

# Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 100

July 2011

## *Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter*



Sophie Grayson has made history at our school. How? – see page 12.

## **LIST OF CONTENTS**

### **NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- Officers and Committee Members
- Annual Meeting, Football Match and Dinner 2011
- Cricket Match 2011
- Archivist's Corner
- Items for Sale
- Where Are They Now?
- CCF Reunion
- Don Page
- Ken Pickering

### **NEWS OF THE SCHOOL**

- Sophie takes charge

### **NEWS OF OLD BOYS**

- Obituaries
- Still Living and Learning
- And finally ...

## **NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2010-2011**

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

AUDITOR: Neil Beverton

HEAD TEACHER: Dr Richard Moxham

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES: Francoise Lloyd  
Helen Simmonds  
Vacancy

HEAD PREFECT: Sophie Grayson

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## **ANNUAL MEETING, FOOTBALL MATCH AND DINNER 2011**

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Pharosians' Association will be held on Saturday 1 October 2011, 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 member Rev. J Philpott)
6. Any Other Business

**Philip Harding (Hon Secretary)**

Old Pharosians' Day is Saturday 1 October 2011. The annual meeting is at 11 a.m. with coffee being served from 10.30 a.m. The Football Match is scheduled for 2.30 p.m. and will be organised, as usual, by Mick Palmer.

This year we are again having an evening dinner and a booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. The dinner will be at 6.45 for 7.30 p.m. and the cost is £20 (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 23 September.

### **CRICKET MATCH 2011**

The annual cricket match has been arranged for Friday 1 July with a 3.30 p.m. start.

### **FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM**

Membership secretary Paul Skelton reported to the committee 150,000 hits on the Old Pharosians' website, representing a big increase to an estimated 1,000 hits a month. He also told the committee that he has successfully placed on the website, in pdf format, Freddie Whitehouse's diaries for the years 1899-1929. The school's first headmaster's diaries occupied 363 pages on the website. Paul once again appealed to all association members to let him have their e-mail addresses so he can speed up communications.

### **ARCHIVIST'S CORNER**

Greetings.

It is pleasing to report there has been a good response to my appeal for shelving. Mike Sharp (1950-55) has offered some shelves but it has not been possible to collect them yet. Chairman Jack Kremer (1943-49) is going to raid his loft and bring some shelving to accommodate archive material in the Caretaker's House. As a consequence of the

ubiquitous down-sizing I have been able to put some shelving in our archive room. Now it is a matter of trying to create order out of quasi-chaos! My thanks to those responding to the plea for shelving.

Of recent issues there has been correspondence about the role of teacher Alec Arthur Coveney (1934-70) who taught me woodwork. Via the good offices of teacher Maurice Smith (1959-89) papers relating to his teaching career have been lodged in the archives. In 1921 sixteen year old Alec was indentured as a five-year apprentice Engine Fitter at His Majesty's Dockyard at Sheerness. By 1927 he had also attended evening classes in Drawing Office techniques. In 1929, when he was clearly looking round for employment elsewhere, the Sheerness H.M. Dockyard School Headmaster supplied a statement on his educational achievements in mathematics, electricity, drawing and other disciplines.

A 1933 letter from the Folkestone Harvey Grammar School recorded that Mr Coveney had been on their staff from 1929 to 1930 as a Trainee Handicraft Teacher. A 1933 letter from Ashford Grammar School stated that he had been the Handicraft Master there since 1930. A 1934 letter from the New Romney Southland's Grammar School stated Mr Coveney had been in charge of Manual Instruction at the School since 1930. In September 1934 he joined Fred Whitehouse's team of teachers here. Two years later the School Founder was to retire but, of course, no connection between these events is suggested. It appears that prior to joining the School in 1934 Mr Coveney had taught at both the Ashford and Southland's Grammar Schools over the period from 1930 to 1934. Given the distance between the two establishments perhaps he spent whole days at the schools.

During the Second World War, while the School had moved to Ebbw Vale in Wales, the school building was used by the armed forces as accommodation. A Medway Education Board letter of 1941 records that in March 1940 a Women's Training Centre was opened at the Junior Technical School in Chatham where, since July 1940, Mr Coveney had been on the staff implying he did not go to Wales and rejoined the School at Dover after the war.

