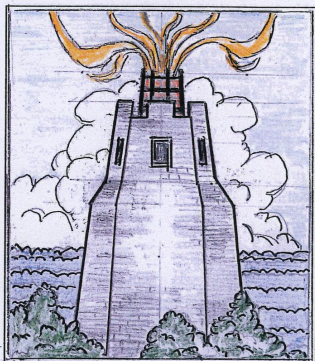




OLD PHAROSIANS'  
ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER



FIAT LUX

DOVER  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
FOR BOYS

February

2015



## NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- \* OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2014-15.
- \* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014.
- \* NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM.
- \* FROM OUR PRESIDENT.
- \* PHAROS BEER FESTIVAL.
- \* DOVER RUGBY CLUB
- \* CRICKET AND FOOTBALL MATCHES.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

- \* THE HEAD WRITES.
- \* NEW SPORTS HALL.
- \* THE SCHOOL ORGAN.

## THE SCHOOL VISITED WALES.

- \* EVACUATION AND RETURN.

## NEWS OF OLD BOYS.

- \* STILL LIVING AND LEARNING.
- \* OBITUARIES AND RESURRECTIONS.

## NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2014-2015.

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Neil Beverton.

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Maurice Smith (to retire 2015)

Roger Gabriel (to retire 2015)

Barry Crush (to retire 2016)

Mike Palmer (to retire 2016)

Ian Donald (to retire 2017)

Rev. John Philpott (to retire 2017)

Dr. Peter Burville (co-opted 2014)

Dr. Alwyn Seeds (co-opted 2014)

Terry Sutton (co-opted 2014)

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The objects of the Association are to advance the education of the pupils in the School; by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the School (not normally provided by the Local Authority) and as ancillary thereto and in furtherance of this object the Association may:

- a) foster more extended relationships between the staff, old boys and others associated with the School: and
- b) engage in activities which support the School and advance the education of the pupils attending it.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—27<sup>th</sup>. September, 2014.

New Headteacher, Mrs Fiona Chapman, was welcomed to the Meeting.

The present condition of the School organ and the Steinway piano was discussed. The organ is almost unique in a State School but, due to the current Head of Music not being an organist, it does not get played as much now as in former days. It needs regular tuning to maintain efficiency and some refurbishment. The piano, which is a valuable asset, also requires attention.

The costs of reconditioning these instruments could run into many thousands of pounds depending on the scale of repair. However, there is no intention of trading in the piano in favour of a cheaper make and using funds raised to maintain the organ.

It was agreed that these fine instruments were like “family silver” and not to be diminished. A suggestion that, since so many past pupils are distinguished organists, it might be possible to arrange a series of Concerts to raise necessary funds.

It was reported that plans for the new Sports Hall were well advanced as were discussions with Sport England, which was supportive of the project. Plans could be signed off before Christmas.

The Beer Festival, held in support of funding, had been a great success, raising over £5,000, and will be repeated in 2015.

The possible sale of Leney’s Field to add to construction funds has been shelved although possible future use will still be investigated. This is largely due to the funding likely to be provided by Sport England.

Treasurer, John Sheather, reported a surplus for the year and current assets in excess of £7,000.

However, he is standing down from the post and received the thanks of the Committee for his service in recent years. He introduced his replacement, Jonathan Fullerton (1997-2004), who was welcomed by the Meeting.



Archivist, Peter Burville, is also standing down after 30 years in the post but, thus far, there is no replacement for this position so important to both the Old Pharosians and the School.

The Meeting expressed thanks to Peter for his work and diligence over the years tending the School's history and records.

A volunteer is much needed and Peter will provide any assistance necessary for takeover.

Graham Tutthill, Editor of the OPA Newsletter for many years, has retired and Editorship passes to Alistair Gardiner. The Association expressed much appreciation and many thanks were extended to Graham for his stewardship.

Denis Doble reported that the London Reunion had again been a success.

#### NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE ROOM.

Meetings were held on 17<sup>th</sup>. November, 2014, and 19<sup>th</sup>. January, 2015.

The Annual Dinner had again been a great success with fine food and company.

Jack Kremer and Maurice Smith were thanked for their organisation and Helen Simmonds for ensuring the success of the event. Head of Music, Elizabeth Cameron, and her young performers were congratulated for their musical intervals.

The Beer Festival produced a number of new members to the OPA and it is hoped that existing members will make arrangements to pay the new annual sub. of £10----even if they are already Life members.

The change of treasurer is underway with Bank account signatories being up-dated.

Alistair Gardiner has taken over production of the Newsletter and has received data from Graham Tutthill. Printing and distribution will be liaised with the School.

Production costs are not thought to be excessive due to a number of people receiving their copy by electronic mail.

A number of suggestions for revitalising the Newsletter were discussed and, if possible, some of these will be incorporated in the next edition if solicited articles are received in time.

The appointment of our new President had been delegated to the Committee at the AGM and Dr. John Allingham had been approached and had accepted the invitation.

Our new President was welcomed at the 19<sup>th</sup>. January meeting.

The planning application for the new Sports Hall, in a location approved by Sport England in front of the tower, had been submitted and a decision is expected in February, 2015.

Ian Donald has stood down as Chair of the Governors for personal and professional reasons but will be heavily involved in the Sports Hall development.

The Head outlined plans for the Building and Ian Donald reported that the anticipated costs would be about £2.2 million.

