

Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 104

July 2013

Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter



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NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Mike Palmer (to retire 2013)
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Maurice Smith (to retire 2015)
Roger Gabriel (to retire 2015)

AUDITOR: Neil Beverton

HEAD TEACHER: Dr Richard Moxham

STAFF
REPRESENTATIVES: Francoise Lloyd
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ANNUAL MEETING, FOOTBALL MATCH AND DINNER 2013

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Pharosians' Association will be held on Saturday 28 September, at the Dover Grammar School for Boys, commencing at 11 a.m. (Tea and Coffee will be available from 10.30 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 (S Yarrow)

Chairman (J Kremer)

Secretary (P J Harding)

Assistant Secretary (A Gardiner)

Treasurer (J Sheather)

Membership Secretary (P Skelton)

Newsletter Editors (G Tutthill)

Archivist (P Burville)

Auditor (M Beverton)

Committee Members (retiring members M Palmer and B Crush)

6. In accordance with the Constitution, to set the annual subscription at £10.00 (with immediate effect for new members, and from 1 August 2014 for existing members)
7. Any Other Business

Philip Harding (Hon Secretary)

FOOTBALL MATCH

The football match is scheduled for 2.30 p.m. and will be organised, as usual, by Mick Palmer. He would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to play. Call him on 01304 825472.

DINNER

A booking form for the dinner is included with this edition of the newsletter.

CRICKET MATCH 2013

The 2013 cricket match was played on Friday 28 June and resulted in victory for the Old Pharosians. It was not very good weather that afternoon, so the match was restricted to 25 overs per side. Going into bat first, the OPs scored 171 for 6 and in reply the school scored 138.

The OP players were Tom Bird, Ed Dadd, Toby Kember, Matt Sadler, Jamie Sadler, Dale King, Lloyd King, Scott Blackman, Steve Blackman, Adam Smart and Mike Palmer (who organised the match). The team was notable for having two sets of brothers (including twins) and a father and son (Jamie and Matt).

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings.

Recently Robert Sales (1994-97), a new member of the OPA, responded to the report in the last Newsletter which recorded that the Rev. Hugh Bean had sought information about Canon Jesse Alec Maynard Clayson (1917-20), in connection with his membership of the Royal College of Chaplains. Robert wrote regarding the Rev. Hugh Bean: "I happen to know him quite well and was at a City Livery Company dinner with him and his family at the end of January. He is also the Chaplain for the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, of which we are both members. It really does seem to be a very small world!"

Perhaps not surprisingly Robert raised the question of what has happened to the School's Synchronome electric clock system? The master-unit is still on the wall of the Headmaster's study, perhaps as a monument to times gone by.

Another question is whether Robert is related to OP Donald Sales (1927-35).

It may be recalled that when in the sixth form (Lt. Col.) Richard Bolton (1948-55), created 12 delightful cartoons of teachers. They bare witness to their use as target practice with darts in the prefects' room behind the stage. The teachers 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).

Copies of these masterful cartoons which so clearly portray their subjects, who also taught me, are available to OPs as detailed below. The cartoons come in two versions, complete with dart "wounds" and in a cleaned-up form.

Recently my school chum James Atkins (1945-50), who emigrated to New Zealand in 1950 with his parents, wrote that he thought David Miskin (1945-50) had his death reported in a New Zealand daily paper, The Dominion Post. We both remember Miskin very well and an email to the address provided in the newspaper report quickly confirmed James' suspicions as recorded below:

"Well your email certainly came as a surprise, and shows that the internet clearly works in mysterious ways. Yes David was at Dover Grammar from 1945-1951. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1955, and spent his career working with the ANZ (Australia and New Zealand) bank, mostly in NZ, but with a stint in Australia. His love of sport at school continued in various forms throughout his life, with rugby, "tramping" (a New Zealand word for hiking), marathon running, and cycling among other sporting past times. After retirement he travelled extensively for about 10 years, completing many long cycling tours and

hikes around the world. David's 3 sons live in Australia, and David moved to Australia 14 years ago to be a very devoted and hands-on grandad to his four grandkids.

