

Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 101

January 2012

Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter



Anthony Downing, who has died following an explosion in Afghanistan.

LIST OF CONTENTS

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Officers and Committee Members
- President's Address
- Annual Meeting, Cricket and Football Matches and Dinner 2011
- Archivist's Corner
- Items for Sale
- Where Are They Now?

FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

- Record number apply for places
- International School designation
- Blog, forums and Friday Conversations

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

- Obituaries
- Still Living and Learning

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I wish to thank the Old Pharosians' Association for doing me the honour of electing me as its President. I hope I will be of some use!

At the Annual Dinner on 1 October, I spoke a little about the difference between the sense of opportunity engendered at DGSB and the sense of entitlement which seems apparent at some of our so-called elite schools. I was never a star student, but I remember my parents forever urging me not to forsake the opportunities presented to me at the School.

I was fortunate enough to be at DGSB at the time of Mr Best and Mr Boynton, which some might consider to be a golden age for School music. Certainly, the illustrious careers of some of their protégés - counted among my direct contemporaries are a Cambridge Professor of Music, a cathedral organist, an independent school Director of Music and a leading international choral director - stand witness to the skill of those gentlemen.

Everyone who is lucky enough to have studied at DGSB will have a memory of one or two particular teachers who laid the foundations for a lifelong love of their subject, gentlemen such as Ernie Large and Ken Ruffell, and so many others who have served to make the school what it is today.

The School equips young people to become leading members of their communities, wherever they may settle. Attending a meeting of local worthies recently, I heard the Head of the Girls' Grammar School, Matthew Bartlett, lament the 'exodus of talent' which holds Dover back - that is to say it is more usual for our brightest and our best students to go away to university and then pursue their careers elsewhere, than for them to return to live and work in Dover.

The recent death of Maurice Sayers reminded me that the more unusual choice, to stay in, or return to, one's home town and contribute in a most fulfilling way, both professionally and in the voluntary sector, is an equally valid option, and we must do all we can to create

opportunities in the town for gifted individuals to do just that. Your Editors are shining examples!

It is my earnest hope that, during my two years as President, the Old Pharosians will expand its membership, particularly among the more recent school leavers. If these young gentlemen (and ladies now also) don't join the OPA, it's not because they don't want to keep in touch with their school friends, for they are more connected than ever before, via Facebook and Twitter. Rather, we must use this technology, all the better to keep in touch with them and to keep them in touch with the School and the town which nurtured them.

Stephen Yarrow (1976-83)

ANNUAL MEETING, CRICKET AND FOOTBALL MATCHES AND DINNER 2011

At the association's annual general meeting, on 1 October, Chairman Jack Kremer in his usual quiet manner kept control. Membership attendance included two former headmasters, the Rev. Dr. Michael Hinton (1960-1968) and Mr Reg Colman (1969-1990).

It was decided that those members who wished could, in future, have their twice-a-year newsletter sent to them electronically in order to save printing and postage costs (see * on page 7). But those who still prefer the "old print method" can still receive the newsletter through the letter box. In a further move to save costs it is hoped to recruit a team of volunteers to deliver the printed newsletter by hand to those who live in parts of Dover. Concern was expressed that the treasurer's report showed a deficit for the year of £981 with current assets of £5,886 but it was pointed out some of the costs were over-run from the previous 12 months. Cost of the newsletters was £1,401 and this led to the call for electronic transmission for those who accepted it that way. Webmaster Paul Skelton indicated he could cope with that extra work.

There was discussion about the future of the association with calls for better communications between the school and the association. Another suggestion was to repeat the idea, for the annual dinner, of

organising Forty Years On reunions for those who joined the school four decades previously. Another thought to be considered by the committee is holding the annual dinner earlier in the year so it could be attended by "Freshers" before they set off for university.

Stephen Yarrow (1976-1983) was elected as President and Jack Kremer (1943-1949) was re-elected as chairman. All other officers and committee members were re-elected en bloc including the Rev. John Philpott and Alistair Gardiner to the committee.