In order to attract external funding, the School would need to raise £300,000 initially. Sport England would provide a significant proportion of the final cost but not the balance.

A fund raising committee was established and it was agreed that the OPA representatives should be Ian Donald, John Allingham, Jack Kremer, Fiona Chapman, Helen Simmonds and Paul Skelton.

Various suggestions were made as to possible fund-raising events, including possible uses for Leney's Field, and the Beer Festival will probably be enhanced by a 5-a-side football tournament between local "hostelries" on the top field.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

I would like to thank the Committee for inviting me to be your President. It is a great honour.

Entering Dover Grammar School for Boys in 1974 was a big deal for my family. My father is an Old Pharosian (1951-57) remembered for his athletic rather than his academic prowess but the Grammar School education gave him a great start in life. Where such an education would lead me was not immediately considered and that I would become the first in my family to go to University was beyond comprehension when I first donned my over-sized blazer (it lasted until the end of the third form).

After lacklustre O-Levels, that wouldn't have got me an interview at medical school today, I similarly under-performed at A-Level only gaining 2 Cs and an E.

I didn't fancy the geology with biochemistry I was offered through clearing and decided it was medicine or bust. I asked the headmaster, Reg. Colman, if I could come back to school and have another go and I owe my career to his instant support.

I woke up, worked hard, significantly improved my grades and was accepted at the London Hospital Medical College (now Royal and amalgamated with arch-enemies Barts).

That final year, when I was one of a handful of boys doing the Oxbridge entry or re-sits, was a significant one. I was allowed to turn up to the lessons I felt I needed to and recall some highly entertaining biology lessons with "Basher" Quinn. At the end of the year "Basher" reluctantly gave me the Biology prize explaining that I shouldn't have got it as I was re-sitting but, as I was the only one in the class with a decent grade, he had no choice.

I became a GP and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, seeing action in the 1991 Gulf War, before plying my trade in Bedfordshire, Hythe and Dover. Along the way, I acquired an interest in Sports Medicine and spent a year travelling the world with the Subaru World Rally Team.

Sport has always been a significant part of my life. At school, I enjoyed cross-country and middle distance running and played soccer. I remember playing basketball and failing miserably at gymnastics and circuit training in the old gym. to the commands of Messrs. Elliot, Chambers and Grant.

I am excited to hear that the School has a project to build a new Sports Centre and I hope to be able to support the fundraising efforts needed to turn the plans into the reality deserved.

Byron Chatburn and I have organised three reunions of the class of '74 with 14 attending the Annual Dinner as our own 40-year-on special last September. I hope the class of '75 might do the same next September, possibly to be joined by the classes of '85, '95 or 2005.

We built our reunions on contemporary social media using Facebook, Linked In and Friends Reunited, and I hope that I can help the Association to modernise, embrace new communications trends and engage with our younger members.

Best Wishes to all.  
John P Allingham.



## PHAROS BEER FESTIVAL.

The first ever Pharos Beer Festival was held at the School on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. September in the Great Hall of the School..

Entering the Great Hall by the door from the upper driveway at the foot of the stage, visitors were welcomed at a desk, manned by our new Head, Fiona Chapman, the Chairman of Governors, Ian Donald, and OPA President, Stephen Yarrow, where they were relieved of their entry fees. In return, visitors received a wrist band, in case they got lost, a special-event beer tankard and sufficient jigsaw-shaped tokens to access the bar and its liquid promise.

The proceedings were opened by Terry Sutton, a well-known Old Pharosian, who regaled the thirsty aficionados with some confessions of his own days at School, and during the evacuation to Wales, no doubt secure in the knowledge that now, as a Freeman of Dover, he is safe from retribution.

A selection of 31 real ales and 6 ciders was on offer, including an ale named "Old Pharosian" brewed especially for the event by the Tir Dha Ghlas Brewery in Dover and donated by Jim Gleeson whose son is an old boy.

The bar, manned by CAMRA stalwarts, was along the centre of the outer wall with sponsored barrels arranged in racks behind a counter. Each barrel was labelled with its provenance, strength, sponsor's name and a list to check off how many "hits" it received.

Tables down the length of the brightly lit Hall were soon filled by ladies and gentlemen in deep conversation renewing old acquaintances over their flowing tankards.

Space between the tables was at a premium and visitors soon overflowed out onto the Quad., which so many of them would have raced around not so long ago. Alfresco food, available from tents set up on the Quad., and picnic tables were available for the hungry.

It was a beautiful summer evening and the view across the valley to the Castle and Harbour and the sea beyond was stunning.

In the Hall, below the Choir Gallery, a group of Folk musicians entertained the throng with their music and dancing on a mini stage.

The proceedings were chaperoned by Helen Simmonds, the School Business Manager, with co-organiser, Paul Skelton, dressed in shiny baking foil (don't ask) and our friendly neighbourhood mole-catcher, Tony Wells, who is the CAMRA rep..

It seemed that all that was lacking was the thunder of the School Organ and a couple of lusty choruses of "Forty Years On", followed by the combined CAMRA male-voice choir, led by our very own Baldrick, singing the famous drinking song from the Student Prince-----an image too far or perhaps just the beer talking!!?

"---and gentlemen in England, now abed, shall think themselves accursed that they were not here."

A big thank-you is owed to all the local companies and individuals who sponsored a barrel of beer and to everyone who helped out during and after the event.