Don Whall (1945-50) passed on a photograph of the Country House soccer team who were winners of the East Cup in 1934. The photograph came from the estate of the late Brian Howard who features in the photograph of: P.G. Otten (-1934-), R.F. Slator House Captain (1925-34), R.S. Harman (1929-38), E.B. Crush Vice House Captain (1926-35), J.W. Menter (1932-40), W.W. Baxter House Master (1915-50), R.P. Bean (-1934-1935-), G.J. Bartlett (-1934-), J.E. Holliss (1934-38), F. Whitehouse Head Master (1905-36), J.B. Kiers (Keirs) Captain (1932-37), D.H. Lawther (-1934-), J.Wesley (1933-34-), B.A. Howard (1933-38), and K.G. Smith (1934-39).

As reported elsewhere, keen archivist Arthur A.C. Tolputt (1934-40) passed away in February. This photograph was taken the year Arthur joined the School and he would have been able to recount stories about those in the picture particularly as he spent most of his working life in the Dover area. Arthur is a man who will be greatly missed.

Mrs Jenny Morley, widow of Andrew (Andy) (1957-58) who died 2010, sent Speech Day (1958) and Christmas Concert material (1958). Jenny has started a Remembrance Fund for Andy with The Stroke Association. Jenny stated that Andy suffered a heart attack followed by two small strokes before suffering the massive stroke that he could not survive. Donations to the fund can be made at: <http://stroke.tributefunds.com/fund/Andy+Morley/showFund/> .

Pat Davis (wife of Michael 1947-55) sent copies of sporting reports from the 1950s. These include a 1955 newspaper report of six school records being broken on Sports Day with a further three broken before the big day. Michael was second in the discus event.

Lester Borley (1943-49) CBE sent material relating to the late Dr Albert Duncan (Bill) Dewar (1923-34) MBE, for whom he had been caring towards the end of Bill's life. These items include: "colours" for First XV Rugby 1933/4; East Cup winners photograph 1933 with Bill as Town House Captain; Bill's school reports; a 22 November 1924 newspaper supplement from The Dover and County Chronicle, regarding the County School for Boys, which gives an extensive report on prize winners and the staff; a panoramic School Photograph of June 1933.



Also in the papers was an undated article from the Telegraph Sunday Magazine regarding the Rev William Frederick Kemp (1912-30). The article relates to a sermon given by the honorary minor canon preaching in Canterbury Cathedral. The reviewer, Charles Jennings, provides an assessment of the sermon such as “Stern as an old Latin master, Mr Kemp has Alan Bennett vowels, and a measured delivery”. Jennings’ overall view of the 20-minute sermon whose subject was what makes a good vicar?: “Style:8/10; Content:5½/10; Snooze factor:4/10”. One wonders what the Reverend thought.

## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

The latest 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).

Sidney Willcocks (1955-62) sent four Pharos Magazines, dating from the late 1950s, for the archives and asked if anyone had news of Michael Dudfield. They were contemporaries at Aylesham Junior School where Sidney's father was Head Teacher. (See item later in newsletter).

Closing with the hope there has been a happy balance between lots of sunshine and the need for rain to nourish the plants in the summer.

Regards.

**Peter Burville (1946-51)**

### **CCF REUNION**

Sarah Philpott, Ian Philpott's daughter, is organising a reunion for her father who used to run the R.A.F. section of the Combined Cadet Force at one time. The former Officers' Mess is booked at R.A.F. Manston for the 15 October 2011. Please contact Sarah if you would like to attend. E-mail [sarahphilpott19@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahphilpott19@hotmail.com)

### **DON PAGE**

Don Page died on Tuesday 22 February. Educated at the Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone (with our secretary Phil Harding), Don went into sixth form to study chemistry and continued his chemistry studies at Hull University before taking up a career in teaching at Dover Grammar School. He lived with his wife Joyce at Cheriton, Folkestone. His funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on Thursday 10 March.

## **KEN PICKERING**

Former head of drama at our school, Ken has written a book with actress Anthea Preston examining how the magic of early memories of theatre can go on to shape people's lives. Playwrights, actors, scientists, educators, writers and fictional characters are among those whose early experiences of theatre are contained in the book, called *Theatre: The First Stages*. It was while he was at our school that he directed a play which sparked an interest in that side of the theatre. He has written three rock musicals and also teamed up with Kevin Wood and Channel Theatre (later Chalkfoot). He has also just published a book called *Jesus Centre Stage* about the portrayal of Jesus in plays, and is now working on a book, along with Jayne Thompson, a drama lecturer at Kent University, about naturalistic theatre in plays by writers such as Ibsen and Chekov.