Thank you for your kind words of sympathy – we will miss him a lot.
Best wishes

Tina (David's daughter in law)"

Miskin died on 11 June in Newcastle, NSW, Australia. I have asked Tina to share with us any further information on his life that she feels is appropriate.

Another OP who has done his "tour of duty" is Leslie Ovenden (1930-33). His daughter Coralie rang me to say he had died on 29 January last year. He had lived at Prospect House in Worth. Born in Hong Kong (1915), he had fond memories of the School and was a life member of the OPA. Coralie has undertaken to send me a resume of his life but did mention he was a career RAF Squadron Leader who loved poetry.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, in the archives we have a copy of the Picture Post Special issue which records the sinking of the German "pocket" battleship Graf Spee (Sea-Raider). Does anyone know of any connections between this significant event and OPs?

ITEMS FOR SALE

Please note that the revised costs quoted for the items below are all minimums and any extra money would be welcomed by the School. Postage costs apply to UK addresses only, other areas will have to be dealt with separately with the School.

The latest item on offer is the DVD *Prize Giving One* at a cost of £10, plus £2 p&p (making £12), 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 (perhaps plus a little), 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 £7, 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 £2 p&p (making £12), 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 £4 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 £12 including p&p. The same purchasing arrangements apply. A digital version of *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 a copy of the running sheet 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 £2 p&p (making £12), 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 £2 p&p (making £12), 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.

The *Bolton Cartoons* referred to above can be obtained in two forms, hardcopy or digital format. The first hardcopy option is a set of twelve A4 sheets with the two versions (dashed and cleaned-up), for each teacher on a sheet, at £15 plus £2 p&p (£17); or twenty four A4 sheets with each of the images on its own sheet, costing £20 plus £3 p&p (£23). Alternatively, the images can be emailed to you at a cost of £12.

Orders are to be sent to the School as detailed above but note, there are only limited numbers of the hard copy versions available.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The following requests for information are still active.

Mike Sharp (1950-55) wants to contact Derek Burns (1950-55), 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, and Roger Carless of the 1953 rugger 1st XV team.

Albert (Bert) Wall (1948-1953), is pleased to hear from people on 01304-822329.

Sidney Willcocks (1955-62) seeks news about Michael Dodfield. They were contemporaries at Aylesham Junior School where Sidney's father was Head Teacher.

Alistair Shaw Eekhout (1954-60), who is now known as Alistair Shaw, wants to contact Keith Hopper (1958-63). I suggested he tried Queen Mary College London where Keith studied for an engineering degree. Can anyone help Alistair with information?

Closing with the hope that when you get this Newsletter the weather will have improved. Poor summer weather is supposed to save our cricket teams, something seems to have gone seriously wrong this year.

Regards.

Peter Burville (1946-51)

FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM

EDITOR(S) REQUIRED

After many years as co-editor of this newsletter, **Terry Sutton (1940-47)** has decided not to stand for re-election to the post at the annual meeting in September, leaving the task of editor to fellow journalist Graham Tutthill. But Graham has also indicated that he plans to retire in September 2014.

So there is an urgent need for a volunteer to gain "work experience" with Graham during the year ahead with the aim of taking over as editor in the near future.

Says Terry: "It's a most interesting voluntary job, helping to keep Old Pharosians in touch with each other and learning what our members are doing all over the world."

Terry took over as co-editor following the departure from Dover of the late Ken Ruffell who edited this newsletter for many years.

WEBSITE RESEARCH

Our webmaster Paul Skelton has received a number of messages from people researching their relatives who attended the school.