The Festival raised over £5,000 towards the new School Sports Hall and the event for 2015 is already being planned for the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>.-23<sup>rd</sup>. August. All the money raised will go towards the Sports Hall Fund and we will again be looking for friends to sponsor a barrel of beer. If you are interested in sponsoring a barrel of beer for this event, please e-mail: [office@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@dovergramboys.kent.sch.uk)

It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange a five-a-side football competition between local Locals on the top field for further entertainment during the Festival. The small playing area should be ideally suited to anybody whose "puff" isn't what it used to be and necessary refreshments will be nearby.



## DOVER RUGBY CLUB.

The Rugby Club, based at Crabble Athletic ground in Dover, has had a long and close relationship with the School.

Many years ago, the School 1<sup>st</sup>. XV regularly played home and away fixtures with the Dover 2<sup>nd</sup>. team and the annual School vs. the Old Boys' match was an eagerly awaited and keenly fought event with many of the Dover players being Old Boys.

Sadly, various laws were introduced by various authorities, including The Rugby Football Union ( how I hate to see the word "Football" included!!), which meant that such matches could no longer be played and much has been lost.

However, the School's association with the Club was in no way weakened. Every Sunday during the season, many of our current boys play for the Club's Mini and Junior teams. Each year, several progress onto the Development Squad and eventually come to represent the Club senior teams and often the County. The latest addition to the 1<sup>st</sup>. XV is Harry Sayers who has also represented Kent U21s this season. He joins Chris. Lucas who has been a regular first team player in recent years. Harry comes from a family steeped in Dover Rugby Club history. His grandfather, Maurice was player, Captain of the Club, Chairman and President for a combined total of getting on for 60 years as well as being a past-President of our Old Pharosians Association. Harry's father also played for and Captained the Club.

Maurice Sayers has been succeeded as Club President by Mike Horne (1965-71) who was once a permanent fixture in the 1<sup>st</sup>. XV, Club Captain and also represented Kent. Mike is a Partner with a firm of Chartered Accountants in Canterbury where, incidentally, his fellow Partner is Mark Laughton (1979-86).

The names of Old Boys who have regularly represented the Club would fill several pages and the association will no doubt continue as long as both School and Club exist.

In passing, we should mention members of the School PE teaching staff who have also played for the Club. These include Roger Crisp, Malcolm Grant and Martyn Beaumont, of current fame, who Captained the Club through successful seasons before moving to Canterbury.

## NOW, A CHANGE OF SPORT.

The School vs. Old Boys' Annual Cricket match was played on 27<sup>th</sup>. June and saw the School record its first victory since the match was restored to the fixture list in 2009.

Batting first, the Old Boys' were dismissed for 158. This score might have eluded the School in earlier years but it presented no problem this time and was passed for the loss of only three wickets.

The Old Boys were represented by Tom Bird, Toby Kember, Matt Sadler, Lloyd King, Scott Blackman, Steve Blackman, Zack Fagg, Dan Dawkins, John Stokes, Andy Arter and Mick Palmer.

John Shepherd managed to umpire without the aid of his dog.

Next year's game has been provisionally arranged for Friday, 26<sup>th</sup>. June 2015 with a 3.30pm start.

## AND.

The Annual Football match between the School and the Old Boys took place on 5<sup>th</sup>. September. Normally, this game would be played on the last Saturday in September but it was decided to change the date to coincide with the School Beer Festival.

This meant that the Old Boys were able to field a much younger team than usual as a number of the previous year's 1<sup>st</sup>. XI were available before going off to University.

A lot of good it did them, however, as the Old Boys were unable to break the School's recent stranglehold on the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup. In a closely fought game, the School emerged victorious by 4 goals to 3. This result might encourage the recall to the colours next year of the old brigade—if they can still walk.

The Old Boys were represented by Alan Tingey, Paul Castle, John Castle, Jason Oliver, Simon Gretton, Steve Betts, Jordan Watkins, Ryan Doel, Steve O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Alex Skedd, Josh Biles, Will Chivers, Jordan Blackford, Tom Bines and Callum Messiter.



## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL.

### THE HEAD WRITES.

It is a great honour to be writing my first report to you as Headteacher of Dover Grammar School for Boys. It has been an incredibly busy first six months during which I have had the pleasure of meeting many Old Pharosians at various meetings and events. DGSB is very lucky to have so many former students who continue to remain committed to supporting their School. This year there will be even more opportunities for Old Pharosians to show their support through the numerous fundraising events we will be embarking on as part of the new Sports Hall project.

Since September, there have been a number of key School events. Senior Prize Giving took place on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, and I was delighted to welcome back Mrs Sally Lees, former Headteacher at DGSB, to be the guest speaker and to present the prizes. This was a particularly enjoyable evening as the Year 13 Leavers had achieved record A Level results with 53% of all grades being at A\*, A or B.

The following day, the School held its first whole-school sponsored walk to raise money for the new Sports Hall. All students and staff were involved, walking a 12km route across fields and footpaths towards Alkham, starting and finishing at the School. We were fortunate to have excellent weather, a little too warm at times, with everyone arriving back in good time. There was a tremendous atmosphere with the whole School really working together for a common purpose. The students raised an impressive total of just over £10,000 and so we are now looking forward to making this an annual event.

On Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>. November, we held our annual Remembrance Service. This was a truly impressive event that I felt very proud to be a small part of. This year the students commemorated the War Dead of the School by creating a Field of Remembrance outside the cloisters. All 117 names were inscribed on individual crosses by the students and placed around

the old sundial, along with earth from the battlefields of Flanders, the Somme, Arras and Normandy (representing areas current students have visited to pay their respects). The Reverend Andy Bawtree, a Governor of the School, officiated at the ceremony. There were contributions from various students including James Coe, our current Head Prefect, and Archie Hamilton, a year 9 student, who spoke about the very different experiences of his greatgrandfathers, Henry Warren and Sir William Orpen. Sixth Form student, Kyle Withers, read the French poem "Le Dormeur du val" and German exchange student, Jan Kluge, read the German First World War poem "Prayer before Battle-Father I call Thee".

This year, the School combined its Music Concert and Carol Service into one event held in the School Great Hall. It was incredibly well attended with a large number of students involved and made a lovely end to the term. The first half consisted of a variety of performances by students and highlighted the wealth of musical talent in the School. The second half was a traditional service conducted by Reverend Andy Bawtree and included all the usual readings and carols accompanied by Mr Richard Davies at the School Organ.

The School has continued to provide students with numerous opportunities to gain an understanding of different cultures and we were delighted to be re-accredited with the International School award for 2014-15. In September, the School was visited by a group of Japanese university students. They spent the day with students from Years 8 and 9 in order to raise awareness of the work of Fairtrade as part of an international scheme involving Kent schools. The boys took part in various Fairtrade-themed activities, including the traditional Japanese game of Karuto cards which involved deciphering codes from Haiku, a form of Japanese poetry. In October, DGSB welcomed 37 students and 3 teachers from the Jan Tinbergen College in Roosendaal, Holland. The Dutch students had a tour of the School and attended lessons in Maths, Science, French, PE and English as well as completing a speed-dating exercise to learn more about England and school life in general. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the second half of this academic year and reporting more of the new events being planned for the summer in your next Newsletter.



## NEW SPORTS HALL.

Designed and built in an age when the ethos of Physical Education was more about climbing ropes and wall bars, press-ups and burpees and jumping over beams, it became obvious some considerable time ago that the present, original, gymnasium wasn't adequate or big enough to cope with the range of physical activities now popular and considered vital to the modern curriculum.

Coupled with the growth in the number of pupils now attending the School and the deterioration of the fabric of the building, not helped by the attentions of local vandals, it became clear that the School would have to make some major decisions.

The cost of renovating the old gymnasium would be high and the School would still have the problem of inadequate space. It was considered knocking down the old building and replacing it with something more appropriate but, in the end, it was decided to go for a completely new and modern, purpose-built Sports Hall that would not only serve the School but also the local Community in a variety of activities. The old gymnasium would be kept in use and suitably refurbished to be an adjunct of the new Hall.

Considerable discussion ensued as to the location of the development but it was eventually decided and agreed with Sport England, which would fund a major part of the building costs, that the best site would be in the corner of the top field in front of the old gymnasium and the tower. This site would create a cost-effective "sports hub", minimising pupil movements around the School complex and maximising teaching time.

The proposed building will have a mono-pitch roof and the external walls will be of brickwork construction designed such as not to detract from the original, 1930's, architecture of the main School.

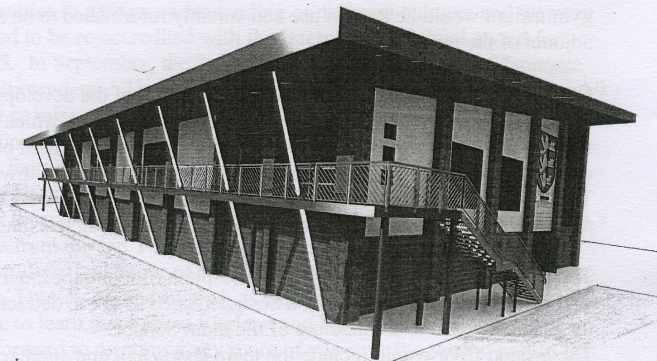
The ground floor would include the main sports hall and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, medical room, cleaner facilities, boiler room and sports equipment storage.

The first floor would provide staff office space and a large health and fitness suite together with an internal viewing gallery for spectators. An external spectator balcony would extend the full length of the south façade to give a view of games on the top pitch.

An indication of the size of the proposed new Sports Hall can be gained from knowing that the old gym. could only provide sufficient space for one badminton court while the new hall would provide for four.

It is intended that the new facilities would be used by the School during normal school hours and by the local Community and local sports clubs in the evenings.

In the Planning Application, it states that the proposed scheme respects and responds sympathetically to the history and character of the existing site whilst providing the School with new facilities fit for a 21<sup>st</sup>. Century education complex.





## THE SCHOOL ORGAN.

Few Schools have the privilege of possessing an organ and we often tend to forget how fortunate we are in having one of these fine instruments in our School Hall. Most organs are works of art and ours, although originally only costing about £1,000, must now be valued at many thousands of pounds. It has been mentioned many times in back numbers of "The Pharos" and research of these provides interesting reading.

As a result of the "coming-of-age" of the School in 1926, the idea of an organ for the new buildings (on our current site) came into being. A fund was opened and friends of the School were asked to contribute. To boost the fund, a great "School Bazaar" was held in May, 1930, in the Maison Dieu Hall in Dover. This consisted mainly of an old Dover Street reconstructed in the Hall where members of the staff opened shops of various kinds selling, amongst other things, fish, ironmongery, toys, haberdashery and groceries. Even a soothsayer was present. At a dance that was going on at the same time, the Pharos Dance Band struck up a lively foxtrot. The bazaar was described as the "the biggest financial venture on which the School has yet embarked" and it succeeded in raising over £400 which was added to the fund which stood at £600. What would the equivalent sum be in today's values?.