## **NEWS OF THE SCHOOL**

As you will have seen from the front cover of this newsletter, history has been made with the appointment of 16-year-old Sophie Grayson as head prefect. It is the first time a girl has held the post.

Sophie only joined the school in September 2010 to study for her A levels in maths, chemistry, biology and English. She took over as head prefect after Easter and said she was very surprised when she was told she had been appointed.

"Originally I didn't even apply," she said. "But I was asked to fill out an application form and then I had to go for two interviews, one with the current head prefect and the sixth form co-ordinator, and the other with the head teacher. I thought several of the boys were more likely to get it than me."

Sophie went to Temple Ewell Primary School and then Archers Court Maths and Computing College which became Dover Christ Church Academy in September. "I looked at the two grammar schools and decided that the best one for me was the boys' school," she said.

She now heads the executive body consisting of nine prefects.

Earlier in the year Sophie was on the school's team which won the Dover Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition. She was the speaker, on the subject of the value of drama in education. She was well qualified to speak on that having played Rosaline in the school's production of Love's Labour's Lost and being an enthusiastic member of Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society and Temple Ewell Players. She is a volunteer with the Pegasus Playscheme in the summer. Her parents, Steve and Alyson, run The Fox pub in Temple Ewell.

Sophie has also auditioned for Lord Sugar's Junior Apprentice programme.

Meanwhile, Richard Hall has been appointed as one of the two deputy head prefects at the Girls' Grammar School. Another boy, Dan Hogben, is a member of the Young Enterprise team based at the girls' school, called FUNdamentools, which won the Best Innovation prize in the south east regional finals of the competition. The company produced multi-media kits that inspire children and adults – particularly those with learning disabilities – to read.

The Junior Drama production in January was an adaptation of Philip Pullman's *The Scarecrow and his Servant*. James Coe played the Scarecrow and Robin Savage was Jack. Other cast members were Gabriel Wadland, Thomas Chisholm, Tristan Savage, Thomas Ashbee, Ben Harris and Louis Blomfield. Katharine Wiggell and Imogen Thomas were guest performers from outside the school.

Teachers from Incheon in South Korea visited the school in January. They were joined by government education officers and school principals to develop a partnership designed to result in an exchange visit with South Korean schools. Our school is involved in a British Council initiative, Connecting Classrooms, which links schools in Kent with counterparts in Incheon and Changhua, Taiwan. It aims to build lasting partnerships between schools in the UK and others around the world. In February 2009 Korean students had been hosted by DGSB pupils. The visiting teachers sat in on lessons and discussed projects designed to give students a better understanding of each other's cultures.

Head teacher Dr Richard Moxham says he would like more lessons at the school to be given in a foreign language. He wants to build on the school's European dimension and says he believes young people have to be fluent in at least one other language to compete in today's world. One way of achieving that is by using a foreign language in everyday life. Year eight pupils are already receiving humanities lessons in French. "Languages should be a medium rather than just a target," said Dr Moxham. "We are in a world where it is increasingly important to communicate in other languages. In schools in other countries, pupils use other languages naturally, they hardly realise they are doing it."

The tradition of having a whole-school photograph taken approximately every four or five years continued with the latest photo being taken in April this year. This allows every student to be included in at least one photograph during their time at the school.

The Junior Prize Giving will be held at Dover Town Hall this summer, rather than at the school, reviving a tradition. The prize givings, or Speech Days as they then were, moved back to the school many years ago because of the cost of hiring the town hall.

## **NEWS OF OLD BOYS**

### **OBITUARIES**

#### **DR A.D. "BILL" DEWAR (1923-34)**

Although with roots in Perthshire, Bill was born in Dover and educated at Dover Grammar School and London University. He went on to establish a distinguished career as a senior lecturer in Physiology within the University of Edinburgh. His research interest in his early days was in understanding the role of female hormones in pregnancy. In particular, he studied, in mice, the importance of progesterone in increasing food intake and fat stores. His primary work on the subject, involving meticulous observations, was published 40-50 years ago: long before the current concern about obesity in human pregnancy.

