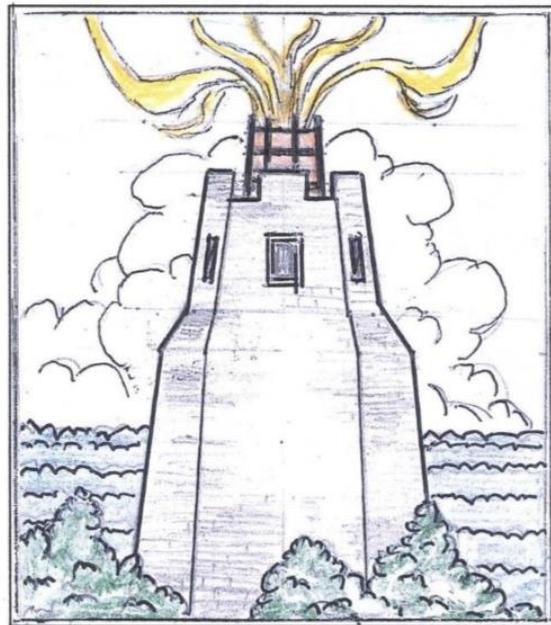




**OLD PHAROSIANS'
ASSOCIATION**



NEWSLETTER



**FIAT LUX DOVER
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR BOYS**

Number 114

January 2019

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Submissions for future newsletters

The editor welcomes correspondence, articles, news and any other items Old Pharosians' would like to see included in future newsletters – don't be shy! These can be emailed to:

John.robertson8664@gmail.com

The newsletter will be published in January and July of each year. In order to allow for editing and formatting, the closing date for submissions will be:

- 31 May for the July edition
- 30 November for the January edition

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2018—2019

President	Sir William Fittall	(1964 – 72)
Past President	Dr. John Allingham	(1974 – 82)
Chairman	Jack Kremer	(1943 – 49)
Secretary	Philip Harding	(1967 – 75)
Asst. Secretary	Position vacant	
Treasurer	Jonathan Fullerton Jonathan.Fullerton@mfw.co.uk	(1997 – 2004)
Membership	Paul Skelton	(1972 – 79)
Secretary, Webmaster	1905-2005@DoverGrammar.co.uk	(1979 – 2005)
Newsletter	John Robertson John.Robertson8664@gmail.com	(1976 – 83)
Archivist	Position vacant	
Auditor	Neil Beverton	(1974 – 80)
Committee	Barry Crush (1948 – 56), to retire 2020 Rev. John Philpott (1955 – 63), to retire 2020 Mick Palmer (1959 – 66), to retire 2020 Maurice Smith (1959 – 89), to retire 2021 Roger Gabriel (1966 – 73), to retire 2021 Terry Sutton (1940 – 47), Co-opted 2014 Peter Burville (1946 – 51), Co-opted 2014	
Headteacher	Mr Philip Horstrup	(2018 -)
Website	http://dovergrammar.co.uk	
Email	1905-2005@DoverGrammar.co.uk	
Twitter	@DGSBPharosians	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/440388319493377/	

Objects of the Association

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.

Editor's Welcome.

Here we are at the beginning of 2019. With the New Year's bells still echoing in our ears, we can reflect on some recent changes in the Old Pharosians' Association and at the school.

In September, Philip Horstrup took up his new role as Headteacher. I'm grateful that Philip has taken time from his busy diary to write an item for this latest newsletter. He gives us an update about the school and a glimpse of the future. We look forward to hearing more in future newsletters and at future OPA meetings.

At September's AGM, the Old Pharosians' Association elected Sir William Fittall as our latest, and returning, President. In his first address, William sets out some thoughts about the future of the association, the newsletter and how we can meet some of the challenges we are facing.

After many requests, Paul Skelton's pleas to find someone to take over as newsletter editor have been answered. Paul took on the role at short notice, making sure we continued to receive six monthly updates from the association and school. We owe Paul our sincere thanks for stepping into the breach, in addition to the many other ways he supports the OPA. On a personal level, I'd like to thank Paul for the advice and support he has given me as I take my first tentative steps putting together the newsletter.

As for the future of the school, association and newsletter, read on

John Robertson

1 January 2019

Note from the President



When I served as President in 1990-91 it was with the expectation that a year in office and a further couple of years on the committee would confer a lifetime's exemption from other duties. Receiving a call from Maurice Smith asking whether I would be willing to serve as president for a second term was, therefore, something of a surprise. What's changed in the more than a quarter of a century since I was last active in the Association?

For me quite a lot. In the early 90s I was in what I assumed to be mid-career in the Home Office. I had two sons at primary school and was firmly rooted in London, though returning to Dover regularly to visit my recently widowed mother. Now, in my mid-60s I've been retired three years, married for more than 40 and have two grandchildren, with a third on the way. Instead of staying in the Home Office I did two spells in the Northern Ireland Office and one in the Cabinet Office before leaving the Civil Service in 2002 to work for the Church of England at Church House Westminster. And although we still have a place in London we have, since 2011, also had a

home in East Kent-in Saltwood, near Hythe- where we are now well rooted in the local community.

Down the years I've remained an assiduous reader of the Association's newsletter and have attended several annual dinners in the school hall which, until recently, Maurice Smith organised each September. At the last of these that I attended-I think in 2011- both Reg Colman and Michael Hinton were present. Subsequently, it was an honour, as one of Reg's first head prefects, to be invited by Marjorie to deliver a tribute at his funeral at Mongeham in 2013. It's also been an inspiration to be able to stay in touch with Michael Hinton, for many years a resident of the Gateway Flats and now, at 91, in a clergy retirement home in Lingfield, where I visited him in October.

Mention of the two headmasters from my years at school (1964-72) does, of course, underline one of the most significant changes change since I was last president. In the early 90s Reg was only just finishing his time at the school and there were still some other teachers who had been there during my school days. No longer. Even Brian Haines, who arrived as Latin master straight from university in 1971 and spent his entire subsequent teaching career at the school, has now been drawing his pension for a few years (I sometimes bump into him in Hythe, where he lives).

So, what have been my first impressions of the school and the Association as I've renewed close acquaintance since the AGM in September? The honest answer is that both have clearly been going through a challenging period over the past few years. The school's first five head teachers led the school from its foundation in 1905 to not far short of its centenary. Since then a further five heads have held the post. While some made a notable contribution, the rapid turnover has been unsettling. In short order the school went from being judged outstanding by OFSTED to being in need of improvement (and now, happily, back to good).