*** If you would like to receive these newsletters electronically, rather than by post, please contact Paul Skelton at:**
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CRICKET AND FOOTBALL MATCHES

The annual sports fixtures between the School and Old Boys XIs saw each record a victory. In the cricket match on 1 July the Old Boys scored 157 for 5 in their 30 overs and dismissed the School for 126 to record their third successive victory since the revival of this fixture in 2009. The Old Boys XI consisted of Ritchie Hulks, Andy Arter, Tom Bird, Edward Dadd, Toby Kember, Paul Padfield, Dave Palmer, John Sheather, John Stokes, Dan Taylor and Will Trafford. John Shepherd and Mick Palmer served as umpires.

In the football match on 1 October, a strong finish by the School team saw them record a 6-2 victory and regain the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup, last won by them in 2007. In this fixture, the Old Boys were represented by Nick Shaw, John Castle, Neil Castle, Paul Castle, Ryan Doel, Simon Gretton, Ryan Cochrane, Dan Young, Matt Johncock, Paul Henwood, Matt Sadler and Joe Bell. The game was referred by Steve King.

The 2012 cricket match has been arranged for Friday 29 June with a 3.30 p.m. start. Details of the football match will be given in the July newsletter. Old Boys interested in participating in either fixture should contact Mick Palmer.

ANNUAL DINNER

There were just over 60 Old Pharosians and guests at the annual dinner held in the Great Hall at the school on the evening of 1 October with the chair taken by new President Stephen Yarrow.

For the first time ever the toast of The Queen was offered by a girl-head prefect Sophie Grayson who did so perfectly.

Stephen, traditionally, recalled his years at the school and congratulated those in charge of his education who did not force him to study in certain classes but allowed him to embrace his musical talents, especially playing the organ. He admitted he was a "borderline case" when he came to the school but the staff allowed his musical interests to flourish.

Stephen revealed he had a special interest in the Great Hall where they were dining that evening. It was there, during rehearsals for a musical, he first set eyes on an "interloper" from Astor school. It was Susan, now his wife, sitting next to him that evening at the top table.

Replying to Stephen's toast of The School was Ben Ralph, the deputy headteacher, who told of the school's progress and confirmed that with the abandonment of the Schools for the Future project of moving DGSB from Astor Avenue to Whitfield "we are here to stay." He reported, as a result, work now in progress on the existing school premises.

But that was not the end of the evening's entertainment. President Stephen left his presiding chair, and dashed off to the organ loft where he gave a resounding Forty Years On in which the "old boys" joined in lustily.

The 2012 annual meeting and dinner is due to take place on Saturday 29 September.

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings, once again it is pleasing to report that donations to the archives continue to arrive but we are still in need of some suitable shelving to get the material off the floor in the Caretaker's House.

Martin Watts (1935-40) has sent in more information on teacher Alec Arthur Coveney (1934-70). When he joined as a ten year old Martin was taught book-binding by Coveney. Pupils had to provide their own text to be bound and Martin "found one somewhere titled *La Nuite Tombe*, (or similar), ripped it apart and set to work rebinding it as instructed by Coveney – even to printing the first and last pages with multi-coloured sheets you designed by dropping oil colours on water in a basin and swirling it around." The arrangement was that once completed, and doubtless marked, the book could be taken home. Being a meticulous student Martin produced an impressive book. It was so good Coveney decided to keep it to use in an end-of-year exhibition to impress the parents.

As an insurance against an equally good or even better book not being produced in the following year, the book remained in the teacher's care. Repeated requests for the return of the book fell on deaf ears and with the arrival of the war, when the School went to Ebbw Vale, Coveney and the book went AWOL.

Whilst Martin spent a couple of months at the School in 1945 when it returned to Dover he did not get the unread book back from Coveney. At least Martin had not started reading the French book. Martin also recalls doing woodwork with Coveney but was "very sad" about not doing metal work (as he was too young), with mathematics and engineering teacher Frank Ockenden (1934-46), who like Coveney did not go to Ebbw Vale.

William (Bill) Hutchison (1954-59), writes that "after 35 years in the Royal Navy I am retired and live near Portsmouth. Kate and I both very much enjoyed our time at the Dover Grammar Schools and we are both very strong supporters of that excellent system". Bill has kindly donated two VHS tapes to the archives: "Bugsy Malone, Dover

Grammar School 1989” and “Pravda, a Fleet Street Comedy, presented by Dover Grammar School for Boys, 1989”. These tapes were produced by Colin Jervis (1982-89).