Another outstanding achievement was Bill's collaboration with his beloved wife Ann, a speech therapist. Together they developed the Edinburgh Masker – a significant invention that allowed many people with severe stammers to speak freely, often for the first time. It was a task to which Bill and Ann brought their respective professional skills and abilities along with their sheer humanity.

Ann recalled fitting the device to one patient, a miner, who having been unable to speak at his first daughter's wedding, was able to give a speech at that of the second. Jack Webster, the Scottish journalist, was another patient.

From being unable to speak in public he went on to win the UK Speaker of the Year Award (beating Tony Benn and Trevor McDonald in the process). Bill, I am sure, would have taken great delight in his and Ann's invention helping to defeat a Labour politician in any arena ... However, the greater delight was that of helping countless people to communicate freely. Theirs was a truly liberating work.

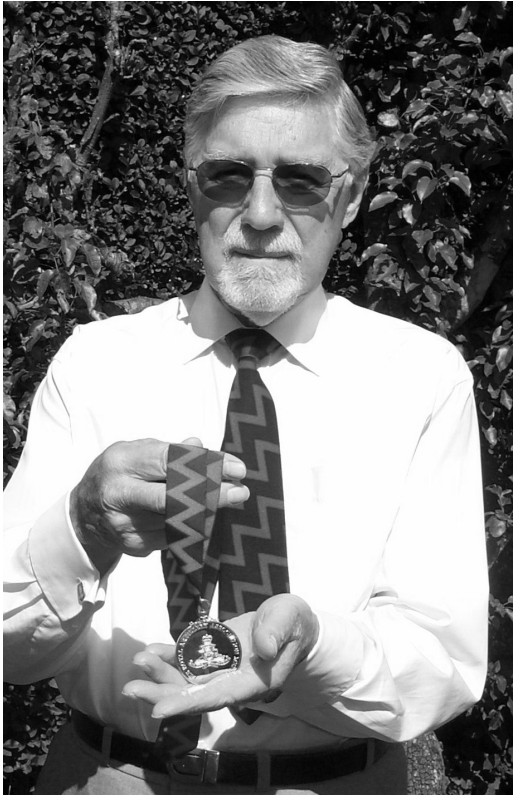
History and genealogy were consuming passions for Bill. He published a history explaining the role of the "Dewars" as custodians of the relics of the saints of the Celtic Church. But, beginning in the late 1960s, Bill and Ann took a more practical approach to their interest in history.

The Dewars are part of the clan Menzies, and Bill approached David Menzies of Menzies, the clan chief, and requested permission to restore the Old Kirk, which was in a derelict state, at his own expense. In two years the work was completed to a high standard, for which the Old Kirk received a European Architectural Heritage Award.

Bill and Ann also tackled the painstaking restoration of Castle Menzies which was recognised in 1995 when the castle's grand Victorian ballroom was named "The Dewar Room" in their honour.

In 1997 an MBE for his services to conservation was another fitting tribute.

## ARTHUR TOLPUTT (1934-40)



The ancient church of St. Mary-in-Castro was packed on 22 February when family, friends and comrades bade their farewell to Old Pharosian Arthur Alfred Charles Tolputt who died just 10 days short of his 88th birthday. He worshipped at the Dover Castle church where he served on the parochial church council.

Arthur served for many years as secretary (and latterly treasurer) of the Dover branch of the Royal Artillery Association and the regiment sent along a bugler to sound Last Post at the service. Another Gunner fired a lone shot from a rifle as the cortege left for the cremation service at Barham.

Arthur went to Barton Junior School where he gained a scholarship to our school. On leaving, he went to work for William Crundall's timber importing company. He joined the Home Guard when it was set up in 1940 and in January 1942 was called up into the Royal Artillery, serving in this country, the Middle East, Italy and Greece, being demobbed as a sergeant in February 1947.

He immediately joined the Royal Artillery Association and was a member for more than 60 years. In 2006 he was presented with the association's Gold Medal by national chairman Major General Michael Shellard, at the annual assembly in Blackpool. He was only the second



person in the country to receive this special award which recognised continuing “outstanding and extraordinary support” for the association, and represented the highest acclaim that the RAA could bestow. The medal had only been instituted two years earlier.

Arthur returned to Crundall's after the war and after a brief spell with other companies, worked for the timber firm again in Canterbury, then Ramsgate and Margate where he was branch manager, retiring in 1987.