The present School buildings were opened in 1931 and, during the summer vacation of the following year, the well-known organ builders, J.W.Walker and Sons Ltd., of London, installed the new organ in the Great Hall.

It is not a large organ, consisting of two manuals, the great and the swell, 24 stops and an efficient system of couplers and pistons. Many people considered it to be one of the best small organs in the district. A variety of tone and colour can be achieved by means of the excellent coupling system, the ingenious double-touch cancellor and the modern tab system of stops, preferable by far to the cumbersome pull-out stops found at the side of most church organs.

The touch is neither too light nor too heavy, but is firm and gives instant response, the advantage of electric action. Three stops are worthy of mention: The Trumpet is a beautiful solo stop when used with the swell box closed; the quiet "lieblich gedact" is the most smoothing stop and the "wald flute", probably used more than any other stop, is calm and stately.

The concave, fan-like arrangement of the pedals, usually found in English organs, is efficient and light to the touch.

The simple dignity of its appearance, coupled with its modern direct electric action, made it "an exquisite combination of modern science and art" and the whole console harmonises perfectly with its location in the Choir Gallery at the opposite end of the Great Hall to the Stage.

The inaugural recital was given on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1932, by the organist of Canterbury Cathedral, Dr. Charlton Palmer, who played, amongst other works, Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor" and, supported by the School Orchestra, Handel's "Organ Concerto in F." Three days later, Mr. Willis gave another recital in which he played Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" and the "Finale of Mendelssohn's First Sonata" as well as demonstrating the potentialities of the organ as a substitute for orchestral accompaniment.

Since then, the organ has been of incalculable value to the School, playing its part in morning assemblies and giving yeoman service at many other functions.

Its installation was the reward of many years of patient effort by all concerned and it has shown itself to have been a great boon to the School's communal life over the last 82 years.

It will play its role as an integral part of the School for many years to come and those who pass through the School will always remember that the School Hall is graced by the King of Instruments.

(The text for this article is largely derived from an article which appeared in "Pharos" in 1955 written by Denis Doble).



## THE SCHOOL VISITED WALES FOR THE WAR YEARS.

Here are some memories of that Evacuation.

First from P.F.Pigott, Upper II, reprinted from the PHAROS No. 100, recalling the going.

I left for Wales with my elder brother at the end of the Easter Term. It was June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1940, on a Saturday, I believe. We all congregated on the School quad and, with our masters, marched to the Station carrying haversacks or cases with food for the journey and necessities for the days following. I know that I found it hard to stop crying. My mother saw me off and I did not know at the time that she had handed a bottle of pop to Howard (so I believe) one of the best prefects at that time. He did try to find me in the crowd of boys but, with the noise and my thoughts so far away with the loved ones I had left behind, I did not hear him calling out my name.

Our train dashed through the countryside and we only stopped at a couple of stations for us to have drinking water. When we finally got to Ebbw Vale after many (untold, at least to me) hours, I shall not forget what a welcome we had. We, or some of us boys, went to Rassau School where we had tea and cakes. Afterwards, we were taken by some people to our billets; I was a lucky one for I went in a car.

It was strange at first to be billeted with people I had never met before and, I must say, that in my last billet I was really happy. My foster parents, whom I called Auntie and Uncle, bestowed such love and kindness on me, took great care of me and made my stay such a cheerful one that I for one will have some very happy recollections of Wales.

It was a grand feeling, though, when the shelling in Dover had ceased, to know that I was coming home at last. Yet, it meant parting with the kindest of foster-parents but, before I departed, I wished them a fond farewell and took with me their expressions that they would miss me very much.

They are coming down in the summer holidays, and they asked me to go, and this I sincerely hope I shall be able to do.

Now the return--- remembered by Terry Sutton as reprinted from the Dover Express.

Seventy years ago, in December 1944, a special train brought home to Dover hundreds of war-evacuated children.

Many of them had been away from their parents for more than four years. I was on that special train and it was one of the most exciting days of my life.

Memories remain of that moment walking from Dover Priory Station platform into the waiting areas where a crowd of parents welcomed us home. How they knew the arrival time of that special train, which had travelled from South Wales by a diverted route, remains a mystery.

I doubt if anyone there remembered that less than three months earlier a shell had crashed down just outside the station killing five, including a nine-year-old boy and a young ATS girl.

It was in June 1940, with the enemy soon to occupy Calais, that nearly 3,000 Dover children caught trains from the same Priory Station for evacuation to South Wales.

As the war dragged on, and some Dover schools re-opened, many of those children ignored official advice and came home to a town that was still being attacked by bombs and shells. But others remained with evacuated schools in South Wales and it was they, some 220 boys from Dover Grammar School for Boys and a similar number from the Girls' Grammar School, who steamed into Dover Priory Station seventy years ago.

With the end of shelling in September 1944, there had been increasing demands for the end of evacuation and the return home of all boys and girls. That, of course, made sense and members of staff of the evacuated schools began to make preparations for the return home.

Books had to be packed away, travel arrangements made for us and for those children who (possibly because of family break-up) had to be despatched elsewhere. And leases on temporary homes and other hired premises had to be ended.



The rest of us began packing our bags and struggled with our "luggage in advance" suitcases to the local railway station to be retrieved later at Dover Priory.