Christopher Jary said he was researching **Major Alan Andrews DSO OBE** of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment. Born in 1915, he attended Dover County School before going to Sandhurst. He was commissioned in 1935 and served in Palestine before the war. In September 1944 he won a DSO commanding No 1 company of 1st Hertfordshire Regiment breaking through the Gothic Line north of Florence. The Americans also awarded him a Silver Star. After the war he served in the Civil Government in Germany and was awarded an OBE in the 1949 New Year's Honours List. He died in Hertford in 1991. I wonder if the School archives may throw up something about him? All I know about his school career is that he was in your Soccer 1st XI in 1931-32.

Paul replied by sending links to various pieces of information about Major Andrews in our files, including a photo of him in the 1932 football team.

Christopher was very grateful for the information and said he was astonished how much Paul had found. Christopher continued: "Here's a strange coincidence. A name among the many bounced out and hit me in the eye – **V F R Kenward DFC**, who flew as bomb-aimer in my mother's first husband's crew in 76 Squadron in 1943. He was lucky enough not to be with Jack on the night he and the rest of the crew were shot down and killed and, happily, he survived the war."

Chris Hopkins e-mailed from his home in New South Wales, Australia, to say that a number of searches online had come up with some interesting snippets of information about his great-grandfather, **W. E. Pearce** who was a popular and respected member of staff at our school from 1915-1952. "I would love to find out more about him and would appreciate any information you might have (such as photos or anecdotal info)," said Chris.

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

The school's governing body has been awarded the Governor Mark for its high quality of governance. The award, which follows consideration by the Governor Mark Assessment Panel in May, lasts for three years.

The panel said they particularly impressed with the engagement of the governing body in school self-evaluation and holding the head teacher to account for school improvement, the work of the governors to strengthen their understanding of data and the governing body engagement in improvement activities and capacity to measure impact.

From Spring 2013 Dover Grammar School for Boys is adding to the range of publications (e-bulletins / magazines etc) through which it keeps its extended community abreast of the latest School news and projects; sports results and other achievements; and details of any forthcoming events.

“We want to be as inclusive as possible in our circulation list, and are particularly keen to reach any former students who would appreciate being kept in touch with whatever happens to be going on at any given time ‘up on the hill’,” said the school's spokesperson.

If it would interest you to be added to our list, you are warmly invited to e-mail Pharosians@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk, letting us know simply your name, your own current email address, and the dates when you were at DGSB.

A squad of 20 students provided the backbone of a resounding victory in the Powell Trophy at the Julie Rose Stadium, with a winning margin of 58 points.

French, German and Dutch students have visited the school and Nigel Hinton, author of the children's classic Buddy came to talk to year seven pupils about his writing career. A brass quintet from Trinity College of Music also visited the school to give a performance.

The school now has 752 pupils, operates a four-form entry and has 50 teaching and 48 non-teaching staff.

BEER FESTIVAL

The school is looking to organise a Beer Festival to be held in September 2014. We are looking to form a committee to help organise the event and will also be looking for volunteers to help run the event. It is hoped that this event will then be held annually and become a major fundraiser for the school. If you are interested in helping could you please e-mail Pharosians@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk

MRS MARY ARCHER

The Old Pharosians' Association was well represented at the funeral service at River church of Mrs Mary Archer, the widow of the much respected teacher at DGSB, Teddy Archer. Mary also taught at our school.

Mary Sullivan joined the teaching staff at our school during evacuation in Wales sending a tremor of excitement among the teenage boys who appreciated her attractiveness. So did Mr Archer. On the school's return to Dover just before Christmas 1944, Mary came too and shortly afterwards Mary and Mr Archer were married. She then joined the teaching staff at Dover Grammar School for Girls.

At the service Old Pharosian the Rev. John Philpott gave the eulogy recalling Mary's life and told how an octogenarian in Canada remembered being caned for alleged impertinence to her and how, years later, they met again when all was forgiven.

MISS LILLIAN KAY

Many Old Pharosians will remember Lillian Kay who was a former headmistress of Dover Grammar School for Girls. She died in June, exactly a month before her 99th birthday. Miss Kay was born in Dover and attended the Girls County School, as it was then, before undergoing teacher training. She taught maths at the school and became deputy head before being appointed head teacher. She always had a great interest in our school.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER GORDON BAILEY, RAF (Ret'd) (1946-50).

