

Dover Grammar School for Boys

New Series No. 105

January 2014

Old Pharosians' Association Newsletter



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NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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Roger Gabriel (to retire 2015)
Barry Crush (to retire 2016)
Mike Palmer (to retire 2016)

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HEAD TEACHER: Dr Richard Moxham

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ANNUAL MEETING 2013

The meeting, attended by 16 Old Pharosians and school business manager Helen Simmonds, started with a minute's silence in memory of those who had died during the previous 12 months.

Among the items discussed – and still awaiting further developments – were the suggestion that current pupils be called “Pharosians”, the maintenance and future use of the school organ and Steinway piano, and the possible sale of Leney's Field for housing.

It was agreed that the annual subscription for membership of the Old Pharosians' Association should be increased to £10 with immediate effect for new members and from 1 August 2014 for existing members, although the committee was asked to set a concessionary rate for new school leavers. The life subscription remains at £125 but life members are invited to “top up” their donation, or convert to annual membership.

There was discussion about the continuing falling membership of the association and the fact that hardly any younger people were joining. There are currently 173 annual members and approximately 470 life members, with a further 60 members whose addresses are not known.

An annual reunion of former pupils who had been at the school between the mid 1950s and mid 1960s, organised by Mike Graham, had been attended by about 40 people, with some travelling from as far away as Canada and Denmark. Another 30 former pupils had attended a reunion organised by Andrew Slade who had left in 1993.

Tribute was paid to the life and work of former headmaster Reg Colman.

FOOTBALL MATCH

A goal in the very first minute provided the School team with the perfect start in the 2013 match and despite the Old Boys creating several chances, an equaliser was not forthcoming. Two more goals in the second half gave the School a comfortable 3-0 victory to regain the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup.

The Old Boys were represented by Andy Tingey, Paul Tingey, Paul Castle, Neil Castle, John Castle, Paul Henwood, Jason Oliver, Andy Bateman, Simon Gretton, Gary Beeden, James Durrant, Steve Betts and Jordan Watkins.

The School team members were Tom Bines, Jacob Hackett, Josh Biles (capt), Callum Russell, James Tonkin, Matthew Halpin, James Cressey, Connor Miller, Troy Walker, Caleb Hadley, Callum Meadows and Elliot Burton.

DINNER

There were 50 Old Pharosians, wives and friends at the association's annual dinner at the school on Saturday, 28 September, when our President Stephen Yarrow recalled it was the third year he had the honour to preside at the event.

Stephen mentioned a comment by one of teachers, when he was a youngster at the school, that he should play an instrument and that inspired him to follow a career in music. He also reminded those attending of the success achieved by many "Old Boys" of the school and how others had devoted much of their lives to giving service.

Headteacher Dr Richard Moxham, in an excellent and well-received speech, told of the progress of the school and the how the school was becoming increasingly co-educational with a growing number of girls on the school roll. He revealed, that for the first time, there were now 100 students in the lower sixth form with a total of 782 receiving their education at the school.

Head boy Oliver Latham proposed the toast of The Queen and President Yarrow brought proceedings to an end playing Forty Years On at the organ in which those attending joined in good voice.

CRICKET MATCH 2014

The match has been provisionally arranged for Friday 27 June with a 3.30 p.m. start. Any cricketers wishing to play should contact Mick Palmer on 01304 825472.

DR REG COLMAN OBE

Our former head teacher Reg Colman (pictured on the front cover of this newsletter) died in September aged 87. He was head of the school for 21 years, retiring in April 1990.

Born in Croydon, his family were bombed out in 1940 and moved to Exmouth, where he went to the grammar school and met Marjorie, his wife-to-be. In 1944, he joined the RAF, and when the war ended he went into the Navy before going to Cambridge University in 1948. He did his education diploma in Exeter, and went on to teach in Lincolnshire. In 1956 he joined Dulwich College, where he was a house master until he moved to Dover when he was appointed as head of the school. It wasn't long before he became involved with youth activities outside school, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In 1988 he helped found the Kent European Youth Association (KEYA) with the late Ken Miles, from which hundreds of young people benefited, visiting various parts of the world to take part in a wide range of activities. He said young people were the leaders of the future, and the KEYA was founded because he and Mr Miles felt there were all sorts of opportunities for young people to see the world.

"You have to have confidence in young people. On the whole, they are an inspiration," he said. Reg helped organise conferences and secured funding for the trips abroad.