He continued to help fire the guns at Dover Castle to mark the silence on Armistice Days and for other events.

Tributes have also been paid to Arthur's work with the Old Pharosians' Association (he was an active member of the association's archive team) and the Pharos Masonic Lodge. The funeral service was attended by a number of Old Boys from the school. Arthur leaves a widow, Pam and son Keith.

## **STILL LIVING AND LEARNING**

### **JACOB BALL (2000-07)**

Jacob, 22, who hails from Deal, has successfully completed the initial phase of officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in his bid to become a warfare officer in the Submarine Service of the Royal Navy. He joined the Royal Navy in September last year after graduating from Sheffield Hallam University with an honours degree in history.

The course at BRNC sets numerous challenges and there is significant emphasis on developing leadership skills throughout the training in addition to academic work. Ten weeks have been spent at sea in the Amphibious Assault ship HMS Ocean, which was operating in UK waters. The time on board was an excellent opportunity for Jacob and his colleagues to gain experience across all specialisms and departments in an operational warship.

Jacob's parents, Stephen and Susan Ball travelled to Dartmouth to witness the impressive Passing-out Parade in April when the salute was taken by His Royal Highness, Prince Michael of Kent. They shared a truly memorable day with their son. Sub Lieutenant Ball returned to BRNC after some well-earned Easter leave to commence the Initial Warfare Officer's foundation course, the start of his professional courses before an appointment at sea.

### **DR PETER BURVILLE (1946-51)**

Our hard working archivist Peter Burville has been even busier beavering away for the last 20 years researching his ancestors. The result is a massive tome with details of the Burville family from the 12th century to the 20th century. His publication is entitled An East Kent Family-The Burvilles.

Peter, who lives at St Margaret's Bay, discovered some of his ancestors lived in caves at Dover's East Cliff while another was a smuggler, another a nautical privateer with yet another a wealthy Buckinghamshire lawyer. While not gathering historical archives about the school and association members' activities, Peter studied old newspapers, town directories, census returns, church records, property sales, tax collections and even workhouse records. Originally agricultural labourers the family branched out into traditional jobs such as mariners, carriers, gunners at Dover Castle, porters, publicans, scavengers, fishermen and builders.

"One was a Deal mariner who became a privateer while another was a seafarer from Dover sailing on the ship King of Prussia with the famous revolutionary Tom Paine," says Peter who believes the family surname was locative from the Manor of Barefield at Tilmanstone now known as Barville Farm.

### **PHIL EYDEN (1980-87)**

Phil, now aged 41 and working as an Immigration Officer, is busy compiling a history of the Dover Anti-Aircraft Company that was set up to defend Dover in the 1914-18 war. The unit was established as a

result of public meetings called by the Mayor and some of those who signed up were old boys from our school. Although civilian volunteers, they were taken into the RNVR and paid as naval ranks. He has discovered they manned searchlights at the Western Heights, on the roof of the keep of Dover Castle and at Langdon Cliffs where anti-aircraft guns were also mounted. His research has shown that the men of the unit, working in shifts, illuminated three enemy Zeppelins in 1915 so that the AA guns could drive them off. One damaged Zeppelin came down in the sea near Ostend.

The old boys from our school who were in the searchlight unit included: ironmonger Sidney Clout, outfitter Bill Norton, engineer Reg Sinclair, teacher Charlie Baldwin, bank clerk Archie Hall, Harold Penn, Bert Box journalist Harry Suter, Dick Pressers and Victor Brown.

Later in the war, when the Royal Engineers took over the searchlights, most of the old boys were packed off to Gallipoli where they manned tethered balloons on Royal Navy ships to act as spotters of the Turkish trenches.

Phil says if any Newsletter readers have any more information about the unit he would be delighted to hear from them.  
[phil.precambrian@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.precambrian@btinternet.com)

### **BRIAN HALL (1948-1953)**

Brian e-mails to say: Thank you for the January edition of the newsletter which I always read with great interest. I was delighted to read about Brian Coatsworth appeal for information concerning contemporaries 1948-1953. I tend to remember people by their prowess at cricket and "Oilly" Obree I remember well for his calm batting and steady bowling.

I also remember Bertie Wall, principally for two reasons. First I wrongly accused him of firing a paper pellet in my eye!! Second because he caught me with a splendid slip catch off a rising ball as I defended my face with the bat. Both events still keep me awake at night.

