



**OLD PHAROSIANS'
ASSOCIATION**



NEWSLETTER



**FIAT LUX
DOVER GRAMMAR
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

Number 121

July 2022

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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 2021—2022

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	Terry Sutton	(1940 – 47)
Treasurer	Jonathan Fullarton Jonathan.Fullarton@mfw.co.uk	(1997 – 2004)
Membership Secretary, Webmaster	Paul Skelton 1905-2005@DoverGrammar.co.uk	(1972 – 79) (1979 – 2005)
Newsletter	John Robertson John.Robertson8664@gmail.com	(1976 – 83)
Archivist	Position vacant	
Auditor	Neil Beverton	(1974 – 80)
Committee	Mick Palmer (1959 – 66), to retire 2022 Barry Crush (1948 – 56), to retire 2023 Peter Burville (1946 – 51), to retire 2023 Rev. John Philpott (1955 – 63), to retire 2023 Maurice Smith (1959 – 89), to retire 2024 Roger Gabriel (1966 – 73), to retire 2024	
Headteacher	Mr Philip Horstrup	(2018 -)
Website	https://oldpharosians.org.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

We have all been saddened by the loss of our President, Sir William Fittall, who died on 10 March following a short illness.

William became president of our association, for the second time, in September 2018. He set about galvanising the membership, rekindling interest in the association and building closer links with the school. Few could argue that he was not successful in that ambition.

William embraced modern technology and online media, establishing the newsletter as a largely e-publication, and working with Paul Skelton and Richard Andrews to update the association's website and move it to a new platform. A notable cohort of Old Pharosians, who, despite being uncomfortable with virtual meeting technology, were encouraged to join the 2020 AGM which was held online due to COVID restrictions.

Lasting testimony to the success of William's leadership must be the 2021 AGM. Held for the final time in the 'old' school buildings, the meeting was a 'hybrid' face to face and virtual event. Over 100 OPs attended, many visiting or dialling in from other countries. William was in his element, encouraging discussion and talking enthusiastically about the future of the Old Pharosians Association.

Sadly, none of us knew what was to come and that would be the last time many of us saw William. He left our association revitalised, stronger and with a clearer sense of purpose. We owe it to William's memory to continue in that spirit.

We plan to include a full tribute to William in the January 2023 newsletter. Please send your recollections, tributes, stories and photos to the editor: john.robertson8664@gmail.com

Although this newsletter is a little 'lighter' than our January 2022 publication, there is plenty of news from and for OPs.

Alistair Gardiner, updates us with information about the OP rugby team picture from the January 2022 newsletter. John Catt tells us about Martin Styles, who was awarded an MBE in the New year's honours list. John Hendy writes with memories of Mike Bodiam, and a photo of the 'old' school buildings, while John Sutton shares recollections of his time at our school from 1945 – 52 and a short Sutton family history.

Ft. Lt. Louis Martin updates us on the school's CCF contingent as training activities get back to normal after the pandemic. This is Louis' last item for the newsletter as he will shortly be leaving the school. We are grateful to Louis for his regular contributions and keeping us informed about the CCF and wish him luck in his future career.

By the time you are reading this the school will have moved into the magnificent new buildings. Slightly later than planned, I'll leave Head Teacher Phil Horstrup to tell us more.

I'll finish with my usual plea for contributions to the newsletter. These are always very welcome, be they a short note or email to tell us what you're currently doing, or a longer item about work, retirement or another topic which interest you and you'd like to share with OPs. Do drop me an email – john.robertson8664@gmail.com .

John Robertson

June 2022

Headteacher's Update

To say that this has been a momentous last few months would be a significant understatement. On top of the sad and untimely passing of our President, William Fittall, whose death shocked us all, we have had to contend with multiple adjustments to the timescale for our move to the new school. However, I am delighted to be able to report that phase 2 has now been completed after a mentally and physically exhausting decant week.