At school guest evenings he always stressed that students only went through school once, and they deserved the best opportunities to gain a good education.

In 1996, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Kent, and in 2002, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours, in recognition of his dedication to young people. At the time, he said he was absolutely astonished when he received the letter telling him of the award.

Reg was an active member of the Great Mongeham Society and the Rotary Club of Deal, of which he served as president. In 2003 he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his services to the

community, especially work with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the KEYA. In his retirement, Reg was a popular speaker at clubs and meetings all over Kent.

Giving the Euology at the funeral service at St Martin's Church, Great Mongeham, William Fittall (1964-72) recalled that Reg's first impressions on arriving at the school on 22 April 1969, which he wrote in the Pharos magazine, were: *"I was much comforted by my first Assembly. It is very reassuring to be surrounded on the platform by bright young boys with bright young voices. What a tremendous advantage that we can all sit together in that magnificent Hall."*

Bill said: "In the article he accurately described his predecessor, Michael Hinton, as a dynamo. It can't have been easy succeeding a dynamo, someone of whom we boys had frankly been in awe for his intellectual vigour and terrifying ability to quell an unruly gathering with a glance. But Reg brought his own mix of gifts to a role which he held with great distinction for 21 years.

"Opportunities, keenness, co-operation – three words which summed up his view of the world. He never failed to regard being headmaster of Dover Grammar School as a privilege of which he was hugely proud. Similarly he saw those of us who had come to the Grammar School as having great opportunities. His vocation was to get us to make something of our good fortune, to work hard, play hard and give something back. It didn't matter whether it was in academic pursuits, in the workshops and art room, in music, the cadet corps, the sports field or the sailing club. Just make the best of what God had given and be grateful."

Bill recalled the time Reg discharged himself from St Thomas's Hospital in London, where he was waiting for surgery, so he could attend a service at Westminster Abbey at which the school choir had been invited to sing. He was wearing clothes that had rather too obviously been hastily pulled over his pyjamas. Such was his support for the school.

"What we had previously called the assembly hall came under Reg to be known as 'the great hall', the place where we gathered daily as a

community and where at guest evenings he would keep the audience gripped by spellbinding orations, always delivered without a note. We were inspired by his enthusiasm his commitment and his decency, encouraged to give of our best and, like him, to be richly grateful for our good fortune.”

Peter Piddock (1953-60) wrote to say he was sorry to hear of Reg's passing. “He took over from Michael Hinton while I was teaching at the school, and was extremely encouraging in the development of computing, my main responsibility at the time. We always had an excellent working relationship. He was a good friend to me as well as my boss.”

LONDON REUNION

As we have not had a London reunion for a while, we are proposing to have the next one on Wednesday 4 June. It will be upstairs at our usual venue, The George, 213 The Strand, opposite the Law Courts, from 6 to 9 p.m. All members are welcome, as well as partners and friends. The cost will be £15 per head, to include buffet refreshments – buy your own drinks. Please send your cheques, payable to the Old Pharosians' Association, to: John Booth, 641c Loose Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9UT, or Denis Doble, 38 Eglantine Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2DD. Applications will be acknowledged. Please enclose your telephone number and email with your address, in case we need to contact you. Look forward to seeing you all on 4 June.

John Booth and Denis Doble

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

Greetings.

Recently I was delighted to be approached by Hugo Crush who, with fellow students Kyle Withers and Thomas McNeill, are engaged in taking part in an international project to commemorate the centenary of the 1914 start of the First World War. The boys joined the School in 2009 and are benefiting from the guidance of history teacher Mrs Hoyle. Both Paul Skelton and I have made the archives available to the boys for the project.

The overall picture seems to be to create a set of interconnected websites around the world which each concentrate on the involvement of the local area in the First World War. Obviously one expects there to be a significant contribution from the Commonwealth countries.

Clearly Hugo and his team want as much material as possible which is directly related to the School. Whilst I was able to suggest relevant archive material, on the personal level I was pleased to point out that my father was a flyer in the First World War – Royal Naval Air Service (subsequently the Royal Air Force). This was not of great interest as he was not an OP but if you have suitable information relevant to their project please send it to me and I will ensure it gets to them as well as going into our archives.