At the moment I am trying to get the analogue tapes transferred to the digital DVD format. If that proves successful there is the prospect of being able to offer them for sale. Doubtless we will be able to find out more about these productions and the people involved.

From the same period as these productions Wing Commander Ian Philpott (1981-91) taught at the School and was involved in the School Combined Cadet Force. His daughter Sarah borrowed some archive material to use at a cadet reunion about which there may be a report elsewhere in the Newsletter.

As well as accepting archive material we also pass on material of significance to professional archives, as has been recorded in these columns. The latest donation was to The University of Brighton “Screen Archive South East” which is based in Chichester. It is from these sources that the material for tv programmes such as “The Reel History of Britain” are obtained.

A set of 25 reels of 8 and 16mm films, some only lasting minutes, have been deposited in the hope that digital versions will be produced that can then be lodged in our archives. The films, mainly the products of the School Cine Club, cover the period from the 1930s to the 1960s.

It is hoped that in the next Newsletter there will be news about some cartoons produced by Lt. Col. Richard Bolton (1948-55). He made the 12 delightful cartoons of teachers while in the lower sixth – they bear witness to target practice with darts in the prefects’ room behind the stage!

Those featured are Messrs T. E. Archer (1924-64), J. C. Booth (1937-59), D. R. Butcher (1946-52), A. E. Coulson (1928-71), J. A. Cowell (1947-57), O. Hull (1947-61), W. H. Jacques (1946-73), E. W. Lister (1949-69), R. W. Murphy (1946-76), C. Rowlands (1932-65), K. H. Ruffell (1937-79), and E. G. Smith(1946-66).

ITEMS FOR SALE

The latest item on offer is the DVD *Prize Giving One* at a cost of £10, plus £1.50 p&p (making £11.50), 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 £1.50 p&p (making £11.50), 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 £3.50 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 £10.50 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 £1.50 p&p (making £11.50), 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 £1.50 p&p (making £11.50), 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).

Bert Wall is pleased to hear from people on 01304-822329.

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

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

Peter Burville (1946-51).

FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM

There were only five members present at the November meeting of the committee, so it was agreed no financial decisions should be made, although the meeting should continue. We are grateful to Alistair Gardiner for volunteering to take on the role of Assistant Secretary from Graham Tutthill.

Chairman Jack Kremer pointed out that of the 64 present at the annual dinner, only 36 were former boys of the school. It was generally agreed the event went well. It was reported that, if required, a licensed bar could be provided at the school for the next annual dinner. The date was fixed for Saturday, 29 September 2012, subject to availability of the Great Hall as the dinner venue.

Members received an update of maintenance work in progress at the school.

The next committee meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 21 March at 6 p.m. when it is hoped there will be a better attendance.

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

The School welcomed a record number of applicants to the Dover Test. 330 students sat examinations one morning in September. Each year the school is inundated with requests to sit the exam which decides the 120 students who will join year seven in September 2012.

The School has been re-designated as an International School by the British Council in recognition of the broad range of work that is studied within its classrooms. The school initially achieved the award in 2008 and since then the range of activities has increased and links with international partner schools has also grown. In her confirmation to celebrate our re-designation, Rebecca Picton of the British Council, said the school had developed “an impressive international portfolio” and the work was a credit to the school and the community.

“All departments within the school ensure there is a global dimension in the programmes of study our students undertake,” said head teacher Dr Richard Moxham. “From a wide range of international art to detailed work of many foreign countries in geography, all students benefit from the international themes to the work they study.

“The bilingual stream in years eight and nine, where students study history and geography in either French or Spanish, continues to bring considerable benefit to those who are part of it. The International Baccalaureate Diploma introduces academic challenge to those students who study it in our sixth form.”

The school has strong links with schools in South Korea, Taiwan, Holland, France and Germany with regular visits and exchanges. Grammar school students have also continued to be ambassadors in promoting the British Council Connecting Classrooms programme to schools within Kent and the wider world.