It had proved an interesting train journey. For the boys, it had started at Ebbw Vale railway station with their departure accompanied by the explosion of thunder flashes and rail fog signals.

At Newport, the train was joined by the girls who had been evacuated to Caerleon and, I believe, by some Dover children at a primary school.. The schools' staff had cleverly taken compartments in the middle of the train, wisely separating the sexes. But this non-fraternisation policy broke down when the train halted at railway stations for changes of crew and to take on more water.

However, none of this fun reduced the excitement of returning home to the town we loved. That excitement mounted as the special train emerged from Shakespeare tunnel and, through the dirty windows, could be seen the Admiralty Pier and the first homes of the Pier district.

Dover was a very different town to the one we had left in 1940. Bomb and shell damage was evident everywhere. Tarpaulins flapped where glass once covered windows, wrecked homes revealed the secrets of half-demolished bedrooms and I still remember the smell of ripped and disintegrating wallpaper on exposed walls.

Despite the rationing of food and other commodities, despite the shortage of coal to heat homes, for the returned evacuees 1944 proved to be a very happy Christmas.

With the arrival of January 1945 it was back to school. That proved no problem for the girls who were able to occupy their Frith Road building. But the Dover Grammar School boys were not so lucky. Their premises high on the hill at Astor Avenue were still occupied by the WRNS, the navy girls, who remained there for some months.

Our years were split up into three categories. The seniors gathered in a large house in Godwyn Road, others were in the School of Art in Maison Dieu Road while the majority of us occupied classrooms in the old technical college adjacent to the Town Hall in Ladywell.

But, who cared !?. We were home.

## NEWS OF OLD BOYS.

### STILL LIVING AND LEARNING.

BRIAN HEDGECOCK has written in with memories of his time in Wales during his evacuation and visit 74 years later.

Brian and his cousin, Colin Bailey (1941-48), were evacuated to Aberbargoed in June, 1940, and moved to Ebbw Vale in 1941 when they started at what was then the Dover County School for Boys.

He recalls how grateful they all were to the good people of Ebbw Vale, Beaufort, Waunlwyd and Cwm for opening their homes and families to them. It was such a commitment in anxious times.

The Ebbw Vale County School taught them all about Rugby and he still supports Wales –except when the match is against England.

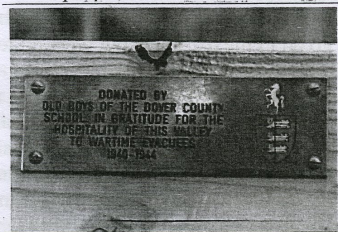
At the end of the war, an inscribed plaque was presented to the Ebbw Vale RDC in thanks and this plaque is now in the Corus Museum in Ebbw Vale.

The inscription reads: "Presented by the parents and old boys of the School to Ebbw Vale UDC and foster parents from Cwm to Beaufort Hill in token of great kindness."





In 1992, Ebbw Vale staged a very successful Garden Festival and the Old Boys of the School presented the Festival site with some park benches, each with a fitted plaque in memory of our stay in Wales. Unfortunately, the local climate did not treat the soft-wood benches very kindly and they had to be removed for "safety reasons" a few years ago. Sadly, the plaques seem to have departed with the benches but, no matter, they served their purpose at the time.



Brian and his wife thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Ebbw Vale last June in the company of their elder son and his wife. Not surprisingly, much had changed with new roads, new housing developments and a new railway station near the Festival site.

If there are any old boys who remember Brian, he would welcome hearing from them. His address is: [brian.hedgecock@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.hedgecock@btinternet.com)

NIGEL HORNE contacted us to correct the date we had given of his retirement. It should have been May, 1991. He also took the opportunity to congratulate one of his former pupils, GRAHAM TUTTHILL (1960-65), on becoming an Honorary Freeman of Dover. Graham commented that the honour was in no small measure due to the influence of Nigel Horne when he was at the School. Nigel ran an after-school club called the Historical Unit which involved trying to find information about what happened to pupils who had left the School. Delving around the files of the Dover Express newspaper, under the watchful eyes of TERRY SUTTON (1940-47), led Graham to an insight into the world of journalism and eventually a position on the staff as a junior reporter when he left school. Had he not done that, he would not have become involved in the various activities in Dover that ultimately led to the Honorary Freemanship from Dover Town Council.

NEIL WIGGINS (1978-83) has recently been appointed by Dover Harbour Board as the Port's first Community Director in a non-executive role. This follows a sustained campaign, fully backed by the people of Dover and Dover's MP, Charlie Elphicke, led by Neil as Chairman of the People's Port Trust, to foil plans to privatise the Port and to ensure a Community involvement and benefits for Dover.

Born in Dover, he attended the Elvington CP School before joining DGSB. He didn't go on to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Form but went on to Warash College of Maritime Studies, University of Southampton.

There then followed 30 years in the industry, initially as a deck officer before he became Terminal Director at Shekou, Yantang.

As a shipping logistics expert he held several port positions including Chairman of the National Maritime Development Group.

Now married to Lorna with five children and two grandchildren, he lives in Eythorne where he is very active in his local Baptist church.

The Reverend JOHN PHILPOTT (1955-63), a former vicar of Whitfield until his retirement, has been elected President of Dover Rotary Club.

The Club, which was founded in 1922, has several Old Pharosians amongst its members, including Phil Janaway who is the Club's very efficient secretary. A recent Club President was chartered accountant, Neil Bevertton, and, before him, music supplier, Stephen Yarrow.