Staying on the international front, my school chum Bev Sheppard (1950-54) and I have clear memories of meeting teacher Mr Connelly in the town and having our hands warmly shaken by him. This unique behaviour by a teacher towards the boys can perhaps be explained by Mr Connelly being on a visit to the School (1950-51) from Uppsala Grammar School in Sweden. Our friend David Jervis (1946-53) also remembers the teacher but he cannot recall a forename for him either. Mr Connelly can be seen in the 1950 panoramic photograph segment 3, row 3, number 24. Does anyone else have memories of this Latin teacher?

Some while ago Dr Hinton (Headmaster 1960-68), sent me material for the archives including additions to the running-sheet for 1965 film The School on the Hill. Recently further contributions have come in from brothers Alan James Brooks (1959-66) and Stephen Brooks (1963-70), and brothers Keith Russell (1965-73) and Tony Russell (1963-70). As a result there is an updated version (complete with contradictions). If anyone would like to see the current running-sheet I would be delighted to email it.

In addition, Alan sent copies of School publications of which I had not even heard. "The Second Former" (1962), has the report of an Astor 2 Dover Grammar 2 soccer match in which Geoffrey Heard (1959-63) played a significant role. A professional with Sheffield Wednesday, he was the subject of an earlier enquiry about his school career.

“3H Express May 1962 No. 2, Price 3d” contains an interview with teacher Mr Denham (1949-84).

Copies of “Opinion”, issues 2 to 11 and 13 to 15, costing 2d each, covering the period 1961 to 1963 make interesting reading. These publications have a newspaper type of role with editorials, reports, letters, humour, quizzes and the like. Issue 5 tells one that a new House system was to be introduced and there were complaints that the boys did not enjoy singing Forty Years On at the beginning of the Speech Day gathering but would have done better had it been scheduled at the end. When was Forty Years On taken off the school “curriculum”? It is still used by the OPA and the Pharos Lodge.

Copies of other issues would be a welcome addition to the archives. I am reliably informed that the “Opinion” was eventually banned by the Headmaster as the teachers were given too much “stick” in it.

At the time these publications were appearing the nature of the Pharos Magazine was changing. Whether it will be possible to scan the publications and put them on the website is yet to be determined.

In the July issue the whereabouts of Keith Hopper (1955-63) was sought by Alistair Shaw Eekhout (1954-60), who is now known as Alistair Shaw. It is pleasing to report that contact has been made through the good offices of William (Bill) Hutchinson (1954-59) and Ian Hopper (1955-59). Would you believe it that Keith and Alistair live “just round the corner from each other” in Petersfield? Of course you would, quite amazing.

Following the award of a BSc (Eng) Civil Engineering degree at Queen Mary College London (1963-1966), Keith was a Chartered Civil Engineer throughout his career. He is now retired after 40 years working for Herts County Council as a highway engineer and then 3 years in London with Mouchel Consultants.

As previously mentioned, we have a copy of the Picture Post Special issue in the archives 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 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 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 gratuity), 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 DVD *Prize Giving One* is offered at a cost of £10, plus £2 p&p (making £12). The DVD 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 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).

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. 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. 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 £10, plus £2 p&p (making £12).

The *Film Clips Two* DVD features three monochrome 8mm silent films created by teacher Archibald Coulson (1928-71). These include 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).

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* of twelve teachers referred to in the July 2013 issue 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 (both datted 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. There are only limited numbers of the hardcopy versions available.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

James Atkins (1945-50), who migrated to New Zealand with his family on leaving the School, wrote “to ask if you know anything about an Alston. Years ago when I was at Ohakea Air Force Base doing CMT (Compulsory Military Training) there was a Flight Lieutenant Alston whom I recognised from school; he was a prefect.” The only Alston I have on my records is Leonard, a fee-payer of 1908. Can anyone shed light on the said prefect?

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.

It is sad to close with the news that Alan Rogers (1950-55), died in the summer of 2013 aged 75. Alan was a technician at the School and most helpful to the archive team with computer support before the networked system that we use today was in place.

Regards.

Peter Burville (1946-51)

FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM

At the committee meeting in November, we welcomed Izaak Wilson who had volunteered to become one of the editors of the newsletter. We are very grateful to him for offering to serve the association in this way, and to bring some youthful enthusiasm to the committee! Thanks were expressed – as they were at the AGM – to Terry Sutton who had retired as joint newsletter editor, and it was decided to invite him to re-join the committee.

Thanks were also expressed to the school musicians who performed at the annual dinner, and to Maurice Smith and the chairman for arranging the event, which had made a small surplus.

It was agreed a new standing order mandate would be included within this newsletter (marking the increase in annual subscription from £5 to £10). Members are also encouraged to Gift Aid their subscriptions.