In addition, the uncertainties over the long term future of the school- which began as long ago as Anthony Crosland's circular 10 of 65 at the end of my first year!- have taken their toll. When I was last President arguments were raging over whether the school should move to the Castlemount site and buildings (a terrible idea, which was successfully resisted) or whether it should be part of a major new build on a new site with the Girls' Grammar School (a much better idea but it proved too ambitious). The problem now is that the building, splendid in its originality in 1931, is now well past its prime, inflexible and extremely costly to repair. Though the assembly hall still looks very fine, much of the old building is in a poor state.

The Association too has had easier days. The old pattern of an annual Saturday evening dinner at the school in September withered for lack of support with nothing yet put in its place to draw people together. The recruitment of younger members has been poor. There are still funds in the kitty which enable us to give money to support school activities- our prime objective as a charity- but annual subscription income now barely covers the cost of printing and mailing out two newsletters a year. So, as I said to the Association's Committee at my first meeting in November, I have agreed to serve on the basis that they are open to change.

They gave an earnest of good intent by immediately deciding to make a small but significant alteration to our newsletter arrangements. Up to now the six monthly newsletter has been printed and sent by post to all members except those (like me, some years back) who have said they are happy to read it online. This newsletter is the last that will be handled that way. Anyone who wishes to continue to receive a hard copy will still be entitled to do so. But they will have to opt in (and an occasional financial contribution, though not compulsory, will be well

received). The default will be online publication with an e mail and web-link coming round to signal that the latest edition is available. This will save us money that we can use to support the school.

We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those who have kept the Association going through uncertain times. It's invidious to mention some names and not others but I do want to single out Phil Harding, who, despite being younger than me, has now been the Association's Secretary for more than 35 years. It's hugely reassuring to return and discover that the person who was Secretary when I was last President (and who also grew up in the same street as me and sang in the same church choir) is still around and holds much of the collective memory.

I also want to express enormous admiration to Paul Skelton who until September was somehow managing to combine at least four roles as membership secretary, newsletter editor, website editor and website manager (as well as still having a day job!). John Robertson has kindly agreed to become newsletter editor and another Old Boy with a background in computers has agreed in principle to help us with the technical side of the website. Do support John by sending in news and other material for inclusion in the newsletter.

The November Committee meeting was the first to be attended not only by me but, by the new Headteacher, Philip Horstrup. He knows East Kent well having been brought up in Saltwood and been a pupil at Harvey Grammar (where he was taught by Phil Harding). He briefed us on the options being explored for solving the school's building problems. More of that anon, but we assured him of our support as he grapples with the various powers that be and expressed the fervent hope that, this time, all the planning work will lead to something that will be to the long term benefit of the school.

The new Head affirmed his belief in the value of alumni associations as part of the wider school family and your Committee looks forward to exploring with him some specific ideas for strengthening the partnership between the Association and the school. In particular we intend to explore the possibility of a daytime event at the school, perhaps next summer, when we might all have the opportunity to revisit old haunts, be briefed on plans for the school's future, catch up with contemporaries whom we may not have seen for years and enjoy each other's company over some food and drink. Watch this space.

William Fittall

Update from Philip Horstrup - Head Teacher

It was with great pride and a strong sense of honour that I was recently asked to contribute to the Old Pharosians' newsletter. As new Headteacher at DGSB, with only four months or so under my belt, it may seem odd that I should be writing an article for people who know the school far better than me. However, as I am sure you appreciate, ours is a school which very quickly gets into your blood and captures your heart and this is certainly true for me, despite the relative brevity of my stewardship to date. Having been brought up only a few miles down the road in Saltwood, and having attended Harvey Grammar School as a young man, I know only too well the positive effect that schools in our area can have on their students, and this is most certainly true of the institution which I now have the privilege of leading. "Fiat Lux" is perhaps the most apposite of mottoes - were we at the front of the queue when God was handing out school mottoes? It certainly seems that way! - for DGSB, perched as it is on top of the hill looking out both to sea and on the inhabitants of the town below, and it is something which I am keen to use even more effectively during my tenure to spread both light and enlightenment to all those within and also beyond our school buildings.

Speaking of buildings, knowing the school as well as you do, you will appreciate that as wonderfully eclectic as our site is - and it is very hard not to fall in love with it! - the needs and expectations of education, of curricula, students, parents and staff have moved on considerably since the early 1930s. The fact that our current buildings cannot support telephone lines which allow handsets with displays tells you much of what you need to know! Thus, we are at a point now where we need to look, as a matter of urgency, at alternative solutions to our needs. I have already spent a considerable amount of time with Department for Education representatives as we seek to firm up a potential plan to create a modern, purpose-built set of buildings for the boys of Dover, and am happy to report some very positive recent meetings in this regard. I fully intend to honour our school's history by transporting and integrating into the new buildings elements of the current site which have significant emotional and historical value - for example, the stained glass window on the library staircase and the organ. I trust that this will provide reassurance to you as a commitment on my part to DGSB's history as well as to its future.

I am looking forward immensely to meeting many of you in the months and years ahead, to working with you and to reinvigorating the school's relationship with one of its most important assets - its former students.

Phil Horstrup, December 2018

Mr Philip Horstrup
Headteacher
Dover Grammar School for Boys
www.dgsb.co.uk



Minutes of the Old Pharosians' AGM **Held at RCPYC on 22 September 2018**

Notice convening the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Roger Gabriel and commenced at 11.10, there having been some confusion as to the date and times of the meeting, as this had for some reason also been advertised for 15th September and at different starting times.

Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from John Philpott, Gary Little, Dan Beard, Laurie Kelly and Peter Wilberforce.

Those present were as follows:- Terry Sutton, Roger Gabriel, Maurice Smith, Martin Webster, Peter Burville, John Robertson, William Fittall, Jon Fullerton, Mick Palmer, Ian & Lorraine Mckenzie, John Maslen, John Booth & Paul Skelton.

Minutes of the previous AGM.

These were read and agreed to be a true representation, proposed by William Fittall and seconded by Terry Sutton.

Matters arising.

It was noted that the society didn't currently appear to have any school representation on the committee and it was suggested that with a new head in place that new links should be formed. It was also suggested that ex-teacher François Lloyd, who had shown an interest in becoming a committee member in the past, should be again contacted. This would be followed up at the next committee meeting.