“We are looking forward in the next three years to developing these and many other initiatives as we strive to enable our learners to become international citizens and the leaders of tomorrow,” said Dr Moxham.

Headteacher Dr Richard Moxham has introduced a Headteacher's Blog and series of Forums to the school website where, as he puts it, he can blow the school's trumpet, have an open exchange of views on issues affecting the school and education in general, display creative items, and highlight the worst types of crime against the English language.

Several members of the school's poetry club, along with a number of keen English A-Level students, took a trip to St Paul's Cathedral in London to study and put into context the work of John Donne. The group of 12 thought it gave a thoroughly good insight into Donne's life as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, but also into many other areas of his life, providing vital background knowledge to fully understand his poetry. They also took the opportunity to look at the spectacular architecture old and new of the City of London.

A Friday Conversation has been introduced at the school when students have the chance to hear from various guests about their careers or other interests. Among those interviewed so far during these sessions are former head teacher Reg Colman, Professor Alex Stevens, a lecturer at the University of Kent whose tales of criminal philosophy proved to be very fascinating and Euro-musicians Jack Moxham and Miguel Heijnen.

Among those booked for the future is radio producer Pete Atkin (My Word, Just A Minute, Yes Minister and I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue).

A service and ceremony was held in the Great Hall to mark Remembrance Day, and to especially remember former pupils of the school who died in the wars.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

OBITUARIES

ANTHONY DOWNING (1988-95)

Squadron Leader Anthony Downing died on 23 December, the day after suffering seriously injuries in an explosion in Afghanistan. He was immediately flown back to the UK after the incident, but died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. His family were with him when he died. His brother David, also attended the school.

Ant, as he was known, was one of two servicemen who died as a result of the explosion as they were travelling in a vehicle south of Kabul.

He is believed to be the only member of the Old Pharosians' Association to have died while on Service since the end of the Second World War. It has been suggested that it would be appropriate to create a memorial alongside the other war memorials in the School.

Anthony, whose home was at Kingsdown, was a fluent Dari speaker and it is believed he and a special forces army major were on their way to talk to local informants. He was serving with the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul.

He had been a very keen member of the school's Combined Cadet Force and, in his final year, was awarded the Old Boys' Cadet Prize. Fellow cadets could see he was heading for the Armed Forces. Alistair Gardiner, a former member of the staff and now the Old Pharosians' assistant secretary, recalls Anthony "mad on the cadets" yet a hard working student who attained several A* in examinations before leaving for Bath University. By trade Anthony was an Engineering Officer in the Royal Air Force and ran the last Nimrod Line Squadron before its disbandment.

Described as "unassuming and modest", he was a hugely professional officer and an extremely determined individual. His work in Afghanistan typified this as he had studied hard at the Defence School of Languages, coming top of his language course, and travelled to Tajikistan in his own time to further his studies. He also found time to train for, and compete in, a series of Iron Man Triathlons and Ultra Marathons. The Ministry of Defence, announcing news of his death, said: "Ant's generous nature and interest in Afghanistan and its people led to his intimate involvement in the planning and subsequent conduct of outreach patrols. He was professionally respected and hugely appreciated for his skills, and built a strong rapport with the Afghan soldiers and their British mentors. His loss is felt greatly among both."

His family paid tribute to him and said when Anthony was still a child he announced that he wished to join the R.A.F. "From a young age it was evident that he was dedicated and self-motivated to achieve the goals he would set himself. As a member of the Dover Grammar School Combined Cadet Force he was committed to getting the most

out of the organisation and encouraged others to do so too. At the age of 17 he joined the Deal Striders and Velo Club Deal which started a life-long love of endurance events. He took to distance events in swimming and cycling and had planned to complete the 2013 Arch to Arc event despite swimming being his weakest discipline, the event requiring a cross-Channel dip.

“His parents had an easy ride with his upbringing; he was always kind and helpful although quiet and reserved. His brother had someone to look up to as Ant eagerly embraced adulthood. He continued those traits into his working life, keen to listen, help and inspire others to travel and reach for high goals. We treasure the memories and the achievements of his fantastic life and without him our lives have been diminished.”