Latest developments on the website were reported, including the photos of the 2013 football match being displayed. Former pupils,

some from many years ago, were recognising themselves in photos on the website, and adding their names. It is expected another panoramic school photo will be taken in 2015.

Archivist Peter Burville also gave a report – much of which is included above in Archivist's Corner. Thanks are expressed to him and his team for all their work.

Discussion took place about the Gordon King Fund and how it can be used to benefit the pupils.

It was reported that some refurbishment work has been carried out to the pavilion, with some repainting, and repairs to the brickwork. The gym floor has been replaced – it is bright blue with yellow marks – and assemblies have been held there. The school drive has been repaired and planning permission has been given for two mobile classrooms to be situated near the staff car park (the old tennis courts). Investigations are being made of the old war-time tunnels, and anyone with information about them is invited to contact the school. Keith Cross (1965-70) and Keith Russell (1965-73) had visited the school.

Old Pharosians have been invited to enter a team for a University Challenge-style event being held at the school, in conjunction with the Dover Grammar School for Girls, at 7 p.m. on 30 January. President Steve Yarrow indicated his interest in leading the team and is gathering recruits.

Plans are also being made for a Beer Festival on 5 and 6 September.

The next committee meetings are on 25 February and 13 May.

EBBW VALE ANNIVERSARY

This year, 2014, is the 70th anniversary of the return to Dover of the school from four years of evacuation in Ebbw Vale, South Wales. At the association's annual meeting it was suggested that a special reunion of Old Boys, who spent some time in Ebbw Vale, be held to coincide with the association's annual dinner in the autumn. Thanks to information supplied by one of our members there were 220 boys at the school when in December 1944 a train brought them home to a

badly war damaged town. The WRNS (navy girls) still occupied out school building on the hill and the boys were accommodated in three properties in the town centre.

The information supplied by John Booth, quoting a school inspector's report, reads: "Evacuation became inevitable by June 1940. About 300 boys were successfully removed to Ebbw Vale and the party was still 220 strong when it returned to Dover in December 1944."

*It is not known how many of those who "enjoyed" evacuation in Ebbw Vale are still surviving but those interested in such a reunion should contact Terry Sutton (terry.sutton@route56.co.uk), 17 Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3HB.

Incidentally another "war-time" artefact has recently come to light. The "Dover County School for Boys Commemorative Plaque" was discovered at the Civic Centre in Ebbw Vale and is now at the Corus Museum. By way of explanation, the inscription on it reads: "Presented by parents and old boys of the school to the Ebbw Vale U.D.C. and foster parents from Cwm to Beaufort Hill in token of great kindness."

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

OFSTED

Head teacher Dr Richard Moxham reports:

On 15 and 16 October, a team from Ofsted visited DGSB to conduct a 'Section 5', as they were entitled to do at any point after May 2013, that being the third anniversary of the preceding inspection. That the visit came so promptly is probably attributable in part to the fact that the previous overall judgement of '1: Outstanding' had been gained despite a grade of '2: Good' in Teaching & Learning (no longer a possibility within the new framework), and in part to a shaky set of GCSE results in the summer of 2012 (though 2013's were vastly better).

Most alumni who keep in touch with matters Pharosian will doubtless already be aware that the eventual inspection judgement was '3: Requires Improvement' (another alteration to the system – three years

ago the equivalent grade would have been characterised as 'Satisfactory'). The new label sounds disappointing, and of course it is. Nobody – individual or institution – wants to be called anything less than good. But if you read the Ofsted report in full (and I recommend that – it's on our website), I think you may be surprised by the rather complimentary 360° picture that emerges of the School. The fact is that the inspectors picked up on three or four aspects of our performance which they deemed not yet consistently good enough to pass muster. And we agree with them – in fact most of the points they highlighted for improvement were already identified in our School Development Plan. But we also agree with the report's apparent conclusion that the great majority of what we do is suggestive of a very good school, in the normal, conversational sense of that adjective.

What next, then? Well, we're all working extremely hard on the fragile areas, in order to make sure of gaining a 'Good' or better at the follow-up inspection which will certainly come our way in the next 21 months. It makes for quite a tough phase in the School's life, not least because you have to ensure that, alongside the rather exhausting business of fixing things under external scrutiny, you leave time and energy for doing all the other stuff, much of it extra-curricular, which has always been regarded as central to a rounded education in this country. The truth is that we who work here, whether as educators or governors, believe that DGSB is actually 'in a good place', as the modern phrase goes, and on a good trajectory. We're very pleased with the development of the Sixth Form over the past three years, and with many other completed and continuing changes. Fundamentally, as the Chairman and I wrote in our post-Ofsted letter on the website, we are the same school we were back at the start of October, and we believe it's a school that most of our students and parents are pretty happy with, despite the fact that there are – as there always will be – things we can do better.