## **DAVID HANNENT (1957-63)**

David, who lives at Whitfield, has resigned as a Dover town councillor and has been elected to Dover District Council. In May David completed 12 months as Dover's deputy mayor, attending numerous civic and town functions. For several years he was the unofficial leader of the Independents on the town council and was elected to chair the council's finance committee. Also in May he was elected by the people of Whitfield and Guston to be one of their two Conservative councillors on Dover District Council.

## **JOHN HENDY (1963-65)**

Former schoolmaster John Hendy, now a churchwarden on Romney Marsh and an author, has compiled a fully illustrated 130-page book to commemorate the arrival at Dover of P&O Ferries' new ship Spirit of Britain and the scheduled arrival later this year of sister ship Spirit of France.

John, who worked on a Dover ferry in his student days, has written several books on ferries sailing between Dover and Continental channel ports. This latest book, entitled Two New Ships, One New Era, was written with the full co-operation of P&O Ferries and the builders. Helping in the P&O Ferries' public relations team was fellow Old Pharosian Brian Rees. A number of the school's old boys were on board as guests, crew or on shore employees of the company for the naming ceremony of Spirit of Britain.

In 1996 John was awarded an M. Phil by the University of London for his thesis detailing the development and growth of Dover's vehicle ferry industry. The book, published by Lily Publications, costs £18.50.

## **RALPH MAIDSTONE**

The debate over who taught woodwork and metalwork at the school in the 1940s continues (see previous edition of the Newsletter). Ralph Maidstone e-mails to say: "Regarding the 'And finally' notes in the July 2010 and January 2011 editions of the Newsletter, I started at the

School in 1936 and Mr Ockenden taught me woodwork until we were evacuated in 1940. During this period Mr Coveney took metalwork for our form. Cannot recall Mr Ockenden at Ebbw Vale, though. I was billeted at Cym. Mr Ockenden imparted many pearls of wisdom but my favourite was 'Measure twice and cut once'. This phrase always comes to my mind when doing odd jobs around the home."

### **STEPHEN PARRETT (1964-1971)**

Forty years after leaving our school Stephen has provided details about his career. He joined Lloyds Bank at its branch in Dover Market Square and from there went to work in several other branches before being promoted to management at the Uckfield branch in 1981. In 1982 he married and two years later moved to Hertfordshire. 1984 proved a turning point in his career when he left branch banking to embrace corporate functions in London (Lloyds etc). Stephen, in 2004, set up his own management consultancy creating a successful second career. "Much of my interest (in finance) was influenced by Mr King's economic classes while at school," says Stephen.

Ken Ruffell's teaching of geography kick-started Stephen's interest in geology, a subject that resulted in him obtaining an Open University degree in Earth Sciences. Another of Mr Ruffell's influences on Stephen was his interest in the weather resulting in Stephen being elected a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. Stephen's brother Colin (1966-1973) also took an interest in the weather that took him on a successful career in the Met. Office.

### **REV. JOHN PHILPOTT (1955-63)**

John has retired as chairman of governors at Dover Girls' Grammar School after 17 years' service. He had been a governor at the school for 23 years. At a school assembly, John was presented with a photograph taken by a past pupil, and his wife Paddy, who recently retired from the school as a part-time teacher, received a bouquet. Head teacher Matthew Bartlett expressed the thanks of the school to John for all his voluntary work over many years.

## **LESLIE STEGGLES (1945-48)**

Leslie, whose service in local government saw him elected Mayor of Abingdon and to Oxfordshire County Council, is now living in retirement at The Grove, Abingdon. Born in 1930 in Dover he was evacuated away from the town in 1940 and the following year gained a scholarship to join Simon Langton Grammar School at Canterbury, returning to Dover in 1944, transferring to our school the following year when classes were held in the old technical school buildings in Ladywell. When the school moved back into its own building at Astor Avenue he was the first boy post-war allowed to learn to play the school organ. Leslie was in the school orchestra and the occasional conductor. He was also a Flight Sergeant in the school ATC.