The matter of the school building was talked about in some detail and the matter of gaining a "Listed" status was looked into. A good discussion followed with members giving reasons both for and against the idea. Terry Sutton said the suggestion had also been talked about at the Dover Society. Whether this would be good for the school building to the detriment of the people inside was also discussed. The question was also asked as to what actually is the school, is it the building which most old pupils would like to see kept architecturally, or is the school actually the people inside it, as the school itself, has actually been in multiple venues during its history. It was pointed out that the centenary of the current building wasn't that far away, but with no representation from the school to indicate its direction it was finally decided that no action should be taken at the present time until we know further what plans the management at the school have regarding the modernisation/rebuilding of the current building.

The matter of last years' meeting was also discussed, in effect that we did not obtain a quorum in which to make any binding decisions regarding the association, and whether we should change the constitution in a way that would reduce the number of members required to be a quorum, however it was pointed out that we did have a quorum at this meeting and the lack of a quorum had never happened in living memory before, but that the discussion should be brought up at the next committee meeting. It was also suggested that perhaps the reason why we failed to get as many members at the AGM as we used to was because the meetings were no longer held on the school premises. Again, links to the school were discussed and with the new head now in place, perhaps we could in the future return to this venue for the AGM's.

Treasurers Report.

Paper copies of the treasurers report were handed out and showed that we have £8,262.70p in total, including £1,030.00p in the Gordon King Scholarship. This was down on last year's account by £282.81p identified as being due to the two newsletters being distributed in the same financial year.

There had been a request from the school for the organ fund, which it was stated was needed for the ongoing maintenance and tuning of the school organ and which the society had given financial support to in the past. This was deferred to the next committee meeting when hopefully more details would be obtained from the school music department.

The Gordon King Scholarship was explained as being set up after the death of Gordon King in which people donated monies into. To be utilised for the restricted use of helping finance travel for current pupils' projects to help them develop their education and future careers. This fund, although still active, was no longer appreciating any income and would be closed when empty. Again, a staff member sitting on the committee was required in order for us to ascertain whether there were any current applicants suitable to benefit from this fund.

Thanks were given to the treasurer for putting together this report and these were proposed as being accepted as a true account by Terry Sutton and seconded by Maurice Smith.

Report from the school.

There being no representative from the school present and no correspondence being received, this was passed through, although Maurice Smith indicated that he would again try to make contact with the head after he had settled into his new post, and William Fittall also said he would be making contact in execution of his new post as President of the association.

Election of Officers.

William Fittall was voted in unanimously at the meeting as the new President and moved seats to sit at the table with the acting secretary.

The well-being of current chairman, Jack Kremer was mentioned and it was said he had recently been in hospital and unfortunately was not at this meeting, although he did attend the Old Pharosians v School football match and appeared to be on the way to recovery. William Fittall kindly offered to take an acting part as temporary chairman until Jack was able to perform in this capacity again. We all wished Jack good health for the future.

The Secretary Phil Harding not being present, we believe due to current family concerns, it was assumed that he would continue in his roll.

There is still a place on the committee for an Assistant Secretary.

Jon Fulerton agreed to continue as his role as Treasurer.

Paul Skelton agreed to continue as Membership Secretary.

John Roberson kindly agreed to take over as the Newsletter editor, much to the relief of Paul Skelton, who also maintains the Old Pharosians web site and will continue to do so.

There is still a place on the committee for anyone who is interested in the OPA archives, in the meantime Dr Peter Burville will continue as Archivist Ephemitus.

Neil Beverton is still continuing as the auditor.

Maurice Smith and Roger Gabriel, who are retiring members this year agreed to continue another term.

Terry Sutton and John Philpott who are referred to as Co-opted members will kindly be continuing in their roll on the committee.

Any Other Business.

In his new role as president, William Fittall gave a short introductory speech saying that he was at the school as a pupil from between 1964 and 1972. 26 years later he became President for the Old Pharioaians for the first time and now, another 27 years later he was back again as President. He said how important the school had been for him and indicated that when he first started, the wearing of a cap for the lower school was compulsory, as was the "voluntary" school fund of 5/- a year which helped pay for the magazines, of which William had those copies with him today.

William Fittall asked the members present to re-examine the original purpose of the Old Pharosians Society and whether it had changed with the current changing climate of both education and technology and where we should lay within it. This was thrown open for a general and very interesting discussion.

Current communication with the school at present, due to changes of headship were again mentioned, and it was pointed out that the last "big" activity we had organised as a joint one was the beer festival which raised monies for the intended new sports hall.

Other members pointed out that our heritage was what still attracted them to membership but that we must not just dwell on the past but remain relevant and useful.

It was again suggested that it would be nice to get back into the school for meetings as a lot of members still liked to attend for the nostalgia. One of the reasons given by the school for not allowing us access was down to staffing and payment for someone to be there to open and lock up; it was also suggested that perhaps we use some of our funds to support this.

New technology such as video linking was also suggested as a way forward in which to allow people living away from Dover to be "present" at the meeting from the comfort of their own homes, and lastly the membership was spoken about and the emergence of the Facebook accounts for people interested in communicating via this media who were not paying members of the current society.

Lastly, Dr. Hinton it was said as settling into his new home very well and that although this was no longer based in Dover, he still wrote a weekly column for one of the Dover papers.

No further business was looked into and the meeting closed at 12.34.

Refreshment was supplied in a buffet where the members now retired to and the conversation continued until all were satisfactorily filled and eventually left to continue their afternoons.

Minutes taken and written by Paul Skelton.

An evening of Christmas carols, music and mince pies.

I was delighted to hear from Maurice Smith that the School's annual Christmas carol service continues. No longer in St Peter and St Paul's Church on St Alphege road, as it was in my time, but in the School's Main Hall.

The 2018 service took place on the evening of 11 December and was well attended by pupils, staff parents and friends of the School. The programme featured readings, lessons, music and carols. These ranged from the traditional – Silent Night and O come, all ye faithful – to the modern – Riptide by Vance Joy and I Wish It Could be Christmas Everyday! By Wizzard. The evening was an opportunity to showcase the pupil's many musical, performing and creative talents and celebrate the beginning of the festive season.