Many top R.A.F. Officers paid tribute to Ant, one describing him as an immensely dedicated, talented and passionate engineer, another saying he was a talented linguist who was keen to make a difference, and a third saying: “He was great fun to have as a mate and I am deeply saddened that I will never again have the pleasure of his company.”

For a while he was a member of the Mountain Rescue Service based at R.A.F. Kinloss, but even after a challenging weekend, he would cycle from a remote “Bothy” back to Kinloss for extra training. Once, when recovering from an injury that kept him off the mountains, he cycled 220 kilometres so as not to lose any fitness.

While at our school, in 1992 Anthony received the Robert Michael Brown Prize for R.A.F. Cadets and he was one of two cadets awarded an R.A.F. Scholarship in 1994. The same year, as Cadet Warrant Officer, he laid a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service at Dover War Memorial.

Hundreds of villagers lined Upper Street at Kingsdown for Anthony's funeral as the procession made its way to St John The Evangelist Church for the service. Every shop in the village closed and traders joined residents at the side of the road. Standard bearers from armed

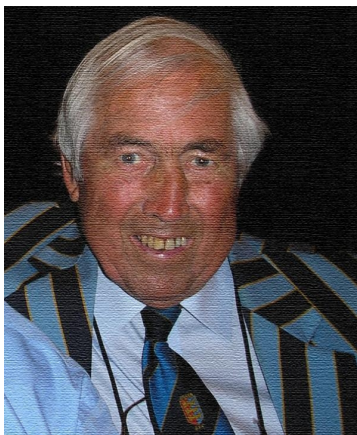
service organisations lowered their standards as the hearse and his family passed by. A Union Flag was draped over the coffin.

There was not enough room in the church for everyone who attended. The family requested that although there were full military honours, there should be no volley of gunshots as a salute. An R.A.F. Hercules flew over the church.

MAURICE SAYERS (1939-42)

Your association was well represented at the packed funeral service of Maurice George Sayers at the church of St Anthony at Alkham in January. Maurice, a former President of the Old Pharosians' Association, died in hospital, aged 83, in early January after a short illness.

One of his old friends and class mates at our school was John Ayling who, in the eulogy, told how they were choirboys together and how, when evacuated to Ebbw Vale, the school rugby team was "massacred" by the much more experienced Ebbw Vale school.



Maurice came to the school after winning a scholarship at Barton Road Elementary School – and he always maintained he owed Ken Ruffell a great deal for that. Maurice sang in St Andrew's Church Choir, Buckland, in those days, and Ken was a prominent member of the same church. Ken was invigilator for the written scholarship exam, and just before the end of the exam, Ken walked past Maurice's desk and put his finger against a sum which he could see Maurice had obviously made a mess of. Maurice looked at it, corrected it, and reckoned he

scraped into Lower 1 by that one mark!

Evacuated to Wales with the school in 1940, he became homesick and left school in July 1942 aged 13, starting as an office boy at law firm Stilwell and Harby. He was not paid for the first few months because of his age, but received one shilling a week bicycle money. He rode his bike into Dover every day, sometimes with bombs and shells flying around him, and he kept a tobacco tin full of bits of shrapnel that nearly hit him. Maurice used to run errands, take money to the bank, queue up for cakes, do the shopping for his bosses, and stoked the boiler. He then became clerk, writing up court registers, issuing summonses and collecting fines.

Maurice served in the army from 1947 to 1949 but spent part of his National Service in civilian clothes in Turkey. He returned to the solicitors' office and became deputy clerk in the Magistrates' Court and then taking over the clerk's duties. Studying at home in the evenings, he obtained enough GCEs by correspondence courses to enable him to be articled at the age of 27. He qualified in 1961, at the age of 32, joined the firm as an assistant solicitor a year later, became a partner a year after that, and then Senior Partner.

Maurice practised in the local courts for many years, but after 1978 concentrated more on the general practice. When he retired, and made his last appearance before Dover Magistrates Court, one of the prison officers led him into the dock where magistrates and solicitors paid tribute to his work.