FLOODING

Many of the students received an unexpected extended Christmas holiday this year. Staff returning for work on Monday 6 January discovered the science wing of the school flooded. During the previous weekend rain had collect on the flat roof above the science prep room

window. Due to a blocked drain the water rose and is believed to have seeped through the brick work and into the roof space. The water caused the ceiling of the bay window in the Upper Prep room to collapse, with one section of plaster managing to hit and break the direct feed water supply to a dishwasher, allowing water to pour out. As a result, all three floors of classrooms on the quad side of the science wing suffered water damage. The worst affected rooms being those on the ground floor, which includes a computer room (which only had a new carpet fitted on the Friday), the main electrical distribution board, media room and the room housing the main computer servers.

For health and safety reasons coupled with the fact the school's entire computer system was out of action it was decided to close the school for all students on Tuesday 7 January. Thanks to the hard work of staff, especial members of the ICT department, the computers were up and running in the main school later that day and it was possible to allow Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to return the next day. However with 12 classrooms out of action there was no capacity within the school to allow years 7, 8 and 9 to return until the following week. Work continued on the clearing up operation but was slowed down due to the discovery of asbestos in the distribution boards. This was safely removed and power was restored in time for all students to return on Monday 13 January. It is expected that the three worst affected classrooms will be out of action for 4 to 6 weeks, with a considerable amount of science equipment and computers requiring replacing.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

OBITUARIES

VICTOR RICHARD FRYER (1919– 21)

Victor's son Richard wrote to tell us that his father died in June 2013 after spending the last 15 months of his life in a nursing home in Crewkerne.

Born in Gillingham, his early movements were dictated by the postings of his father who was a career soldier in the Royal Engineers. In 1913 the family moved to Malta where Victor's father was to be Military

Foreman of Works on the Building of the Military Hospital at Imtarfa. It was there that his father borrowed books from the Army Education Officer in Valetta and so began Victor's education.

His lessons were arithmetic, writing, spelling and dictation, little essays and mental work. Most of his lessons were done in the early morning before the days became too hot. The family returned to England in 1919 and in the autumn of 1919 his father was posted to Dover. Victor attended the nearby army school and sat exams in reading, recitation, arithmetic, writing, English, English history and geography and passed to Standard VI in all subjects (a grade normally found in 13 to 14-year-olds – Victor was only 10.)

He spent a year in the preparatory form of Dover County School where he was always ahead of the other pupils and in 1920 he was awarded a Kent County Scholarship which would pay for his education until 1927. Also in that year he witnessed the arrival at Dover of the coffin carrying the body of The Unknown Soldier.

In late 1921 his father was posted abroad and the family moved back to Bristol and Victor attended Cotham Grammar School.

In 1923 his father returned to the UK and in October the family moved to Salisbury. Victor's scholarship was transferred and he went to Bishop Wordsworth's School. On leaving school he joined The Midland Bank at the age of 18 in 1927 as a Junior clerk in the Romsey Branch on a salary of £4 3s 4d per month! Exams, marriage in 1937, war service as an accounts officer in the RAF and several moves around the south of England, including a return to Romsey as Manager in 1955, led up to retirement at the age of 60 in 1969 when he and his wife Bunty moved finally to the village of Sixpenny Handley, Dorset. An incredibly active man by way of extra curricular activities, he played good tennis until retirement, took up transcribing books into Braille in 1948, joined the Royal Observer Corps the same year and was a keen ballroom dancer.

At the age of 90, and after his wife died in 1997, he enthusiastically espoused the cause of naturism. By the time of his death he had been on pension two years longer than he had worked for the Midland Bank!

JOHN LORD (1961-67)

John, who was 64, died after being seriously injured in a rugby match. He was tackled right at the end of a match which was being held in memory of another former player who had died during a game in 2003.

John was playing for Folkestone Fossils against Dover Veterans at the Newington ground in September 2012 when he was tackled while running with the ball.