We have heard from one of Gordon's sons that he died in September 2010. He lived in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Born in 1932, he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1970 after serving in Egypt, Cyprus, Aden and Germany. Married to Pearl he had two sons, Malcolm and Peter, and four grandchildren.

DANNY DA COSTA (1952-57)

Danny, who has died aged 71, was a former British Judo Champion and was still involved in the sport six weeks before he died. He had fought an eight-year battle against cancer.

His younger brother David paid tribute to his sense of humour and tenacious spirit. "He was a tremendous person, known to all of us as kind, generous and very helpful to people, but he wasn't a saint. He was inspiring and hard-working." Danny worked in the family's rock confectionery business which had shops in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. He was the founder member of a campaign group to save Torquay Old Town against development in the 1980s.

He became involved in martial arts after taking up boxing while at school. In 2004 he started working on a new discipline – shinjido – which is a fighting format that fits the mixed martial arts category rather than sport judo. At five feet four inches tall, he was described as a "gallon in a pint pot". He held the rank of sixth Dan black belt in judo and aikido. He was a past British judo champion with 10 years' international experience. He won in the European Championships in 1974 and claimed gold in the 2002 World Masters. In 1996 he was ranked the number one lightweight in Great Britain and went on to enjoy a 10-year career on the international circuit. The Great Britain selectors long-listed him for the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, but because of the pressure of running his own business in Torquay he

didn't make it into the team. Danny is featured in the British Judo Association hall of fame and was honoured with a place in the USA International Black Belt Hall of Fame.

He leaves a wife Cynthia, and children Sharon, Maria, Clare, Damien and Simon.

DEREK FARRIER (1952-57)

Derek, who had been suffering from motor neurone disease and dementia, passed away at the Pilgrim's Hospice in Ashford earlier this year. He was 70. He had become a well-known figure in the town, arranging thousands of funerals during his 54 years in the undertaking business, and was often seen walking ahead of the hearse before and after services and at cemeteries and the crematorium.



Born and brought up in Dover, he attended River Primary School before joining our school, and when he left he immediately joined the business, which had been established by his father Jack. He was actively involved until the beginning of this year when illness made it difficult for him.

Derek and Lynda were married in 1973 and they had three children, Sarah, Julie and James, who are all now involved in the business. They also have four grandchildren, Stevie, Bethany, Sam and Casey.

In his younger days Derek played golf and was an avid supporter of Newcastle United Football Club, watching their matches on television and attending St James' Park with his son James on at least one occasion. He enjoyed gardening and had just taken up bowls, becoming a member of Kearsney Bowls Club.

A founder member of the Rotary Club of South Foreland in 1985, he was made an honorary member when illness prevented him from attending the meetings. He also belonged to a Masonic Lodge.

The funeral took place on Saturday 11 May at River Parish Church, followed by cremation at Barham. Donations in his memory are being made to the Motor Neurone Disease Association, via WJ Farrier undertakers at 161 London Road, Dover.

LAURIE HAZRATI



Laurie, who was at our school with his identical twin brother Mitchell, died in the Royal London Hospital on 1 June, 10 days after his car crashed into a telegraph pole in Pean Hill near Blean, Canterbury.

Described by his family as the life and soul of the party, Laurie also had an older sister Emily. The family lived in Dover until four years ago when they moved to Whitstable. His mum, Delia said: "He was just a typical 22-year-old. He liked to go out and have fun and was very popular with everyone. He liked

to make people laugh. As a mother it is just the worst news you can ever receive. He was always surrounded by girls. He loved his girlfriend dearly. In the hospital we had so many people come and see him. He was learning to play piano and was also talented on the guitar and the drums. He loved music. He would have done that full-time if he could."

After leaving our school, he went to the University of Winchester where he met his girlfriend and became the events officer at the volleyball club, setting up an overseas tour. After he returned from Winchester, Laurie began work as a mental health nurse and also trained for his seaman card for P&O cruise liners.