Terry Sutton is the Club's public relations officer.

AARON SHILSON (2003-10) received his first tuition in music from the then Director of Music, Paul Baldock. He began organ lessons with former OPA President, Stephen Yarrow and subsequently became organ scholar of the church of St. Mary-the-Virgin in Dover. Following his time at DGSB, Aaron moved on to study for a degree in music at Leeds College of Music. While he was at Leeds, he was also the organ scholar at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Having passed his course with first class honours, Aaron moved to Manchester to study for an MMus at the Royal Northern College of Music while taking up a post as organ scholar at Manchester Cathedral.



WILF ADAMS, who joined the sixth form at DGSB in 1974, e-mailed us to say that he is trying to contact a contemporary by the name of DAVE BURTON. He thinks that Dave went to work in America after graduating in Chemistry from the University of East Anglia  
Any news would be welcome.

MIKE GRAHAM (1953-60), has written to say that the next Reunion will be held , as usual, at the Dover Rugby Club, Crabble, on 18<sup>th</sup>. July , starting at 12 noon.

This Reunion was originally organised for those who were at the School between the years, approximately, of 1952 to mid-1960s, but has expanded somewhat such that all are welcome.

About 50 old boys attended the 2014 event, many with their partners. It is a nice touch that the Bar is always under the control of Howard Beardsell whose older brothers, Barry and Graham, are Old Pharosians. Catering arrangements are brilliantly organised by John Mercer, another Old Pharosian as is John's father, Peter.

Some "first-timers" at the Reunion included John Booth (dragged away, no doubt, from some cricket match), Jack Golding, Keith Jervis, Roger Summers, Rev. John Philpott, Ray Durrant and John Morgan. News came of some others. AJ McCaig, an outstanding sportsman whilst at School, is in Canada and Derek Thompson, whose family still runs a pet shop in Dover, is in Thailand enjoying the company of a three-year-old granddaughter who is a bundle of mischief.

AARON SPAIN (1985-90), went to South Kent College in Dover until 1992 and then to Bournemouth University where he graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in Retail Management in 1996.

He returned to Dover briefly before moving to London in 1998 to work in retail management. In 2001 he went into estate agency. Something more rewarding was calling and, after several years of voluntary charity work, in 2007 he became a PCSO with the Met. Police. From there, he became a police officer in Hackney and later moved to the borough of Bromley as a trainee Detective Constable.

He is happily partnered with Ramizan and they are looking forward to making their new home after recently moving to Belvedere from Central London.

GUY BOSWELL joined the School in 1974 and was in Priory House. On leaving school, he graduated with a Geology degree from Kingston University but gave up oil-rig training to become a regional journalist. He worked on newspapers in Middlesbrough, Ipswich, Weymouth and Portsmouth for fifteen years and now works in public relations for the Royal Navy in Plymouth.

DAVID HANNENT (1957-64) is a local District Councillor and Chairman of the Castle Street Society where, amongst other duties, he has been responsible for organising the flowers and flags. His ambition is to have St. George's flags flying everywhere before the Saint's day every year.

David is a Chartered Surveyor with fifty years in practice. His company, PMC Chartered Surveyors in Castle Street, Dover, is celebrating thirty years in business this year.

For ten years he was the chief surveyor to the Dover District Council and was responsible for the proposing and project management of construction of the Council Offices at Whitfield.

He has produced several technical publications and was the originator of the National Schedule of Rates, a pricing book used by Local Authorities for the last thirty-two years.

David is a keen Rotarian and Chairman of Dover Fairtrade.

PAUL ALEXANDER HANNENT (1985-92) was a committed member of the CCF RAF Section whilst at School and gained his Pilots Licence from an RAF Flying Scholarship before leaving and travelling the world with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. He saw service in a variety of locations, including the Falklands, Croatia and the Gulf.

He was selected for RAF Aircrew training but a car accident meant a change of career.

He obtained a degree in Building Surveying from the South Bank University and subsequently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Management Studies and an MSc in Architecture.

After gaining experience in Building Control with Local Authorities in London and Design Management with MACE, he took a senior Lectureship at Kingston University.



Paul joined the Territorial Army and now, as a Squadron Leader, he has maintained his long-time interest in the CCF by having a mentoring role covering the South East area.

DAVID LITTLE (1974-79) who runs a print and publishing business in Dover, is the UKIP candidate in the Dover and Deal constituency at the coming Parliamentary elections in May.

Born and raised in Dover, he now lives in Deal and has two grown-up children.

At one stage, David played football for Snowdown.

DENNIS IVORY (1951-53) wrote in August to say how interested he was to read the article in the January, 2014, edition of the Newsletter about rugby at the School. He would have written earlier but a bit of a heart attack in May had put things on hold for a few months

He entered the School in the third year, a year below when he should have done because of his late start, following a test by J C Booth.

Dennis got his 1<sup>st</sup>. XV rugby Colours in 1953 when in the fifth year and remembers Brian (Bunger) Coatsworth, Ron O'Bree, Ken Hannaford, Brian Stevens, "Bunny" Warren, Ken Lott and Ken Marsh with whom he was in the same form. He keeps in regular touch with Bunger who lives in Blandford St. Mary, Dorset, and believes an old contemporary Paul(?) Collard lives nearby in Bristol.