We began packing away our belongings - many of which date back several decades at least! - back in February in anticipation of what was then a late-March move. However, delays in the delivery of certain key materials as a result of Brexit and the conflict in Ukraine meant that our work had to be put on hold until late June. Notwithstanding, we continued to prepare as best we could and on June 13th over 2000 crates were delivered to the Quad for staff to collect and fill with their scholarly belongings. This they dutifully did, with much time spent on decluttering to prevent unnecessary, unwanted and redundant items being transported across to the new school. Items of furniture too large to put in crates also had to be labelled up with their final destination in the new build. Our Steinway, so long a fixture in the hall, was sold to a restoration company to allow us to buy a new baby grand piano for the Great Hall, an instrument which was delivered, installed and christened last week with a joyful staff rendition of "Don't Look Back in Anger" by Oasis, accompanied by Messrs Leece, LeBon and Gratus on instruments ranging from guitar to tambourine.

On Monday 27th June photographs of staff on the Quad steps and outside the new school (see below) were taken to mark the occasion of our first day in our new school, and while students worked away at home, we began the not insignificant task of unpacking and getting settled in. This staff did with gusto, helping one another out and getting things sorted as quickly as possible. While leaving our home for 90 plus years was a moment of sadness, any upset was tempered by the delight at being in a wonderful new, fully equipped, and modern teaching environment. Indeed, the happiness was clear to see on colleagues' faces as they walked round their new home.

On Monday 4th July, students will enter the new school for their first official day in these wonderful surroundings. I am hugely indebted to our architect and former parent, Liz Gibney, who has produced something unique and beautiful to replace our former home. We are all grateful to her for her creativity and insistence on the use of high-quality building materials, all of which mean the new school retains a commanding presence on the landscape. Likewise, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the DfE, my Governors and my staff, every single one of whom has worked tirelessly to make our dream a reality.

We are so, so lucky to have been given this new school and all the opportunities it will open up for us. It is incumbent upon us, now, to make maximum use of everything the new school offers to ensure our students receive the best education possible.

A formal opening ceremony will take place on Thursday 22nd September 2022, with invitations to go out in due course.

Fiat Lux

Phil Horstrup



Correspondence from Old Pharosians

Alistair Gardiner

Hi John,

just got my copy.

Your plea for info. re the rugby photos. This match was played in 1950----see Pharos Mag. No. 110, Vol. XL, July 1950.

D.G.(Dave.) Simmonds was Captain, (holding the ball). He was one speedy guy, still holds the School Senior 100yards sprint record (with several others since) which may now never be beaten as Senior Athletics Sports no longer exist. Perhaps new Head, Phil Horstrup, and the new School spirit may revive them.

Dave went on to play rugby for Wasps and he played in a final England trial, as I recollect.

I remember several others in the School team. Ken Carran was a redoubtable character and strong as a horse. He regularly lifted impressive weights during his training sessions outside the Gym. Ken. set the Senior Shotput record in 1951---another record unlikely ever to be surpassed.

Tony Norman went on to fly fighter aircraft in the Canadian Air Force, as I remember. He was such a large individual that I often wondered how he could ever have fitted into the cockpit of a jumbo jet let alone a fighter!!.

I also well remember Maurice Sayers from the OP side, having played many times alongside him in the Dover Rugby Club 1st. XV during the mid- 1950s and early '60s. Maurice was a Captain of the Club and Club President for many years---a great inspiration. He was a great supporter of the OPA, a one-time President, and regular player for the OP rugby team. I remember his last outing for the Old Boys when he was 46 and played on the wing, hoping that nobody would pass him the ball.

Maurice's grandson, Harry, is a very gifted centre who played for the School 1st. XV and Dover Rugby Club, then for Canterbury and Kent in the mid- 2010s. Much of his rugby progress was guided by the School and, in particular, by Martyn Beaumont.

I reckon that Terry Sutton must have been passing by that day when somebody shanghaied him into the team. Terry once told me that he hated sport---or, perhaps, he was just being modest---Fiat Lux under his bush!!

Regards,

Alistair.

Brian Moore – 1945 – 51

Dear John

I have been looking through the Newsletter again, with all the interesting pictures and update on the new school. I notice in the report listing those attending by zoom that my dates at the school are incorrect and should be 1945-51. Not important but I thought I would mention it.

Kind regards

Brian Moore

Chris Wilson

Sent: Sunday, November 21, 2021 12:54 AM

Subject: Re: Old Pharosians

Paul,

Many thanks for the email. I am still an Old Pharosian (just!) at 81 and would love to hear all the news of the School. You can certainly sign me up for the Bravenet programme.