Donations in his memory are being made to the Kent Air Ambulance

after their efforts to save him, and the Redwood Rescue and Rehome centre.

His girlfriend, Silea Rive, said there were plans to set up a memorial gig to celebrate Laurie's life. She said they were best friends before becoming a couple, and she would never forget Laurie's gift for entertaining people. "Music was what he loved," she said.

DR. HERBERT LOEBL OBE BSc, MPhil, PhD, Hon.DSc, C Eng.

Martyn Webster kindly e-mailed a Daily Telegraph obituary about one of our old boys, Herbert Loeb, who (according to the newspaper) was an entrepreneur whose scientific company brought a jobs boom to the North East of England.



The obituary told how Herbert was born in Bamberg in Bavaria in April 1923 and as a teenager was apprenticed to his father and uncle's engineering factory in that city.

At the age of 15 (that must have been in 1938) he was sent to England where, although he could not speak the language, he soon settled at Dover Grammar School. He joined the cadets and because he was a "stout fellow"

was given the drum to play.

His parents and his two sisters arrived in Britain but other relatives perished in the Holocaust. His father and uncle opened a factory in Gateshead. During the 1939-45 war Herbert was interned on the Isle of Man before further education at King's College Newcastle.

Writing in 2004, Herbert recalled that he travelled the 10 miles between Deal and Dover by train, the boys and girls in separate compartments. "But we managed to communicate with the girls out of the windows, a rather dangerous practice," he said.

“Although I did not yet understand much English, I enjoyed the lessons. All the masters were very friendly and the atmosphere in the classroom was much more relaxed than in my German gymnasium.”

Herbert, who played the violin, joined the orchestra and played the drum in the school's cadet corps band. “Musically, this was no problem, but physically, it was rather hard. Our uniforms were heavy, of First World War Army vintage and rather 'scratchy'. Our legs were swathed in puttees of the same age. As the big drummer. I had to wear a lion skin with red felt lining and two large leather gauntlets. And there was the rather heavy drum carried on my chest. At the end of my time at the school in the summer of 1939 I participated in the cadet camp near Sandwich. Together with a bugler, I had to beat retreat in the evenings and reveille in the mornings, as well as precede the troop and the buglers for church parade on Sundays. This was an uncomfortable task in full gear on a hot summer's day.

JOHN MARTIN

John, who was 90, died in August 2012 after suffering from pneumonia.

DAVID MISKIN (1945-50)

David died in Australia on 11 June after a career in banking, mainly in New Zealand. (See Archivist's Corner).

GEOFF NEWSON (1949-54)

Geoff was one of the tallest students in the school and, at six feet eight inches tall, went on to become the tallest rating in the Royal Navy when he did his National Service. He served in the Metropolitan Police Force and played basketball for the police.

LESLIE RUPERT JOHN OVENDEN (1930-33)

Leslie, who was a life member of the association, died on 20 January 2012. (See Archivist's Corner).

STILL LIVING AND LEARNING

PETER BARRETT (1973-79)

Peter recalls that he left 'the school on the hill' although we pupils more affectionately referred to it as 'Colditz' in 1979. The Colditz reference, he says, derived from the similarity of the right hand tower to a scene in the opening titles of the BBC television series of the same name.

On leaving the school he immediately started work with National Westminster Bank in the Dover Market Square branch and remained with the bank for 24 years and worked at offices in the Dover area, then East Grinstead and eventually ended up in the Retail Finance function head office as a manager. Following the takeover by RBS I managed to secure a redundancy package as I had no desire to move to Edinburgh, although every possible inducement was given to me.

I can only say that it was my exam results that got me the banking job in the first place, I was offered the job after an interview which derived from a careers fair held one evening at the school.

Being ACIB qualified and having had the dubious pleasure of being in a few meetings with the now disgraced 'Fred the Shred' Goodwin, I can only say that the timing of my exit from the banking industry was very good but that was by luck rather than design.