In his spare time, he played football for Buckland Rovers before joining the army, enjoyed playing rugby and was captain, secretary, chairman and then president of Dover Rugby Club. He said his proudest achievement was passing the Rugby Union's Coaching Award Scheme at the age of 50. "It involved many hours study and practice, and to me meant even more than passing the Law Society's finals," he said at the time. He was a serious rugby player and played a major role in building up Dover Rugby Club in recent years. Back in the 1970s, when the OP's fielded a rugby team to play the school's 1st XV, Maurice was among those who took part.

A member of Dover Rowing Club in the late 1940s, he was also a

founder member of Dover Sailing Club which later amalgamated with the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, and Dover Swimming Club of which he was captain for a few years in the 1950s. He had also been President of Dover Chamber of Commerce and the Kent Law Society, and was chairman of several other organisations including the Alkham Valley Society.

Maurice was elected President of the Old Pharosians' Association in 1975. He leaves a wife Pamela, two daughters and a son.

STILL LIVING AND LEARNING

NEIL BEVERTON and REV. JOHN PHILPOTT

These two Old Pharosians have been elected as future leaders of Dover Rotary Club which has several OPs in the membership. Neil, an accountant, has been elected as the next President of the club, taking over in the summer, while he is to be succeeded in time by John, a former vicar of Whitfield.

BRIAN HEDGECOCK (1941-46)



Brian sent an e-mail to let us know he is still living and learning. Some years ago Brian asked if anyone could remember Miss Rookwood, saying that the school cap featured on the cigarette card before the Second World War, and remembering that it was Miss Rookwood who also produced the card (pictured left). Brian thinks he has finally tracked it down, issued with the "Black Cat" (Carreras Ltd) cigarettes in the 1930s. The light blue star was the Town House colours, the peak was typical of school caps produced between the wars. By the time he started at the school in 1941, the peak was larger and the star was soon replaced by a large button of the relevant house colour on the top of the head (due, he thinks, to the shortage of materials at the time). "I understand the card was

issued in 1929, which probably accounts for the small peak,” said Brian. If you are interested, go to www.ebay.co.uk and type Dover County School in the search box. As long as the item has not been sold since the newsletter was finished, it should still be there.

Brian says he is still finding plenty to do. From 1 September 2009 he has been treasurer for his local Methodist Church once again (he previously did an eight-year stint from which he first retired in 1988). “This time it was the threat of closure of the church unless a treasurer could be found that prompted me to do it again. I find it good therapy and it seems to keep the little grey cells alert, too! So far as my photography is concerned I 'went digital' some years ago and still prepare and present slide shows, now using PowerPoint and a digital projector - research and selection of pictures alone keeps me busy. I'm fortunate enough to still do my own gardening, which is mainly low maintenance now except for some hedge-cutting, for which I may have to seek help next spring/summer.

“During the summer I managed to contact Doug Nurney (D.S.Nurney circa 1941-1947) and had a pleasant chat with him, reminiscing, of course – so he was still Living and Learning at that time. I closed down my website several years ago due primarily to the amount of junk mail it seemed to generate.”

Brian would still like to hear from any of his contemporaries - his email address is brian.hedgecock@btinternet.com

JOHN HENDY (1963-1965)

John, recognised as an expert on cross-Channel shipping, has authored another excellent publication: Ferries of Dover. This well illustrated publication tells the story of the ferries that sailed out of Dover during the five decades of 1960-2011.

When at our school John used to collect his camera and nip down to the western end of the harbour to snap cars being loaded by crane onto such ships as British Railway's car ferry Dinard. Now he sees huge lorries trundled direct from the shore at the Eastern Docks onto

massive ferries such as P&O Ferries' 47,592 ton (gross) Spirit of Britain, the largest cross-Channel ferry ever built. The 120 or more ferries of all types, in between the days of the Dinard and the Spirit of Britain, are illustrated mostly in colour in this Ferry Publications £16 book.

John, a retired teacher, now lives in Ivychurch on Romney Marsh.

JUSTIN and DANE LUCHFORD

A former School's 1st XI, Dover and Kent Schools Captain Justin has recently advanced his rapidly-improving reputation in football management with his appointment as the new boss at Ryman Premier League side Horsham FC. Although still only 34 years old, Justin, after a period as assistant manager with Hythe Town FC, took over Faversham Town FC in 2008/09 and within less than three seasons managed them from the bottom of the Kent Premier League to Double winners in 2009/10 season and eighth place in the Ryman League South in 2010/11.