I am enjoying retirement down in Australia where I have lived since 1967. I came out here to join QANTAS AIRWAYS as a pilot and spent a very pleasant and interesting 34 years flying internationally for them, ending up as a Captain on Boeing 747s.

I retired in August 2000 and live on the Central Coast, which is about 50 miles north of Sydney. I still have close family living in Deal and visited them every year until the dreaded Covid struck. Hopefully we will be back next year.

Once again thanks for the email and look forward to hearing more news of the School.

Kind Regards,

Chris Wilson.

Dennis Doble – 1948 - 55

John,

Well done for a very interesting January edition. Oddly my name was omitted from the full list of attendees, including those who attended on zoom. I was very much there, with my wife Patricia, for the AGM, lunch and talk outside, and I signed up too. No matter.

I hope to contribute a piece on my own career, having read with interest Clifford Jarrett's account of the Civil Service etc. I was in the Home Civil and the Diplomatic, though not as successful as him, of course.

Regards,

Denis Doble 1948-1955.

John Newman – DGSB prefects 1964

Dear Mr Robertson,

I have just been looking at my file for DGSB and came across the attached photo, which is of the prefects from 1964. I would guess that it was taken in the spring of 1964.



Those in the photo are:-

Back row Michael Aylen, Paul Jones, Alan Williams (head prefect 1964-65), Derek Hopper, Martyn Stiles (later a teacher at DGSB), Peter Jarvis, Robert Bradley, Tony Revell, David Raines, Gerald Emes, John Woolford, and Frank Conley.

Front row Jim Drynan, me, Colin Edwards, David (?) Bishop, John Dane, Dr Hinton, Barry Blunt (head prefect), Steve Pratt, John Lemar, Michael Davidson, and Tony (?) Gillibrand.

All best wishes,

John Newman

John Catt – Martyn Styles

Hi John,

You may have already picked this up, but one of our old boys has picked up an MBE <https://kssa.co.uk/martyn-styles-mbe/> . Think Martyn left in 1963 although I'm not certain of that. He was heavily influenced by Ernie Large

Regards,John



2ND JANUARY 2022

Martyn Styles MBE

Happy New Year to everyone at KSSA. We are delighted to learn that our KSSA President Martyn Styles has been awarded an MBE for services to junior and youth sailing. It is hugely well deserved for outstanding support to youth sailing from which KSSA has benefited over many years. Martyn can recall sailing in the first KSSA regatta at Royal Temple Yacht Club in Ramsgate in the 1960s after KSSA was formed by a group of school teachers from local clubs.

Martyn has devoted all of his spare time to teaching, coaching and organising sailing at the Downs Sailing Club, Walmer, throughout Kent with KSSA and at national level with the National School Sailing Association. He started and organised the start of Kent Schools youth race training. He ran Centres of Excellence at Bewl Valley Sailing Club, Kent.

These Centres of Excellence were held over five weekends from October to March. There would be up to 45 dinghy sailors between the ages of 8 and 19 attending each time. He

developed this into a Hi-Flyers Programme and for many years, with a group of like-minded individuals he took groups of aspiring dinghy racers to the National Sailing Centre on the Isle of Wight for a week's training. This he later developed into a national Hi-Flyers Programme for the NSSA.

These training programmes were the precursor of today's RYA Youth Programme. He has held every leadership role in the NSSA, the KSSA and the Downs Sailing Club. As a result of his inspirational coaching the KSSA Team has had notable success regularly winning or finishing in the top three counties at the NSSA Youth Regatta.

Many congratulations to Martyn and thanks to his huge contribution to sailing in Kent and particularly KSSA over the years.

NOTE – The sharp eyed among you may have seen Martyn's picture as a prefect in the previous item from John Newman – Back row, fifth from left

John Hendy – Remembers Mike Bodiam

Dear Mr Robertson,

I happened to view the latest newsletter online just now and was greatly saddened to read that Mike Bodiam had died. Although when leaving DBGS in 1965 I trained to teach, I was also able to maintain my lifelong interest in the local cross-Channel fleets by editing a quarterly shipping magazine during which time I regularly crossed the 'silver streak' in a variety of vessels. I first met Mike Bodiam in 1980 when he was Master of the Sealink passenger ferry **Caesarea** after which we became well acquainted. Knowing my views on the closure of Sealink's Dover - Boulogne service he later persuaded me to act as guest of honour at the annual Marine Officers' Club dinner. There I found myself sitting next to the company's Managing Director who was not overly impressed with aspects of my speech which obviously differed widely from his own point of view!