A total career change followed and effectively a lifelong interest in stamp collecting as a hobby is now my job and I have been working for almost 10 years for a stamp dealership based on The Strand, London. Not a bad career to have been assisted by the lunch time school stamp club which used to run back then (Mr Kaufman I think?).

I live in Whitfield, commuting daily and one of my children will sit the Kent test this September, hopefully to continue some connection to the school. One of my nephews left the school last year and another remains there, so it has been a fixture in our family for some years.

BARRY BEARDSSELL

Barry wrote to say his life has revolved around Stockport, computers, computers and computers! "I've been making a living based on my knowledge of computers for 48 years and still at it with a web and office applications development business also got a small property company, rentals etc.

"I still feel I had an exceptional education at DCGSB – in my day there was also a 'County' in the name. Even now with my failing mental faculties I am seen as a reference point for spelling and word meanings. One thing we only did to a 10% level was foreign exchanges. I had three weeks as an 11-year-old with a French family who spoke no English and got back just about coping. If I'd been left there for six months I could have moved onto French literature and wouldn't have needed five years of five lessons a week plus homework to pass a GCE!

"My brother Graham was also at the same school a year ahead of me, he's retired and living in Spain."

PHIL BRADLEY (1974-79)

Phil, living at Carlyon Bay in Cornwall, is now Director of Finance at Peninsula Community Health, which he explains is a community interest company (social enterprise) providing adult community health services to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Phil, a life member, indicates he is to take up the suggestion in the last edition of this newsletter of additionally paying an annual fee to help cover the cost of compiling and posting the newsletter.

"I have finally moved back to the coast after 25 years living near Milton Keynes in the centre of the country. I am now based in Carlyon Bay, St Austell, Cornwall. I left DGSB at the end of my first A level term at Christmas 1979 and started work for The Institute of London Underwriters in Folkestone. I stayed there for just under 3 years and obtained a BEC National Certificate in Business Studies whilst there.

"I left to join the NHS as an Assistant Management Accountant, I qualified as an accountant in 1993. I am still working in the same field. I left the NHS after 29 years when I moved to Cornwall in January 2012. I am currently the Director of Finance for Peninsula Community Health, a social enterprise contracted to provide adult community health services across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

"I've been back to the school for a couple of reunions and you kindly showed us around the school. For me I have very fond memories of my time at the school – the quality of the teaching was excellent as was the teaching of right and wrong, respect, dignity etc was all solid grounding for future life and career. "

ALAN CATT (1962-68)

Alan played rugby for the 1st XV for three years and believes he was the first boy to do so. Leaving with three A levels, he went on to get a degree in geography from London University. "Ken Ruffell was my inspiration," he said. "I joined Post Office Telecoms as a graduate trainee, before it became BT, working in the Purchasing Department, then moved to Girobank, then part of the Post Office in 1979.

"I stayed there for the rest of my career, working with large Corporate clients until my retirement in 2007 at the age of 57. I worked in London, Southampton, and then back in London, but have lived in the New Forest for 26 years. I continued playing rugby, joining Saracens on leaving uni, and played until I was 40 following a car accident."

He has been involved in amateur dramatics in his village for more than 20 years playing various roles from Professor Higgins in My Fair Lady to the Pantomime Dame. Chairman of the local Scout Group, he works at the cruise terminals in Southampton a couple of days a week, helping disabled people on and off the cruise ships.

"I have always felt that the school gave me an excellent education," he said. "I was particularly grateful to Messrs Ruffell and Salter, who inspired me in geography and rugby respectively."

MIKE GRAHAM (1953-60)

Mike was among those who was pleased to receive a newsletter from the school and said it was an excellent idea.

“One minor correction is that girls in the sixth form is not entirely new. There were certainly a small group taking physics in 1961. Two of them, Katie Clare and Joan Ellis, regularly attend our reunions (of which more below). Joan's brother John can be seen on the 1955 cricket photo sitting proudly as team captain.