It's not possible to reproduce the whole evening's programme in the newsletter. However, a telephone chat with Maurice shortly after the service led us onto a discussion about the poetry of John Betjeman and, in particular, Christmas. An appropriate choice, read on the evening by Head Girl, Megan Tribe, which is reproduced below:

Christmas

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says "Merry Christmas to you all."

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say "Come!"
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Editor's footnote – It was many years after leaving school that I realised Nigel Horne's kindly and persistent attempts to inspire in me an appreciation of Betjeman's poetry had had a lasting and profound effect. An example of how you don't always appreciate the value of your education until long after you receive it! I am indebted to Nigel for this.

The OPA newsletter; what next?

As the incoming newsletter editor, there have been a number of things I've needed to grapple with to get this first publication out 'out of the blocks'. Paul Skelton has been particularly supportive with the template, providing advice about sources of material for inclusion in the newsletter and explaining the printing and distribution process. Thankfully, there has been a good supply of news and information to fill the pages!

Whilst getting up to speed with the production process, I have also given some consideration to what the newsletter may look like in the future. Is the current content and layout suitable, is it time for a refresh and, if so, what changes to make?

For me, the most important element of the newsletter is its content. As the voice of the publication, the news, views, articles and announcements which are shared through its pages are its *raison d'être*.

I'm grateful to Paul and Terry Sutton (a former editor and renowned journalist in his own right) who have done much to gather and write material for the newsletter, long may they continue. There is a steady stream of correspondence, life and career updates, news cuttings and obituaries received from former students and their families. Additionally, with the growth of social media, a buoyant Old Pharosians' Facebook group generates comments and discussion, which can be shared in the newsletter.

However, looking back over the archives, it is apparent that the content of the newsletter has remained broadly similar for many years. This leads to the inevitable question, is this by accident or design? Has the current content and layout of the newsletter evolved organically through the influence of a number of editors and contributors or is it a result of deliberate decisions taken to make sure the publication remains topical and relevant to the readership?

Whilst this edition largely follows the previous format, I'm keen to hear your thoughts and ideas about how it could be updated and improved, if indeed it should? There have been a few suggestions for future articles and content but, as I mentioned previously, relevance and topicality are key to future interest.

So, the floor is yours. Is the current content and format right for you or are there different areas, topics or news items you'd like to see included? Would you like to see a continuation of the 'warts and all' coverage of the lives of former students and the school, something which is particularly relevant in these days of openness and transparency? Would you be willing to write an autobiographical update – short or long - reflecting on your time at the school and subsequent life and career? I know I'm not the first to pose such questions but feel strongly that engaging with those reading the newsletter is important in maintaining interest.

All views are of interest and will be heard. Get in touch and let me know what you think! I look forward to hearing from you; maybe some debate about the future of the newsletter will ensue?

The matter of distribution is different. As William said in his note, the current, largely hard copy, circulation of the newsletter is not financially sustainable. The majority of OPA funds are taken up with production and delivery of the newsletter, with many printed copies being sent by post.

This significantly limits the association's ability to support the school, one of its primary objectives.

In a world of instantaneous electronic communication, it's right that we maximise the opportunity of modern technology, so reducing our costs and speeding distribution of the newsletter. Therefore, **this is the last publication which will be sent routinely by post**. Yes, if you are not sufficiently at ease with email and the internet, you can request continued postal delivery but, if you do, we ask that you make a donation to the OPA to help with increasing production and postage costs.

If you wish to opt in and continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter by post, please let us know by completing and returning the form which accompanies this newsletter.

If you already receive, or will be receiving, an electronic copy of the newsletter, please confirm we have your current email using the 'Join the mailing list' function at the bottom of the OPA website landing page (You may need to scroll down):

<http://www.dovergrammar.co.uk/entrance/mainpage.html>

The Archivist Ephemitus's Corner

Greetings, this is just another brief report on the archive activity as it is now four years since I resigned as the Archivist and took up an Ephemitus status. A replacement archivist is still sought. As recorded below a range of archive material is still available to buy.

George Benjamin Trim

Steven Trim has written to me about his grandfather George Benjamin Trim, who attended the Dover County School for Boys between 1907 and 1909, and provided information on his post-school career.

In 1915 George enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and served on the Western Front for the duration of the War. In 1918 he received the Military Medal for "Bravery in the field" but like many veterans of the First World War he was reluctant to talk about the conflict and so the family never knew what actions had led to the award of the medal.

Having made various enquiries, Steven was told that few citations exist for the award of the Military Medal and so he had become resigned to never knowing any details other than the obligatory listing in the London Gazette. So, imagine his amazement when he came across the online archive of The Pharos, The Magazine of the Dover County School for Boys and in particular No. 29. December, 1918. Vol. VIII which contained the following (in which the forename Benjamin rather than George seems to be used):

TRIM, B. (07/09), Sgt. R.A.M.C. Military Medial. The Gazette notice states that "On the 23rd October, 1917, he went to the village of Poelcapelle with two squads to endeavour to bring away wounded whom it had been impossible to remove owing to incessant shelling. Passing through an intense barrage he succeeded in locating the wounded. Being close to the enemy they were subjected to a direct intense machine-gun fire. Sgt. Trim dressed and sent the first two wounded men away and remained alone for two or

three hours, dressing and placing the other wounded in comparative safety until squads arrived to take them away. With the help of the squads he succeeded in clearing a dozen men from this locality.

George's school admission notes suggest George took up the clerking profession when he left the School in 1909. The 1911 census shows he was an apprentice to an Iron Monger. Steven suggests this was with Mr Steed Bayley of Deal. Steven states that at some stage during the 1930's his grandfather was a Schools Admissions Officer in Kent but he doesn't know if this was a role at a particular school, Council or Education Authority.

If anyone has further information on George Benjamin Trim his grandson Steven (stevetrim@icloud.com) and I would be pleased know it. In the meantime it is congratulations to Paul Skelton (1972-79-2005) and his wonderful online database (dovergrammar.co.uk).

Fred Goldsmith

Recently the School had a phone call from Philip, the younger son of Fred Goldsmith (1934-37), seeking information about his father's school career and providing information on his post-school career. I was able to confirm the dates his father attended the School but pointed Philip in the direction of Paul Skelton's online database (see above) where his father Fred features in many records. In the physical archives Fred appears in the 1935 and 1937 Annual Prize Giving programmes.