The referee told the inquest that the ball came out of his grip and went forward. The referee checked his watch, saw that time was up and blew his whistle to end the game. He then saw that John had not got up and other players had gone to his aid. A Vets player, who was also a trained fire-fighter with first aid experience, and a paramedic who had been playing on an adjacent pitch administered CPR. The air ambulance arrived and flew him to the Royal London Hospital where he died the next day. He had suffered a brain haemorrhage.

John played rugby throughout his adult life. Born in Aylesham, he was married to Linda for 43 years. After leaving school he worked for Customs and Excise at Dover where he also played rugby for a customs team and Dover before moving to Folkestone. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at the inquest.

RALPH MAIDSTONE (1936-41)

Ralph's time at our school included the evacuation years with the school to Ebbw Vale. He was billeted in Cwm, a few miles down the valley from Ebbw Vale. He worked for local authorities and retired from Dover District Council in 1983 at which time he was working as principal services officer in the council's finance department. Ralph died peacefully at his Dover home on 10 August 2013.

ALAN ROGERS (1950-55)

As reported in the Archivist's Corner, Alan, who was a pupil and later technician at the school, died in August.

STILL LIVING AND LEARNING

COLIN C. BAILEY (1941-48)

In the last edition we appealed for memories of science master W.E. Pearce who was at the school from 1915 to 1952. **Colin Bailey** writes:

“My own period at the School was 1941 to 1948 October. My memories of WEP (as he was known) was when I was in 6th Science for two years 1946 to 1948. He was our form master and also head of Senior Physics when I was studying for Higher School Certificate. Like the majority of the staff, he was a man of great stature, a disciplinarian and an extremely good teacher. He taught us well, always explaining things thoroughly and going back to first principles every time. He was a gentle man and I came to know him well when I was captain of Buckland House and he was House Master.

“One thing does stand out and that was when he was Deputy Head Master and J.C. Booth the Head Master. When J.C.B. went to Maidstone for a meeting, WEP would take prayers and always chose “Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us” for the hymn at Assembly. I believe this was because he served in the navy in the First World War!! I believe, when we were evacuated to Ebbw Vale during the Second World War WEP was a brigadier in the Army Cadet Force, but I am not certain about that.”

Another memory about Mr Pearce comes from **Martin Watts** (1935-45) who was head prefect in 1944 when the school was about to end its evacuation days in Wales. Shows how times have changed.

Martin writes: "While I was head prefect I had a non-sexual relationship with a girl friend of roughly the same age as myself, who attended Ebbw Vale grammar school. We were both interested in physics and chemistry. The Dover Grammar School senior chemistry master had giving us a lecture on explosives, about which we were both interested.

"We were living about a mile apart and were walking together – about a yard apart. WEP came along in the opposite direction, nodded and said nothing.

"Next day, in class, he told me off and said my behaviour was unacceptable. A complete disgrace, he added. He said we should not fraternise with local girls. I explained that we were both taking chemistry and interested in the lecture on explosives. WEP responded that did not matter. I had shamed the school." Martin adds that the lady died two years ago.

Terry Sutton remembers the girl. He lived with her – or rather with her parents, who were his foster parents, in 1940-41 – for around a year until they engineered his departure to another foster home!

BILL BARNACLE (1938-45)

Bill, who runs a popular traditional jazz band, has been celebrating 50 years of playing his cornet in Dover, Deal and elsewhere in East Kent.

It was half a century ago that he first turned up at the Louis Armstrong public house (formerly The Grapes) in Maison Dieu Road, Dover hoping to get a chance to play. The pub is owned by the widow of one of our old boys, the late Bod Bowles who was also a jazz fan.

So one Sunday evening in the summer 86-year-old Bill Barnacle was at the Louis Armstrong again, with his band, to celebrate the golden anniversary of that first visit. During those 50 years Bill, who has served in the Royal Marines and the army, has played for hundreds of traditional jazz fans at various venues.

He's so much in love with his cornet that when he takes a holiday on a cruise liner he takes along the instrument just in case he's invited to play!

MATTHEW CARLEY (1996-2003)

When he left school, Matthew gained a Scholarship at Gloucester University sponsored by the Rugby Football Union, Gloucester University and the Gloucester Referees Society. He did a Sports Science course specialising in Rugby Union Refereeing and he is now one of seven full-time referees employed by the Rugby Football Union. Matthew is qualified to referee at Premiership level and, last week, refereed the Bath vs Exeter Chiefs match at Bath.