“Each of the last eight or nine years we have had a reunion in Dover. Almost 40 of us were there on Saturday, 22 June, at the Dover Rugby Club at Crabble. It is not an Old Pharosians' event as such because many of us were never approached to join when we were leaving school in the late 50s/early 60s. Some of us have joined since, others feel that they are too old to worry now.

Mike, who lives in Ealing, says he would be very happy to hear from people who are hoping to trace old boys from the 1950s as he may be able to help. He would also be glad to hear from anyone who would just like to attend their reunions which, he says, are great fun.

Among those who attend are Pat Croskerry, a former Olympic oarsman and national coach who has come over from Canada every year since the reunions began, Rick Kitchen who travelled from Aalborg in Denmark each year and Mick Bott who has annually made the shorter journey from Belgium. Most years they have had the company of Peter Piddock from the Isle of Skye.

“We are in contact with a few who cannot make the journey each year due to distance such as Paul Dunn and Dave Marriot (Australia) and Marcus Stocks (New Zealand).

“Inevitably we have lost a few in recent years – Roger Packman, Mike Hendy, John Kinnaird, Mike Hudsmith, Keith Ayling, Ray Fagg, Danny da Costa, and, very recently, Derek Farrier and Clive Lewis. Sad but inevitable as we reach our 70s.”

SOPHIE GRAYSON

Sophie – the first girl to be head prefect of our school – is among a talented youth theatre group selected to perform at the National Theatre Connections Festival. She was starring in *I'm Spilling My Heart Out Here* by award-winning playwright Stacey Gregg at The Shed, in London's National Theatre. Sophie is a member of the Lincoln Young Company, which is made up of undergraduate students from the University of Lincoln's School of Performing Arts, who have been chosen to take part in the festival after competing against 260 other school and youth theatre groups across the country. They were one of just 10 companies selected.

Sophie, who is studying for a degree in English literature and drama, said it was an incredible opportunity. "I'm so excited about performing at the National, absolutely petrified as well but really looking forward to it."

ALLY HALL (2000-08)

Ally was one of the first to send in details via our new Twitter account (for details see the last page of this newsletter). Keeping within the limit of 140 characters maximum for Twitter, he says: "I'm now working in Derby for a company called Clear doing sewer modelling."

TREVOR HEAVER (1949-55)

More than Forty Years On! Trevor was asked recently to write a short comment page for a special 40th-year issue of the journal "Maritime Policy and Management" whose editor happens to be at Canterbury University. Not surprisingly, this resulted in revisiting various documents about the school, including Ken Ruffell's history of the school 1905-1931. Trevor said he was pleased to acknowledge and quote his last line as the conclusion to his contribution to the journal (it will appear soon): "Let there be light, forty years on and into the future beyond our time and presence."

"The influence of teachers in our lives does indeed go beyond forty years," says Trevor.

DAVID MAGELLAN HORTH (1956-64)

David, who went to Surrey, says his most significant achievements were to get six 'O' Levels despite the headmaster predicting he would get none (and form teacher Jack Marriott predicting he would get six) then getting three A levels (one of them twice with the same grade!). So he spent three years in the sixth form.

"Most significant sporting achievement was being the first person to get full colours for fencing – the year that fencing was introduced into the school. I led the team that won the county team championship. Academically the biggest impact was the teaching and encouragement of Nigel (Nobby) Horne for my creative writing which many years later led to the authorship of a book on Creative Leadership.

"I currently live in Greensboro, NC with my American wife Betsey. I have three grown boys and two grandchildren.

ALAN NOAKE (1979-86)

Alan, who lives at Sandwich, has recently completed his Post Graduate Certification of Education (PGCE) with Christchurch University and is working full time as a secondary Mathematics teacher at Sandwich Technology School since September 2012.

Meanwhile, he says, he is keeping up his website business (The ICELAB Ltd) serving a number of client websites in Kent including the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

It was, he writes, a pleasure to read the last edition of the newsletter and he is grateful that Mr Smith persuaded him to take out life membership of the OPA in 1986.