Fritz Goldsmidt was born in Nuremberg on 23 July 1919 and died in Northampton on 8 September 2016. The name change may have taken place around the time he joined the Dover County School.

After leaving school Fred obtained an external degree in Geography from University College London. When World War II broke out, although still a German National, he volunteered for the British Army and became a private in the Aliens Pioneer Corps. He was evacuated in 1940 from Northern France and served in the East End of London during the blitz. He served in North Africa and Italy ending the war as a Captain, acting Major, commanding a company of Basutos. He was mentioned in dispatches.

After the war Fred became a British National and married in 1947. Son Mike was born in 1948 and correspondent Philip in 1952. Fred became a Chartered Accountant but then went into the family business, importing toys and stationary. At 40 he joined the Rotary Club of London eventually became the President of it. He was the editor of their magazine for 34 years writing under the Nom de Plume "The Gleaner".

In the 1980s President Alessandro Pertini of Italy appointed Fred à Cavalièri Ufficiale (Italian Knight) for his Charitable work for Italian causes. Her Majesty the Queen graciously gave her permission for him to wear his decoration alongside his medals when appropriate (the letter from the Palace, giving the permission, came out of the blue two weeks after his appointment).

Fred was reported to be a very modest unassuming man who was very wise and above all devoted to his family of two sons, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Items For Sale

Please note that the costs quoted for the items below are all minima and any extra money would be welcomed by the School. The quoted postage costs only apply to UK addresses, other areas will have to be dealt with separately with the School. The purchasing arrangements for all items are the same: sending a cheque for the appropriate amount (perhaps plus a little), payable to "DGSB", to the Dover Grammar School for Boys, Astor Avenue, DOVER, CT17 0DQ, 01304 206117.

The "Bugsy Malone, Dover Grammar School 09MAR1989" production, is now recorded on two DVDs. The viewing offered covers "behind the scenes" activities as well as the stage production and musical accompaniment. The School Junior Boys are ably assisted by girls from the Dover Grammar School for Girls. The Girls' School has been advised of the DVDs but, so far, I have not heard of any interest. The production is great fun. The two DVDs can be purchased for £20 plus £2 p&p.

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, consists of films made by the School Cine Club during the 1960s, and features many items including the Potter's Wheel, the Grand Fete, Classroom and Blackboard fun, sport and games, Dover Castle, DGS Cine Club activities, Cars and Boats, tricks, A Typical Day. It is still available at the cost is £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 (06MAY1935), the School Cadet Corps camp at Sandwich in AUG1935 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 JUL2013 issue of the Newsletter 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 “darted” 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.

Peter Burville (1946-51), Archivist Ephemitus.

CURRENT NEWS.

Neil Ivor Wiggins – 1978 – 83

Neil, who left our school in 1983, has been elected one of two local people to serve as community non-executive directors on Dover Harbour Board.

When he left school Neil went into the maritime sector, deep sea, as a deck cadet. In 1987 he qualified as a deck officer and moved to container terminal operations in China and Asia. He returned to the UK and in 2006 set up his company supplying operational expertise to ship owners and operators of container vessels.

From September-December 2014 Neil was chairman of Dover People’s Port Trust Ltd, formed with the ambition to buy the Port of Dover for the Dover community. A change in government policy brought an end to this aim.

In January 2013 he was elected chairman of the National Maritime Development Group and since May 2016 he been a non-executive director at Dover Harbour Board.

Philip Janaway - 1944-1952

Phil, retired deputy headteacher at Astor school, is the secretary of the Rotary Club of Dover which has 49 members. They include: Neil Beverton and Ian Pascall (both accountants), the Reverend John Philpott, Terry Sutton and Stephen Yarrow. Phil, who was the club’s president in 2004, and Stephen Yarrow also both serve on the PCC at St Mary’s Church where Stephen is the treasurer.

David Slater

David is playing a major role in the activities of Christians Together in Dover (CTiD) and is regularly heard on a panel broadcast on Sunday mornings by Radio Kent. He is the lead port chaplain at the Port of Dover and also a chaplain at the Channel Tunnel, helping passengers and staff at both Gateways.

David, whose wife Marianne is a church warden at St Mary’s-in-the-Castle, was responsible for much of the organisation of the Merchant Navy day at Dover Town Hall and, the same day, led the seafarers’ parade and service in the gardens on Dover sea front. At the Town Hall service and parade the music for hymns was provided by another Old Boy, Graham Tutthill.

Mark Gravener – 1979 – 86

(Received – 23 September 2018)

Hi Paul,

Thank you as always for the minutes of the OP AGM, they are always appreciated and a good read.

It is really sad to see so few attending these meetings and I seriously wonder how effectively social media could be used to bring together more former pupils.

I have lived in the Middle East now for 15 years and often hope to be in the UK at this time but it just doesn't work out. However, I would passionately defend the organisations survival and value to the school as well as the importance of the building that holds so many powerful memories for us all.

Going forward i will do my best to get to a meeting physically, but would 100% ensure i was involved if the association chose to adopt Skype or video conferencing in some shape or form (two way or purely as an observer).

I would also be willing to invest some time in supporting the organisation from afar in reaching out to former pupils and encouraging a more active engagement.

My story maybe of interest to some, happy to share some experiences at some point also.

Best regards

Mark Gravener

DGSB 1979-1986

James Brown – 1978 - 1985

Dear Paul

Update for Old Pharosians Newsletter:-

Would you be so kind as to put a note in the next newsletter that I have been made Reader (Associate Professor) in Law at Aston University as of 1.8.18. I have been teaching and researching in Property Law for some 26 years and have taught at Aston University, Birmingham since 2009.

Best wishes

Dr James Brown

DGSB 1978-1985.

John Newman

Dear Paul,

Many thanks for the latest edition of the Old Pharosians' Newsletter. I always enjoy reading from a hundred miles plus away the news from my old school, for which I have fond and grateful memories, and, if this is to be your last edition, I should like very much to thank you for all that you have done over the years to help keep so many of us in touch. It is much appreciated.

All best wishes,

John Newman

Laurie Kelly

Dear Paul,

Many thanks for your letter and copy of newsletter 112. I will be sending the Membership form back by pony express.

I have had a great deal of enjoyment from all the information I have gleamed from the website, in particular that from the past school magazines for the years that I attended. I have been able to identify a good number of the Form Members and others on the full School photographs and will in due time let you have their names to update the records.