Whilst realising Horsham have limited funds available, Justin is determined to make a success of this new challenge and give the Hornets fans something to cheer about in the coming season. The question on everyone's lips at the moment is will his brother Dane, also a former pupil at our School, and prolific goalscorer for Faversham over the last few seasons, follow him?

AARON SHILSON

Aaron, 19, provided a free organ recital at St Mary's Church where he has served since 2010 as sub-organist. More than 100 people in the audience gave Aaron a resounding reception. In 2006 Aaron was appointed organ scholar at St Mary's where his tutor was Stephen Yarrow, director of music at the church and, at the time, tutor at the grammar school. Aaron's progress was such that he has played the organ at Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster and Westminster Abbey. He now continues his musical studies at Leeds College of Music.

DAVID SLATER (1962-1969)

David took early retirement in 2004 after 32 years at British Airways, 18 years of which responsible for computer systems and data analysis in the operations control centre. Two years later he was back at Heathrow as part-time Anglican chaplain in time for the 777 crash, the opening of Terminal Five and moving several hundred bishops and their families to and from the Lambeth conference at Canterbury. In 2008 David retired a second time and moved back to Dover where in 2010 he became part-time chaplain at the Channel Tunnel terminal at Cheriton. There he was on duty two and a half days a week for passengers and staff of any faith, or none. This May he was also appointed as chaplain to the Port of Dover for another two and half days so, as you can see, he's a pretty busy guy.

JOHN TALBOT (1942-1947)

John has recently returned to Dover from the Bristol area. His son Stephen was also at our school where he set up a number of athletic records and is now Professor of Computing Science at Kingston on Thames and head of software architecture development for the international company Cognizant.

John, on leaving our school, joined the RAF on a three year apprenticeship as an instrument maker. He went on to serve in the RAF (1951-1961) before joining GEC Marconi at Rochester initially as an instructor for the Lightning and Buccaneer aircraft flight control systems. He then moved to development work on the VC10 becoming project leader for the flight control systems.

After a spell with AVO at Dover he returned to GEC at Rochester to establish a quality assurance function for the world's first head-up display fitted to the A7 Corsair under construction in Dallas during the Vietnam war. In 1973 he was appointed quality assurance manager for a new division devoted to airborne and anti-submarine warfare collaborating with Australia, Canada, and the USA but with the UK as lead partner. Two years later he became examiner in reliability engineering for the Institute of Quality Assurance and in 1977 was appointed chief engineer of Maritime Aircraft Systems Division at

Rochester, still on anti-submarine warfare before moving to Bristol at a new GEC site.

In 1993 John retired from GEC but continued lecturing to the Ministry of Defence on reliability engineering until 2000.

KEITH WELLS (1958-63)

A former police inspector, in his retirement Keith has turned his hand to writing and has published a “virtual” novel, *Deadliest Deal*. Keith said he drew on his experiences growing up in the East End of London and from his 30-year career with Kent Police for the book, most of which, he said, comes from his imagination. Set in East Kent – Keith served as police inspector in both Dover and Deal – the plot revolves around political intrigue, pension fund fraud, vendettas and murder. He is already working on another two books.

Keith and his wife Theresa are very much involved in the life of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Dover.

Deadliest Deal, published for Kindle, is available via the internet from Amazon.

STEPHEN YARROW (1976-1983)

Stephen is our association's new President having succeeded barrister Antony Hook who has completed his two years' tenure of office. Stephen was elected at the annual meeting in October.

He has strong links with the school. After leaving our school Stephen graduated at the Royal Academy of Music and has been the owner of Dover-based Forwoods Music since 1993. He is Director of Music and organist at St Mary's Church, Dover since 1999 and is the founder-director of the Pharos Chamber Choir. He was music tutor at the school from 2004 for two years. His two sons Joseph and Christopher were pupils at our school and his daughter Libby is at the girls' grammar School. He is a former President of the Rotary Club of Dover of which there are a number of Old Pharosians' Association members.