"It was great to read about the Reverend Bryan Owen in the latest issue. He inspired in me a life-long love of poetry and drama when he taught at the school." He adds: "Best wishes to anyone who remembers me from school."

PETER PIDDOCK (1953-60 and 1965-72)

Peter was one of the few who were both a pupil (1953-60) and a teacher (1965-72) at the school. He then taught in South Wales and Birmingham, becoming a lecturer at Birmingham University and then HMI Schools from 1987-92 when he had to retire through ill-health. At the time he was in HM Inspectorate he recalls that DGSB had three HMI – Alan Callender, Dick Booth and himself.

DAVID REES (1956-63)

David, who is a former Royal Navy pilot who once crash landed in front of Prince Charles, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours.

A defence consultant, he believes the Royal Family have forgiven him for the emergency at an air show almost 50 years ago. The Prince of Wales was in the crowd at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland when David crash-landed his Gannet aircraft in 1963. He has been made an MBE for services to defence capability. He has been working for the government one way or another for 51 years.

He rose to the rank of Lieut-Commander during his 26-year career with the Royal Navy and sailed all around the world. He was a pilot on board various aircraft carriers, including HMS Ark Royal. He also ditched his aircraft in the Pacific while on board HMS Hermes in 1968. He retired from the Royal Navy in 2006 and since then has been a consultant.

He and his wife Shelagh, who live in Devon, have a daughter, Amy, who is studying to be a paramedic.

ROBERT SALES (1994-99)

New member Robert asked whether there were any recordings of the school organ. That set our President, Steve Yarrow, thinking and he is now looking into organising it, involving some of the school's former organists. Look out for more details in future newsletters.

JOHN WALKER (1988-93)

On leaving DGSB John decided to use the skills learned in the school's technical drawing and engineering workshop (those lessons from Mr. Smith are still remembered!) and joined the Merchant Navy as an Engineer Officer Cadet with P&O lines, studying at Warsash Maritime Academy, Southampton.

After a career at sea worldwide with P&O, eventually sailing as Chief Engineer Officer on several passenger vessels, John moved ashore as a project manager for new build cruise ships at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Japan and mega yachts at Blohm & Voss in Hamburg.

The last four years have been spent as VP and Regional Manager, Americas at GL Noble Denton, specialising in marine and offshore energy casualty investigations.

"I am based in New York and married with one daughter," writes John. "Very best regards and trust you are keeping well."

AND FINALLY

The editors of the Old Pharosians' newsletter have received this message from Geoffrey Christensen Elliott regarding the death, on active service, of one of our old boys, **Flying Officer John James Walsh**.

"I am researching the backgrounds of the five crew who were on the final flight of RAF Dakota KG 752 over the Italian Carnic Alps during 21/22 August 1944. They were on a perilous partisan supply mission behind German lines when their aircraft went missing. They were listed on the Malta Memorial in 1953 as having no known graves. The aircraft's navigator was Flying Officer John James Walsh, aged 21 whose parents, Michael John Walsh and Bridget Walsh lived in Dover at the time. He was a pupil at the Dover Grammar School until 1939 and worked for the Dover Borough Council before he enlisted.

“My uncle was a member of the crew and I have subsequently ascertained from RAF records and a local Italian Archaeological Expedition to the crash site in 2010 that the aircraft crashed 30 metres below the summit of Mount Sernio whilst trying to evade searchlights and flak. Their remains were found a year after the crash (August 1945) and buried, unidentified but together, in a local cemetery. John Walsh’s family will be unaware of this.

“The expedition’s mountain guide took it on himself to erect a large memorial plaque to the crew on the site of the crash last year.”

Geoffrey, who was due to visit him in Udine in June, can be contacted at - g.c.elliott@btinternet.com

A reminder that we have a Twitter account. @DGSBPharosians now has around 100 followers. Another good way to keep in contact!