Terry Sutton mentioned that for the **Caesarea's** very last voyage from Folkestone to Boulogne in early October 1980, Mike chartered her on behalf of the Rotary Club in order to raise funds for the Dover lifeboat, **Rotary Service**. For the 1981 season Mike was moved to the car ferry **Caledonian Princess** for her one and only season in the Dover Strait before transferring to the multi-purpose vessel **Vortigern** in the following year.

Mike Bodiam was a delightful man - quiet, gentle, modest, a kindly leader who was well respected and always able to create the atmosphere of a happy ship. Following the *Vortigern's* departure in 1987, Mike took a management job ashore before his eventual retirement. In his last years both he and his wife, Beb, moved north to Elgin in Scotland where Mike sadly died last June.



I've scanned an image of Mike Bodiam. The image appeared in the *Dover Express* in September 1980 and is amazingly recognisable!

With all best wishes,

John Hendy

Notes for Old Pharosians' Association - John Philip ('Pip') Sutton (Jan 1945 – July 1952)

I was born in Norman Street, Dover, on 31 August 1934 (note the date in relation to the official start of the 'school' year) and had just under 1 year Primary education at a private school before being shipped out in June 1940 to my mother's parents who lived in Loughborough. I stayed there four and half years, at elementary and junior schools, and as Loughborough was free from any attacks by German bombers, I had a normal full day education without any interruption.

My parents stayed in Dover throughout the war, though did move out to Kearsney after 2 near misses by shelling that were too close for comfort. My parents learned that the DCS was returning to Dover in January 1945, and somehow by arrangement with JC Booth, I was taken in to Form 1 at the age of 10 years 4 months, i.e. I was underage by 8 months. Form 1 was then in Godwyn Road, and as there was no catering, we 'lunched' at the British Restaurant then established in the old Parish Hall next to St Mary's Church. I had to take the, then compulsory entrance exam in April 1945 and obviously 'passed' as I was not asked to leave. I am not sure when secondary education became completely free for all pupils, but I remember my father paid school fees for one, possibly, two terms.

In September 1945, when Astor Avenue was available, and when I was just eleven years old, and technically eligible to enter DCS, I transferred to Upper 2nd and stayed one year ahead of

my age throughout, though had to stay a third year in the 6th, in order to reach 18, the minimum age to be able to go on to university. I remember the lunches in the dining room at Astor Avenue, as I was on the same table as Terry Sutton (no relation) until he left in 1948.

I applied and was accepted at the University of Bristol, Faculty of Engineering, to start in September 1952. Earlier that year, the University contacted DCS saying the funds in the GD Thomas endowed scholarship had risen such as to be able, in September 1952, to award it to one student for 3 years. As I was the only candidate, I was invited down to Bristol, in June/July 1952, for inspection by a committee that included ST Newing (DCS old boy) who was then the mathematics lecturer in the Engineering faculty. The fact that ST Newings' father, another ST Newing, was Deputy Harbour Master for Dover Harbour Board when my father was the Chief Engineer to the Harbour Board, I like to think, did not influence the committee as a whole, and I received the award.

I graduated from Bristol with BSc 2.1 honours in 1955 and did 2 uneventful years National Service in the Royal Engineers (Germany and Holland). I then I joined a London civil engineering company, for specialised construction work in Glasgow, staying with them for nearly 6 years, but decided I needed to expand my experience, and for the next 25 years, worked overseas on various heavy civil engineering port and bridge projects and with various employers in Nigeria, Qatar, Sudan (twice), Malaysia, Libya, Yemen and Turkey, during which I experienced five military coups, before a final return to the UK in 1987.

I joined Ove Arup in 1988 for work on the building of the Trident Missile base project, near Glasgow, followed by being Arups' agent overseeing and reporting to the Secretary of State for Transport, on the budget and programme of the London Transport's extension of the London Underground Jubilee Line in London. This was interesting but demanding, as are all contacts with the politicians of the day, but it did bring me into dealing with people such as Stephen Norris, John Read, John Prescott, Glenda Jackson, though the nearest I got to No.10 was the baize door that connects the Cabinet Office directly with Downing Street!