At some time I will also drop you a line with a few notes on some of the activities during and after my time (1946-1951)

Thank you once again for your help.

Regards

Laurie Kelly

Adrian Vine



Hello John and thanks Paul,

The attached photo was taken prior to participating in the Ride London 46 event this summer. I was in the CCF RAF Section while at DGSB, and subsequently joined the RAF, hence the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) is one of the charities I have supported over the years. This year as it is the 100th anniversary of the RAF it seemed fitting to support the charity again, when I was fortunate to get a ballot place in the Ride London event. On the day the weather was not brilliant, heavy rain, but it was still a great event and amazing to finish in the Mall with the Union Jacks flying. I hope this information is of use as suggested by Paul.

Regards,

Adrian Vine

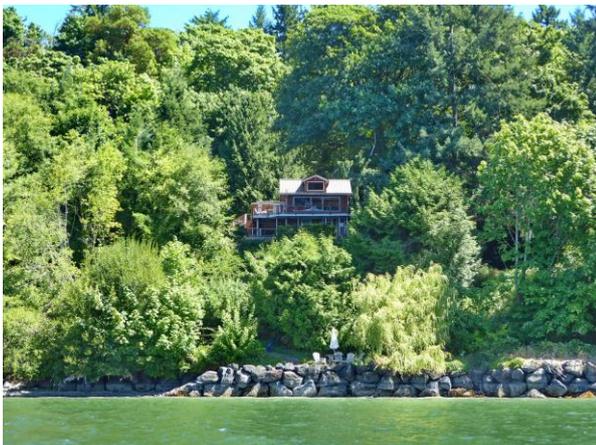
Phil Clapham

Interesting, as always. I actually do rather like the "negative" items - as you say, it's all news.

These days I spend most of my time with my wife on Vashon island, a short ferry ride from Seattle. We have a beautiful waterfront house here at the end of a dead-end road (so we get around three cars a day going by). Our dog loves the beach.

Thanks for your work on the newsletter.

Phil Clapham



Old Boys v. School - Cricket and Football Matches 2018

From: [Michael Palmer](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 7:29 PM

To: CAPerS1@btinternet.com

Subject: Old Boys Football and Cricket matches 2018

Hi Paul,

The Old Boys' teams were the winners in both of the 2018 renewals of the annual cricket and football matches.

In the cricket match played on the 22nd June a strong Old Boys' batting line up posted an imposing total of 198 for 7 in their allotted 25 overs to which the School replied with 146 for 3.

The Old Boys eleven consisted of:

Richie Hulks, Tom Bird, Steve Durrant, Steve O'Brien, John Sheather, Paul Castle, Neil Castle, Chris Searle, Matt Sadler, Zach Fagg and Steve King, John Shepherd and Mick Palmer acted as umpires.

The football match played on the 14th September proved to be a very closely contested affair with the Old Boys firstly coming from behind and then surviving a strong finish by the School to record a 3 goals to 2 victory. The Old Boys therefore retained the Andrew Kremer Memorial Cup which was presented by Steve White, the School's Head of P.E., to Andrew's nephew, Jack, who was playing for the Old Boys for the first time having left the School in the summer.

The Old Boys were represented by:

James Tonkin, Paul Castle, John Castle, Andy Bateman, Simon Gretton, James Durrant, Gary Beeden, Steve Betts, Jack Kremer, Bradley Torrance, Kyle Miller, Jake Harris and James Snoad-Speck. The match was refereed by School P.E. teacher Steve King, himself an Old Boy.

Many Thanks,
Regards,
Mick

Facebook – Discussion and Comments

Dave Winter

30 August at 09:43

I believe that Mr. [Graham Proctor](#) has some news to announce with regard to another (very recent) DGSB old boy.

[Graham Proctor](#) Well I suppose so. [Guy Proctor](#), completed his A-levels at DGSB this summer and is off to Aberystwyth University to study Geography with a scholarship from them after completing their scholarship exams in January....[See more](#)

[Louis Martin](#) **Congratulations** to Guy from myself, Tracey, Katie and Oliver. That's great news. (He knows us from pool swimming). 🏊‍♂️ 🏊‍♂️ 🏊‍♂️ 🏊‍♂️ 🙌 🙌

[Alex Nice](#) **Congratulations**. Excellent news on all counts. Not sure how many other Dover swimmers have also managed to make it to Aber but that certainly makes it two! Helen Beveridge, who has made a name for herself in open water circles, is also ex-Aber (although not ex-Dover)!

[Dave Winter](#) A would have thought that a more "iconic 'Dover thing'" would be having a pint in the White Horse in your school uniform?

[Graham Proctor](#) [Dave](#), sans tie of course - that way who would be able to guess that we were DGSB boys!

[Dave Winter](#) Oh how innocent we were, believing Sue's toasted cheese & tomato sandwiches to be the best food in the world.

[Graham Proctor](#) They were!

Dave Winter

29 August at 10:30

During the earlier part of the summer, my FB timeline seemed to fill up with photos of friends' (and former classmates') children attending their "prom/leavers ball". Does DGSB have one and if so, how does that work at a single-sex school?

[Rob Neil](#) Historically, that's what The Boar's Head and The Eagle were for 😊;-)

[Dave Winter](#) Leaving in '82, we had a brief "soirée" in the dining hall one evening before all heading to the White Horse. During the 'do' at school, [Derek Mathieson](#) dropped a two-pint carton of pre-mixed snakebite (as one used to be able to buy back then) and my last memory of DGSB as we left was looking back over my shoulder and seeing RC Colman mopping it up.

[Antony Hook](#) shared a [post](#).

25 August at 13:19

[The Kent Battle of Britain Museum](#)

25 August at 07:27

At 19.00 hrs this evening, Saturday 25th August 2018, please spare a thought for one of 'The Few', Pilot Officer Keith R. Gillman, who was shot down three miles south of Dover, his home town, and posted 'Missing presumed killed.'

It was 18.20 hrs on Sunday 25th August, seventy-eight years ago today, No.32 Squadron were scrambled from RAF Hawkinge to intercept a formation of Dornier Do 215's, escorted by 36 Messerschmitt Bf 109E's south of Dover.