First job on leaving school was as a temporary teacher at Castlemount Secondary School, then served his National Service in the RAF. After university he worked for the AA at the Dover port office, in Camden Crescent, then crossed the road to work at the NCB offices in Waterloo Crescent. From 1955-89 he filled various roles in the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, including taking part in a conference at Geneva on the peaceful use of atomic energy, before taking early retirement in 1989. In 1962 Leslie was elected to Abingdon borough council, and five years later was elected Mayor. In 1977 he was elected to Oxfordshire CC, retiring from local government service in 1985. In 1972 Leslie was initiated into Freemasonry, has held various offices and appointed guest organist across Masonic Provinces of Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

## **TERRY SUTTON (1940-47)**

Our joint newsletter editor Terry has been honoured for his services to the community by being made an Honorary Freeman of Dover. He is only the fourth person to be given the title after Dover Town Council managed to regain the right to bestow it following a lengthy campaign. Terry, who is 82, was installed at the Mayor-making ceremony in Dover Town Hall in May. He described it as one of the proudest days of his life. "I am proud of Dover although I feel sad at the state of some of the place," he said. He recalled the past duties of freemen, including the

election of two Members of Parliament for the town and clearing silt from the harbour. He said he hoped he might be let off paying tax and be allowed free parking - "but I don't think that will happen." He said he wouldn't be driving sheep across Buckland Bridge or marching through the town with bayonet fixed – two of the other privileges Freeman enjoy. "I think my marching days are over," he said, thanking the council for thinking he was worthy of the honour.

Born in Dover, Terry attended Barton Road School before joining our school, and has served as President of our association. The Mayor, Cllr Sue Jones, said: "As a reporter, news editor and deputy editor of the Dover Express, he always stressed the importance of local news as the management of the paper became more and more remote."

Terry has been involved with the Dover Society, St Martin's Emmaus, League of Friends of Dover Hospitals, White Cliffs Country Tourism Association – of which he is chairman – Dover Rotary Club and the Round Table, as well as Christians Together in Dover. He provided scripts and narration for the Dover films for many years, and has written books on life in the town, particularly during the Second World War. He was made an MBE in 1991. It is believed Terry is the first person from the school to be made an Honorary Freeman since Fred Whitehouse. Incidentally, if you would like to watch Terry's investiture, go to Google and search for Terry Sutton Freeman, and it will take you to a video of the ceremony on You Tube.

## **SID WILLCOCKS (1955-62)**

Sid wrote from his home in West Purley Dorset, enclosing some copies of the Pharos magazine from 1955 to 1958 which he found while going through some boxes in the loft. "Heaving read them, with memories of classmates and of staff long since gone, I feel they may be of some use to your archivist," he said. "It is now nearly 50 years since I left DGSB but still visit the website and look occasionally at the 1955 school photograph – was that really me!!" He has now been retired for six years, and lives in a village four miles north of Bournemouth. Sid kindly recalled that when he joined the association he paid £10 for life membership, and having received copies of the newsletter twice a

year, he feels he has more than used up that money, so he enclosed a donation towards future postage. Thanks for that Sid – anyone else feel the same??!! He also pointed out that we had the wrong date in the last newsletter for the Rev. John Philpott having started at the school. It should have been 1955, not 1956.

He also asks whether anyone can help with the whereabouts of Michael Dudfield (1955-?) who lived in Aylesham. "The three of us, Mike, Keith Shinfield and I, went to DGSB from Aylesham Junior School where my father was head teacher. Any information would be gratefully received. Sid can be contacted on 01202 897824.

It was interesting to note in the Autumn 1957 edition of Pharos which Sid sent, our then secretary, the late Harold Slater wrote: "There is one point I wish to make regarding the association's tie, scarf and badge. There is a practice of regarding these as "old boy's" prerogatives. I would emphasise that they are the privilege of members of the Association and Mr Lock will in future enter all sales in a book that will be checked."

### **STEPHEN YARROW (1975-83)**

Stephen has just completed 12 months as President of the Rotary Club of Dover which has several members who are Old Pharosians. The owner of the musical supplying company Forwoods, based at St Radigund's Abbey Farm, Stephen organised a Rotary-sponsored concert at Charlton Church in May in aid of the Martha Trust that cares for severely handicapped people at Deal. Stephen is the director of music and organist at Dover's civic church of St Mary's and founder-director of the Pharos Chamber Choir which majored at the concert with the Becker Ensemble. He told local newspapers: "I am delighted to bring two major strands of my life, music and Rotary, together to help this deserving charity."

### **AND FINALLY ...**

Why is it at school re-unions you feel younger than everyone else looks?