I retired (first) in September 2000 but was recalled by Arup later that year to join a team reviewing Pfizer's management strategy of their development then ongoing, and in difficulty, at Sandwich, retiring for the second time in late 2001.

I am on the Roll of the Institution of Civil Engineers as Member since 1963, and Fellow from 1979. On final retirement I moved, in mid-2003, from London, to Ledbury, in Herefordshire, where I have finally established a permanent and tranquil lifestyle.

Brief Summary of the Sutton family of Dover Kent.

1st Generation – William Sutton, born 1795, died aged 90, 1885.

For unknown reasons, his parents 'disappear', when he was very young, and he was brought up, in Margate, by his grandmother who in 1805 apprenticed him for 7 years, at the age of 10, to a tailor. He married, in 1824, Mary Ann Barber, and they had 6 children, 4 sons and 2 daughters.

There is no record of his occupation in his early life, though he was for a while, the landlord of the Saracens Head public house in Ashford. However, the family, was back in Margate by 1835, when the move to Dover took place, though the reason for the removal is not known, or his

occupation at the time. Family records show that it could have been to be Assistant, later Deputy, Bailiff to the County Court, a position he held until his retirement.

In 1865, he was appointed to be 'the Bearer of the Silver Oar of the Cinque Ports' on ceremonial occasions and held this honorary position until he relinquished it in 1882. I saw a copy of his letter of appointment, dated 21 August 1865 and signed by the then Lord Warden, when it was in the keeping of the East Kent Records, then situated in an office in Whitfield.

2nd Generation – Thomas Halk Sutton, born 1835, died aged 63, 1898

Thomas Halk was the youngest child of William, and the 1851 census shows him, at the age of 16, as living as an apprentice in the house of a shoemaker. However, he became a builder and had his own business for a short while, but possibly not successfully, as he joined the Dover Harbour Board (DHB) in 1868 as the Foreman of Works.

He married Eliza Chidwick in 1857, and they had 10 children, 7 of whom survived infancy. The Chidwick family were newsagents/tobacconists in Cannon Street, the last shop closing in the early 1950's. Thomas Halk was taken ill during the morning service at St.Mary's Church on Sunday 2nd October 1898, and died the next day. He was still, at that time, in employment at the DHB. He was 63 years old.

3rd Generation – Percy George Sutton – born 1865, died aged 79, 1944.

Percy George was the second surviving son of Thomas Halk, and at age 15, was indentured to Tiltman & Holbourn, Carpenters and Joiners, for 5 years, after which he appears to have stayed with them for some time before joining a Mr. Bromley, also a carpenter and joiner.

Percy's father, Thomas, died on the 3rd October 1898, and I have a letter, dated 5th October 1898, to Percy from AT Walmisley, the Engineer to the DHB asking him how soon he can be released from Mr. Bromley to take his place as Foreman of Works to the DHB. Obviously, he was released, and when Walmisley left the DHB (date unknown) a replacement engineer was not considered necessary, and Percy became their Superintendent of Works, a post he held until his retirement in 1938.

In 1898, Dover Harbour consisted of the shortened Admiralty Pier, North and South piers, the Prince of Wales Pier and the Wellington and Granville wet docks. The Outer Harbour works now existing, that is the lengthened Admiralty Pier, the Breakwater and the Eastern Arm were added 1898/1905, or thereabout. In 1918, together with John Irons, the Harbour Master, he salvaged HMS Glatton, an RN monitor loaded with ammunition, that had to be sunk after it caught fire whilst coaling in the Outer Harbour, and in 1929, again with Irons, he raised the Belgian packet boat, 'Ville de Liege' that was driven by heavy seas on to rocks and sank at North/South pier entrance to the inner Harbour. For this, both he and Irons received a medal from the Belgian King.

He married in 1894, Sarah Gillie, the daughter of a ships master who was in the North Sea coastal trade. They had 6 children, 3 sons, 3 daughters. Although they were all of age to have attended the recently established County schools in the town, I understand that Percy and Freddie Whitehouse did not see eye-to-eye on secondary education, with the result that the first five of the family were educated at St. Mary's school in Market Street (?), and the youngest at St.Martin's school in Elms Vale Road. During WW2, he moved initially to Croydon, and lived in his middle sons' house, until 1944, when he was driven out by the V1 and V2 campaign, thence to his daughter in Shepherdswell where he died.