P/O Eckford, P/O Barton, Flt/Lt. Proctor, Sgt. Aslin, Sqdn/Ldr. Crossley, P/O Gillman, Sgt. Whitehouse and P/O Rose took off in their Hurricanes from the grass strip and climbed out over the channel.

They intercepted the enemy aircraft at 14,000 feet south of Dover and in the ensuing dogfight Sqdn/Ldr. Crossley shot down a Dornier Do 215 in flames and sent a Messerschmitt Bf 109E spinning into the channel. Flt/Lt. Proctor shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109E in flames off of Cap Gris Nez. P/O Rose was shot down and baled out landing in the sea but was rescued uninjured after one and a half hours in the water. P/O Gillman was listed as 'missing' presumed killed.

All the above is taken from the No.32 Operational Record Book.

Some of those who took part in this action had been famously photographed at Hawkinge by Fox Photo on 29th July 1940, just under a month before. This included photographs of the nineteen year old Pilot Officer Keith R. Gillman.



Copyright: Kent Battle of Britain Museum Trust

Keith's image was widely used in magazines and recruiting posters during the war and several had been published before the time of his death, so he would have been aware he was

becoming 'famous'. No one would have realised then, but Keith's image would become a symbol of the Battle of Britain with his photograph and images depicting the youthfulness of 'The Few' in general.

Keith was born in Dover on 16th December 1920 and attended the County School there from 1933 to 1938. He joined the RAF on a short service commission and began his training as a pupil pilot on 27th March 1939. He joined No.32 Squadron at Biggin Hill on 18th May 1940 and flew his first operational sortie on 7th June escorting Blenheims to Abbeville. Keith claimed the probable destruction of a Messerschmitt Bf 109E on 19th July and the destruction of another on 24th August 1940.

He is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

Keith Gillman was one of fourteen RAF Fighter Command airmen lost on this day in 1940.

[Dave Winter](#)

19 July

Am I right with the year here? I think it was the year above me, so the 1974 intake, who, when in the sixth form (in old money) invented a game whereby every Friday they had to bring in some pre-arranged item (teddy bear, cereal packet etc) and if spotted not carrying said item, they could be challenged and had to pay some sort of forfeit. Or did I imagine all this?

Comments



[Byron Chatburn](#) Either you imagined it or I've forgotten it!



[John Allingham](#). I remember it. Vaguely remember a housebrick and a bucket on the list. It was the tutor group in the art block in the year above me.



[Mark Janaway](#) A rugby club tour classic!! Drinking penalties obviously!

From: [Derek Aslett](#)

Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 4:21 PM

To: [Dover \(Kent\) History Pages](#)

Subject: Re: [Dover (Kent) History Pages] Prince George opens Dover County School in 1931...

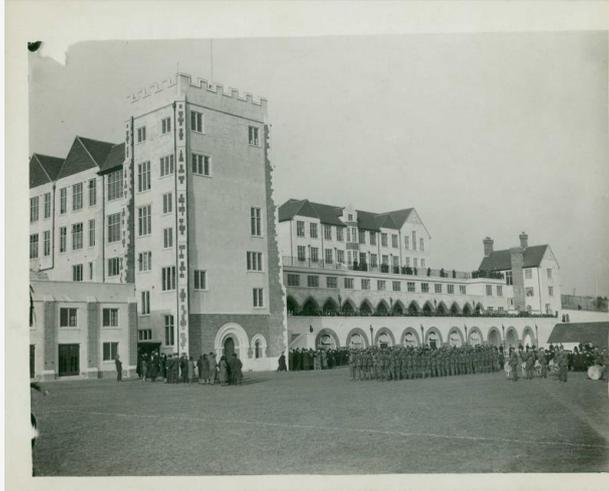
Original post

[Paul Wells](#)

11 June 16:30

Prince George opens Dover County School in 1931 (<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/A-view-of-the-Dover-County-School-Vintage-photo/142823325136>)

Prince George opens Dover County School in 1931 (<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/A-view-of-the-Dover-Coun...>)



Derek Aslett [commented on Paul Wells's photo in Dover \(Kent\) History Pages](#)



[Derek Aslett](#)

16 June 20:08

Didn't you finish in 76? [Chris H Grimes](#)

Comment history



[Chris Hookham](#)

16 June 20:59

1981-1986



[David File](#)

17 June 09:26

[Paul Goldsack](#) From what I've gleaned so far, the name "Goldsack" was originally "Colsonsacke", but in the 1600's, that devolved (phonetically?) into "Gouldsacke". From thence, it was a short step to "Goldsacke" and finally, the "e" was dropped. In 1674, Ursula, wife of George Colsonsacke (1620-1669) was documented as "Widow Goldsack". My family name "File" was originally "Phyall", so it appears spelling may not have been a strong point for we Kent folks!



[Paul Goldsack](#)

17 June 09:42

[David File](#) hi, that pretty much mirrors what I found out when I looked into a few years back. I also found that the name came originally from Holland. Everybody just assumes it's a Jewish name, but the truth seems to be different. Thanks for the reply.



David File

18 June 10:16

Hi, [Paul Goldsack](#). I'd assumed your "Colsonsacke" name was Huguenot in origin. Mine is Norse (it apparently translates to "hill dweller", presumably my lot came over with the Vikings). It just goes to show what a mixture of races we Kent folk are!



Paul Goldsack

18 June 10:24

[David File](#) It's really interesting. Makes a mockery of all the flap surrounding migration and refugee issues at the moment. It's never been any different.

Obituaries

Peter Prescott

From: awbradley@aol.com

Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 5:32 PM

To: 1905-2005@dovergrammar.co.uk

Subject: The late Peter Prescott

Dear Paul,

I live in Oxford and recently read of the passing of Peter Prescott, whose parents lived in Kearsney (in Redvers Cottages, just above Kearsney Avenue) and who was one of the boys evacuated to Ebbw Vale in 1940. He had an interesting life, having married someone who was brought up in Ebbw Vale - later he became a headmaster in Oxford. Peter's son, with whom I am in contact, would be pleased for me to send you a newspaper cutting about Peter, together with the Eulogy that was given at his funeral. But you will tell me if there is another member of the Old Pharosians committee to whom I should write.

With best wishes,

Tony Bradley

78 OXFORD TIMES Thursday, August 16, 2018 oxfordtimes.co.uk/news

OBITUARIES

Peter Prescott

Teacher, Mason, and chessboard carver



An Oxford teacher and Freemason has passed away after his family said he 'couldn't refuse a job offer from the Man upstairs'.