As I write, he is currently in Florence, Italy, to ref. a match between Calvisano and a representative side. Next season, he will be refereeing at the European Second Tier level, which is just below the Six-Nations level, and has been appointed to ref. a match between Russia and Portugal.

Two years from now it is probable that he will referee in the Six-Nations Championship so, watch this space.

We have had David Elleray for football, now we have Matthew Carley for rugby.

ALISTAIR GARDINER (1949-59)

The Old Pharosians Association assistant secretary Alistair read with interest the claim in the last newsletter by Alan Catt that he believed he was the first boy at school to have played three years in the 1st XV rugby team.

Alistair writes: " I can tell Alan that he was not – nor was he anywhere near. I played seasons '55, '56, '57 and in my general era, 1949-1959, at least another dozen did likewise. They included P.J. Janaway, R.J. Jenkins, F. Fisher, A.A .Norman, K.T. Carran, D. Brooshooft, K. Marsh, L. Painter, R. O'Bree, W.K. Hannaford, A.R. Adams (not the printer), R. Forsyth. (I wonder where they all are now)

Ken. Marsh actually played in four seasons and, I suspect, that Janaway, Norman, Carran and Brooshooft did also, but I do not have the 1952 team so cannot be sure. There must have been others in other decades who played at least three seasons.

Incidentally, apart from my school seasons, my club rugby playing career spanned five decades ('50s to '90s) and I played my final game at the age of 59. Now, is that a record???"

IAN GOODBAN

A passing visit by an expert to Ian's pub in Deal has unravelled a mystery dating back millennia. Ian, a former science teacher at our school, has been landlord of the Deal Hoy for two years and found an

Iron Age urn at Sandwich Bay a few years ago, but did not know what it was. He added it to his bar ... sticking a candle in it for good measure. But when Dr Lesley Hardy, from Canterbury Christ Church University, visited the pub its real pedigree was unveiled. Dr Hardy told him it could be much older than he thought – maybe dating back as far as 50 BC to 50 AD. Ian took it to the Canterbury Archaeological Society, which confirmed it was from the Iron Age and was used to store ashes of the dead.

“I didn’t think anything that old could be washing around Sandwich Bay,” said Ian. “It’s local history and it’s unbelievable how much history there is in Kent. I think a pub should be about the town and the community it serves, which is why it’s great when people come in here and say ‘wow, I didn’t know that’.”

The urn is not believed to originate from Kent, which means no local museum would take it. He has kept the urn, but moved it to a safer place upstairs. He now plans to display it in a glass case.

Ian has put the results of years of beach-combing on display at the Deal Hoy, from a gigantic whale jaw to pieces of wrecked ships, Venetian, Roman and medieval pottery, a cannonball and a First World War ammunition shell. He is now in the process of recording all his findings through the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

ANTONY HOOK (1991-1998)

Antony has a good chance of being elected as an MEP in May, one of 10 representing the South East England Region (Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire). He is likely to be the only MEP living in East Kent.

For the European Parliament election the parties put forward a list of candidates for each region and they win a number of seats in proportion to their share of the vote. Antony has been nominated in second place on the Liberal Democrat list to fill the shoes of a Lib Dem MEP who is retiring. His running mate at the top of the list, Catherine Bearder MEP, recently hosted a visit to the European Parliament by DGSB students.



Antony is likely to be elected if his party wins at least 14% to hold their two seats. To achieve that he is travelling across to South East to meet local people and press. He says: "My focus is on jobs and the economy. The best academic research finds that 3 million UK jobs are linked to our EU membership. So, I will very much be campaigning that we need to stay in."

"We can create additional jobs by helping small businesses get more out of their rights in the single market, extending the single market in the services sector and making open trade

agreements between the EU and other parts of the world to increase exports.

"I think it is going to be a very interesting election and I hope I will have the chance to represent our area's interests as MEP."

His website is www.europe4prosperity.org.uk and his email is antony@antonyhook.com

Antony was Deputy Head Prefect and after DGSB read History at UCL followed by Law at City University and the Inns of Court. He was called to the Bar in 2003 and practised for 10 years, mostly in criminal law.

For the last four years he was a specialist in prosecuting serious financial crime. He stopped practising law on 30 November 2013 to campaign full time for the election.

He was President of the Old Pharosians 2010-12.

MARTIN RUCK (1979-86)

After leaving school in 1986 Martin completed a physics degree, and then a doctorate in astrophysics, both at Oxford. After that he spent more than 15 years in academic publishing, first with the Royal Astronomical Society in London and then with the journal publisher Elsevier in Oxford, in a variety of editorial and commissioning roles working on both books and journals.