Shortly after leaving School, he joined the Regular Army and, after finishing his service, moved with his family to Bristol. There he played some football before returning to rugby, playing with the same club until the early 1970s. He used to make a point of playing for the Old Pharosians against the School in the Annual Rugby match until the long journey from Bristol made the visit less rewarding.

KEN MARSH (1948-57), a stalwart with the Kitcheners, the veterans' section of the Golf Club, can be seen regularly playing at Broome Park, often in the company of BILL MADDISON (1952-57), both playing a pretty mean game.

## OBITUARIES.

KENNETH EDWARD NYE (1938-40).

Ken died in July, 2014, just three weeks before his 87<sup>th</sup>. birthday. He passed away in King's College Hospital where he had undergone surgery for liver cancer.

Born in Dover, he went to Barton Junior School before attending Dover Grammar School for Boys. Because of the Second World War, the family moved to Shepherdswell and Ken went to Simon Langton Grammar School in Canterbury.

He spent his National Service in the RAF and then worked in the offices of Dover Harbour Board, being involved in the construction and opening of the car ferry terminal in 1953.

He was a member of the London Road Methodist Church, now the Beacon Church, where he was a church steward, sang in the Men's Choir and took a very active part in all the church activities.

At the time he died he was President of the Men's Section of the St. Margaret's branch of the Royal British Legion.

He and his wife Ruby were married in 1952. Their son, Keith, attended the School from 1969 to 1976 and their daughter, Jill Tutthill, was Chairman of the Parents' and Friends' Association when her sons Paul and Chris were pupils.

DAVID ANTHONY SAKER (1947-51).

David, who was born in Sevenoaks in 1936, died in August, 2014, just four days before his 77<sup>th</sup>. Birthday.

He worked in the banking industry and was manager of several branches of NatWest during his career.

Married to Celia for 48 years, they lived at Wallis Wood near Guildford and had two sons, Stephen and Neil, and a daughter Rachel.

GORDON KILLIP.

Dover Councillor, postman and footballer, Gordon Killip died at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford on November, 2014, after a short illness aged 81, survived by his wife, Judith, son Lester, daughter Sam and three grandchildren.



Gordon was born and grew up in Deal and attended Dover Grammar School for Boys just after the Second World War. After leaving school, he worked as a postman and clerk based at the old sorting office in Charlton Green. He was a football fanatic and was known as a nippy right winger playing for Dover, Deal, Folkestone and Canterbury before joining semi-professional outfit Headington FC which later became Oxford United. Leaving the Post Office, aged 52, he set up a marketing firm and carried out estate agency work until he was 70. In between times, Gordon became a Labour Councillor and sat on the River Parish Council. He was also known for the annual golf event he organised to raise funds for children's charity.

#### LAWRENCE LEES ( 1950-57).

Reported in the Lyminge News in July, 2014, Lawrence died in early June from an aggressive cancer and, with that, Lyminge lost one of its staunchest supporters. Over the past 40 years, he had been a quiet but constant contributor to life in the village. He sang in a number of local choirs, in particular at the Parish Church, and was a talented artist and long-term member of local art groups. He was an enthusiastic walker, often leading groups of friends on regular hikes, and led the annual bike ride in aid of Kent churches.

Always willing to help local projects, he designed and, with some help, built the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Monument in Tayre Field. Old School friends attending his funeral included Peter Wyatt, John Buss, Bevan Sheppard and Bob Forsyth.

Lawrence will be well remembered at the School for his superb gymnastics and athletics abilities. He represented the School 1<sup>st</sup>. XV Rugby team, Captained the School Athletics team and excelled as captain of the Cross-country team. As Park House captain in 1956-7, he provided a splendid example to follow.

Apart from winning various age group gymnastic championships, he was the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Champion at our annual School Athletic Championships as he progressed up through the School. In 1957, he became the Kent Schools' Senior Long Jump Champion and went on to represent Kent at the All-England Inter-County Schools Athletics Championships.

BEVAN SHEPPARD (1950-54) died on Christmas Day shortly after his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born and spent his early years in Croydon and remembered helping his father to build an Anderson shelter in their garden to protect them from the heavy Luftwaffe bombing of Croydon Airport.

Following a career move by his father, Bevan joined DGSB in 1950 where, on his first day in U4, he was given a seat next to Peter Burville. During his time at the School he was an active member of the School Orchestra, Drama Society and the Marionette Club. He went on to the Science Sixth Form and later to Southampton University to study mathematics and science.

Whilst at university, he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and later served on HMS Alamein during his National Service. In 1958, he joined GEC as a heating engineer based in London covering Kent, Surrey and Sussex and met Rosalind whom he married in 1962. Later, Bev formed his own consultancy and worked on a series of design and installation of electrical projects in the UK and overseas. On retirement in 2003, Bev and Rosalind moved to Ealham and eventually to the Alkham Valley to live with their eldest son and his family.

It has been reported that COLIN F JACKSON (1952-57) had died at the beginning of December, 2014. We have no further details.

## RESURRECTIONS.

It is pleasing to note that not all Old Pharosians reported as having passed on to higher things are actually dead.

Dr. BRIAN J WILLIS (1956-64) recently contacted Paul Skelton via the Bravenet mailing system Paul has recently set up for OPs. Not finding Brian in his database, Paul told him that the service was only for members and sent him an enrolment form. On being informed by Brian that he is already a Life member, and enclosing a Receipt signed by Maurice Smith in 1985, Paul did some research into his older lists and