Peter David Prescott, who taught at two Oxford schools and was a member of Horspath Parish Council, died on Sunday, August 5, aged 92.

His family said he had been an 'honourable, caring and compassionate man' who had 'taken up his new role in Paradise'.

Born in Dover in 1926, the young Peter was evacuated by mistake to Ebbw Vale, instead of Monmouth, in 1941 at the height of the Second World War.

The error had a happy ending as it was there that he met his future wife Barbara Leighton. They were married in 1951 in Maidstone Parish Church, Kent, and he began his training as 'good husband material'.

Their son Bob joked: "It was to be the secret ingredient that helped their marriage to stand the test of time for 67 years."

The couple welcomed their first child, Bob, in 1955, a year after the arrival of the family dog Toby who was 'tasked with his upbringing'. In 1963, the family moved from Westgate-on-Sea in Kent to Old Marston in Oxford. The year after, a daughter, Carolyn, was added to the tribe.

When the family first moved to the city, Mr Prescott taught at East Oxford School in Union Street. He later moved to Isis Middle School in Donnington where he became deputy headteacher.

His son said many of his ex-pupils would remember him with 'great affection'.

A Mason for more than 60 years, Mr Prescott became a member of lodges in Dover and later Oxford, and was involved in their fundraising activities.

His son said he was also a keen wood-worker and even made a chess board which has brought pleasure to the whole family.

After retiring in 1989, Mr Prescott continued to serve his community as a member of Horspath Parish Council, helping to raise funds for village and church causes.

He helped organise the annual fireworks displays on the Bowley Field and enjoyed helping build the bonfire. He was also the chairman of the senior residents' association for many years.

Mr Prescott passed away after a diagnosis of Alzheimer's and a short illness. He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren - Emily, Christopher, Neil, Emma, Cara, Adam, Nick, Jamie and Hollie - and five great grandchildren.

They will be celebrating his life at St Giles' Church, Horspath, at 3.30pm on Wednesday, August 22. Refreshments will be served for family and friends afterwards at Brookfield Christian Care Home, Little Bury, Oxford, OX4 7UY.

Donations to the Alzheimer's Society can be sent to Mid-counties Cooperative Funeral Care, 2 Hendred Street, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2ED or can be given in memory online at alzheimers.gov.uk

Peter Prescott

Bernard Argent

Dear Sir

My father: Bernard Argent was a pupil at Dover Grammar School in the 1950's. He sadly passed away in June . I have written a piece which I hoped you might be able to include in your next edition of the Old Pharosians Association newsletter:

Bernard Argent, former Dover Grammar School Pupil, died in June 2018 aged 84. He was a keen sportsman rather than an academic! Cricket was his game of choice and he played for many years after leaving school. He also played in goal for Dover Boys football club. He went on from school to attend Dover College of Art and then to Brighton to do his teacher training. Bernard was a potter and a painter and was Art Master at Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School Rochester, for many years. He was always a Kent boy at heart and very proud of his Dover and Whitfield roots

Kind regards

Helen Argent

Peter Bean

Hi Paul

Just an email to advise that my father passed away on 20th October aged 91. Born in 1926 in Whitfield, Dad attended the County School (as the then newly built Boy's Grammar School was known) between 1938 - 1943. He was therefore one of the Ebbw Vale boys when soon after the outbreak of the Second World War – the school was evacuated to South Wales in June 1940 after Dunkirk, where Dad was lucky to be able to continue his education and gain his school certificate. On the sports field Dad's highlight came when playing for the school first 11 cricket team against the local Ebbw Vale school, defending a lowish total, Dad was summoned into the attack and apparently bowled out the opposition local school with his spin bowling and was carried triumphantly off the field of play at the end! He used to come home for holidays and as a teenager saw first-hand the Battle of Britain in the skies above the iconic white cliffs of Dover. Watching the dog fights above his head, and not fully comprehending the horrors of war, this was an exciting time for a teenager boy!

After leaving school at 16 – in July 1943 with the war still raging – Dad joined Barclays Bank in Dover – he said the set up there was very much like that in Dad's Army (his favourite TV programme) with the manager a Captain in the Homeguard, the cashier a private (not a sergeant) and Dad as the junior clerk playing the stupid boy Pike role! Most of you will probably of heard his near escape stories about the bank being bombed and having to take refuge in the bank's strong room or being on the bus going up Whitfield Hill when fortunately, someone got on half way up as moments later ahead a bomb was dropped where the bus would have been.

In February 1945 aged 18 Dad was called up for the army and after the war as part of his National Service – was posted to Cairo in Egypt. This obviously gave Dad the travel bug as following his demob release from the army, in 1952 he decided to emigrate and spent the next 3 years working and travelling his way around New Zealand & Australia. Remember this was in the days before travel by plane was common place and taking the slow boat to New Zealand – this must have been quite an adventure for young Peter!

Returning to these shores in 1955 Dad then started courting the girl living next door to his parents – getting married to her at Whitfield Church in June 1957 – Mum & Dad had their bungalow built in Bewsbury Cross Lane Whitfield on land at the back of what was then the village Post Office in Sandwich Road that Dad's parents and then his elder brother Ray ran. Mum and Dad continued living in the same bungalow for the next 57 years right up until December 2014. With the exception of a stint working as wages clerk for the coal board at the Kent pits, Dad spent the rest of his career back at the bank as Chief cashier in Folkestone and Dover branches of Barclays up until he retired in the mid 1980s when, in addition to continuing to tend his own garden, Dad became a jobbing gardener for a number of old folk then living in Whitfield!

Like his parents before him, Dad was fortunate to be fit and healthy for most of his life – that is certainly up until his last 5 or 6 years. However, the advancing years then caught up with him and, not wanting to see the garden go to wreck and ruin, my parents reluctantly accepted the inevitable 4 years ago and agreed to move up to South Woodford in London to a sheltered housing flat around the corner from me where Mum still lives.

Even when he moved to London, Dad always took a very keen interest in everything happening down in the Dover area - including reading the twice yearly Old Pharosians newsletter which up until now I have continued to have a hard copy sent so that I could pass onto him to read.

Happy for you to publish - either in full or an abridged - version of this email in the next OP newsletter.

Many thanks

Ken Bean
(DGSB 1974 - 1981 & life time OP member)

