact with Douglas Williams, his friend from Eastry, who he had been trying to locate since leaving school.

ALLAN GODFREY (1956-63)

After leaving our school Allan went to Reading and then Edinburgh Universities. He began a teaching career in Uganda and subsequently taught in Scotland, Malawi, Namibia, Jordan, Nigeria and Lesotho. Allan, married to Vera and they have a son Benjamin, is now based in Dover, although he continues to teach in Lesotho. He says he would be delighted to hear from old friends or contemporaries who remember him. e-mail allan_godfrey@yahoo.co.uk

REV JOHN PHILPOTT (1956-63)

John, a former vicar of Whitfield, has just stood down as chairman of the governors at the Dover Girls' Grammar School, a position he has held for 17 years, having been a governor for 23 years. A presentation ceremony took place at the school to mark the occasion. John is a former President of our association.

HENRY PLANT

Henry, who was at our school at various times, seeks information about when he joined the school and when he had to leave during evacuation in South Wales because of any accident. Any members got any ideas?

He writes: "As I have limited mobility I was disappointed I could not attend the 70th evacuation celebrations held in Dover in June. I am seeking details of when I joined the school and the date I had to leave because of an accident which left me in hospital for a prolonged period while in South Wales. I rejoined the school in Dover just after the end of the war in 1945 and finally left in July 1948." Henry, born in August 1931, adds that he was in Ebbw Vale and Cwm but can not now recall the details of his time there at the school. He can be contacted by e-mail on: henrysjplant@yahoo.com

TERRY SUTTON (1940-1947)

Terry, currently chairman of Dover district's tourism association (the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association), has recently had published his third book (Dover in the Second World War) which has been selling well. Part of the book recalls the dispute between the local education authority and central government on the issue of school evacuation and the re-opening of schools in Dover.

PAUL TUTTHILL (1991-98)

PC Paul Tutthill has just been appointed as the neighbourhood police officer for part of Dover town centre, the Castle and Town and Pier wards. He joined Kent Police in 2006, having graduated from Bradford University, and has spent most of his police career as a response officer dealing with emergency calls in both Dover and Deal. He has also spent time in the volume crime team where crimes are investigated and offenders brought to justice.

NEIL WIGGINS (1978-1983)

Neil, who owns his own maritime company, has been hitting the air waves and the print media as chairman of a group hoping to buy the Port of Dover for the local community. Neil, and his fellow trustees of the People's Port Community Trust Ltd, have taken up the cause initiated by Charlie Elphicke, the Conservative MP for Dover and Deal.

Neil has worked in the maritime industry for 27 years, being a deck officer on various vessels. He came ashore to work in operations

management at Felixstowe container terminal and has spent time in the Far East managing and planning large scale port investments and developments. His company, IVOPS, looks after, on the operations side, a fleet of ten container ships. He lives at Eythorne with his family and, when not busy with his work or the People's Port Community Trust, he plays the trumpet.

MARTIN WILLSON

Captain Martin Willson, an experienced soldier, is undertaking his third tour of duty in Afghanistan, where he has the critical task of ensuring troops have the all the right equipment to do their jobs. Now aged 44, he is serving in Helmand province with 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault), Corps of Royal Engineers.



In the UK, Martin's role is that of Squadron Quartermaster, based at the unit's HQ in Woodbridge. Now deployed to the front line, his job has become that of Engineer Resources Officer – in other words, doing whatever it takes to get the right kit to the right place, at the right time. Since following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and joining the Army in 1984, he has served in the first Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is my third tour of Afghanistan and the changes over that time are remarkable. From the beginning we all realised that this was going to be a long-term operation and one that would take time to resolve properly – tactical patience is the buzzword. We are operating in a culturally-diverse, tribal environment with many frustrations and hurdles to overcome – but failure is not in our vocabulary and we will set the conditions for Afghanistan to move forward. Even after 26 years' service, every day is still a school day.

“Ultimately it always returns to the same starting point, the man to your left and right. I have had the honour to serve with the best across the globe and not one of them has been found wanting. We joke that it does take a special kind of lunatic to do what we do – but we are all volunteers doing our job, albeit in extreme circumstances.”

Martin's parents Tina and John, brothers Stephen and Mark and sister Jackie still live in Dover. He is currently based in Woodbridge, Suffolk, the home of his regiment, where he lives with wife Ann and sons Liam, Alex and Ryan. His other son Karl lives in Newcastle. In his spare time, Martin enjoys swimming and water polo, and describes himself as a JRR Tolkien fanatic. He is also a member of the Royal Engineers Association and the Royal British Legion.

“Being away from the family is always the hardest part of any tour, however enjoyable or successful it is,” he said. “I consider my greatest achievements to be holding on to my childhood sweetheart for over 23 years – I’m not sure how she has put up with me – as well as successfully raising The Inbetweeners!”

AND FINALLY ...

Sharp-eyed readers of the last edition of the newsletter noticed a couple of errors.

Arthur Tolputt and John Simmons both wrote about the final paragraph which referred to former teacher Alec Coveney. He may well have taught Michael Davis metalwork, they said, but he taught them woodwork. Arthur said that metalwork came under F Ockenden and added: “Mr Large didn’t come to the school until 1946, the year that Mr Ockenden left. So perhaps we were both right.”

John was among several who wondered what had happened to the order of the pages in the last newsletter. “Glad you are keeping us senior citizens on our toes following the sequence of pages!!”

Hopefully we've got them right this time!