Martin writes: “Growing increasingly restless (call it a mid-life crisis if you will!), I changed tack completely in 2011, embarking on a PGCE and re-training as a science teacher. I qualified last year and am now teaching full-time at Bloxham School, a small independent school near Banbury in Oxfordshire.

“I am teaching physics, chemistry and maths across the age range. I have also got involved in several extracurricular activities including music, a robotics club, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and editing the school magazine. As any teacher will tell you it is an amazingly intense and rewarding job. I am absolutely loving it: in many ways I wish I’d made the switch years ago.

“Interestingly, one of my colleagues at Bloxham is Mr David Best, a Maths teacher who started his teaching career at DGSB about a year before I completed my A-levels. Small world.

Martin is married to Karen and they have an eight-year-old daughter, Sophie. They live in a village in north Oxfordshire and Martin would be happy to hear from anyone who remembers him. His email is martin@rucks.org.uk

MICHAEL SCHLAMM (2001-07)

Those of you who watched P&O Ferries sing their way to victory in Gareth Malone's latest television series to find the best work place choir in the country may have recognised former student Michael Schlamm among the choristers. Michael works as a steward for the company and was one of the two dozen staff selected by Gareth, following auditions, to be a member of the choir.

They won through to the quarter finals, then the semi-finals (held at the Royal Academy of Music) where they sang gospel, and the final (at Ely Cathedral) where they performed the world première of a piece by composer Paul Mealor, who was one of the judges.

P&O beat Citi Bank and the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to take the trophy. It was an excellent programme, and showed Dover in a very favourable way, with impressive filming in a number of locations.

The programme also kept **BRIAN REES (1973-80)** busy. As public relations officer for P&O Ferries he helped to make arrangements for some of the filming, and dealt with press enquiries once the programme had been televised.

ADRIAN STEWART (1990-96)

Adrian, who graduated with an honours degree in social psychology from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1999, has been working for Saga since 2000 and is now living in the Elms Vale area after moving from Maxton. He has been helping by putting names to some of those in the 1989 school photo.

DAVID THOMAS (1985-93)

David is an excellent example of our “Still Living And Learning” section. He now has an MSc with distinction in Computing for Commerce and Industry from the Open University. He has also sent us an updated address in Willingham, Cambridge ... an opportune reminder to all OPs to keep us updated with their addresses if they move.

ERNIE TRAVERS (1968-71)

Ernie was “just wandering” around the internet and came across the OP site – which he, quite rightly, describes as a “wonderful site”. He played in the school rugby team in his second year and has added the name of Paul Pilcher to one of the photos on the website. On leaving the school he joined the Royal Signals.

GRAHAM TUTTHILL (1960-65)

Terry Sutton (1940-47) writes: After 48 years as a journalist our newsletter editor Graham Tutthill retired on his 65th birthday in November. Graham worked for eight years at the Dover Express and the next 40 years with the East Kent Mercury at Deal and the Dover Mercury of which he proved to be a popular chief reporter. On the eve of his retirement he gave a well-received talk about his career at a public meeting organised by The Dover Society.

Although very active as a journalist Graham has, and is, finding time to play a significant role in the Dover community. He is chairman (of the Dover Partnership Against Crime (known as Shopwatch), organist at Dover's Methodist Church (now known as The Beacon), editor of the church newsletter, as well as leader of the Church Music Group.

Over the years he has also been involved in the Crabble Corn Mill Trust, the committee of the Girls' Venture Corps, Hospital Broadcasting Service and the League of Friends of Dover Hospitals. He was secretary of the Dover committee of Trinity College of Music, chairman of the governors of River primary school and then our school, chairman of Dover Town Centre Crime Group and chairman of Dover Christian Aid Committee. He is also one of the script writers of Dover's annual films screened at Dover Film Festival.

If you want a job well done, find a busy man, writes Terry.

NIK WILLSON (1997-2002)

Nik is manager of the Swale Skills Centre where **Paul Skelton (1972-79-2005)** is also currently working.

IZAAK WILSON (2003-2010)

When he left school, our new joint editor of this newsletter moved up north to attend the University of York. There he studied history and archaeology, but probably spent more time on his editorial role for a student newspaper (which means he brings vital skills to the production of our newsletter!) Now he is back in Kent where he edits the website and does other media work for Canterbury City Council.