4th Generation – John William Sutton, born 1897, died aged 80, 1980.

He was the second child and eldest son of Percy George. At age 15 he went to work for 3 years as apprentice in the DHB mechanical workshops until 1915, when he was called for military service.

He joined the Royal Navy, and because of his time in the DHB workshops, was sent out as an Air Mechanic to the Mediterranean to join HMS Ben Macree (whose Captain was Erskine Childers, known for the 'Riddle of the Sands') for flying missions over Turkish island territories. Demobbed in 1918, he rejoined the DHB, until 1921, when he took advantage of the Government further education scheme for ex-servicemen and went to Loughborough College for 4 years. He then had various employers, until 1931, when he rejoined the DHB, as assistant to his father, in the engineering department, and became Chief Engineer to the DHB on his fathers' retirement in 1938.

During WW2, he had to remain in Dover, as after the Dunkirk evacuation was over, the harbour, which was by then a sealed area entered only by permit, still had to be kept operational for coastal trade, and in good order, at all times, should the military need use. There was also a need for a special Home Guard unit for the restricted port area, that could only be made up from DHB employees, used to handling boats etc. as the breakwater housed a lookout station and some gun emplacements.

Though St. Margaret's bay is the nearest UK point to mainland France, that area was totally sealed off and manned by the Royal Artillery (Peter Ustinov was stationed there) so there was no need for a local Home Guard, meaning JW can claim to have been the nearest 'Captain Mainwaring' to the enemy. After the war, he was instrumental in engineering and overseeing the construction and completion of the comprehensive RO-RO (roll on – roll off) facilities comprising the 2 berths within the Camber at the Eastern Docks, that became operational in 1953. He retired as Chief Engineer in 1962, aged 65, but was re-engaged by the DHB in 1964 for 3 years, as their Resident Engineer, when two additional double decker RO-RO berths were added. He was awarded the OBE for his wartime service and was a Fellow of the both the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Mechanical Engineers.

5th Generation – John Philip Sutton, born 1934

Only child of John William. Educated at DCS/DCGS from 1945 to 1952, University of Bristol 1952.-1955. Used Dover as a base, between overseas assignments, and thereafter until 1994, when his mother died. Worked variously 25 years overseas, and other locations within the UK. Retired 2001. Lives Herefordshire.

Old Pharosians Association

Annual General Meeting 2022



Photo of the 'old' school – Taken by John Hendy

The OP committee will be arranging the date and time for this year's annual general meeting in the coming months.

We will be in touch over the summer with more details.

DGS CCF Report – Flt. Lt. Louis Martin

In school we have finally returned to normal CCF training and out of school many cadet courses and camps have been offered to our cadets. The MOD units that support us have done everything they can to not only return to normal but also try and catch up on some training and events that would otherwise leave gaps in our cadet's progressive training. It has been a sterling effort but unfortunately, not every aspect of the 'cadet experience' has fully recovered. Cadet numbers remain low, despite recruiting from Year 9 in January. Hopefully numbers will recover with time and as you will see below, since our last report in November, we have achieved a great deal.

The RAF Section suffered in the immediate aftermath of Covid, as many cadets didn't return when it became possible to meet again. In addition, the RAFAC organisation has not found it easy to resume its former level of activities; the Air Experience Flight that we use at RAF

Wittering has lost many of its volunteer pilots, the Regional Leadership Courses at RAF Henlow haven't yet restarted and Summer Camp places are few.

On the plus side, after a gap of many years, gliding has resumed at RAF Kenley, although they only have two airworthy gliders at the moment. Two of our cadets were able to get airborne in April and we hope to be able to send more cadets next time.

We have also been fortunate enough to have another RAF cadet accepted for this year's Air Cadet Pilot Scheme, which makes it the third time one of our RAF cadets has been given a place in the last 5 years. This year's fortunate cadet will be off to Tayside Airport for her fortnight's flying course in August. The same cadet will also attend the Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Cranwell over the summer.

Our senior RAF cadet, who is a keen singer, has been accepted, once again, for the RAFAC National Choir Camp at RAF Halton. After the camp she will attend a number of formal events with the choir. This will be the third and final year for her as she leaves school this summer.

The RAF Section cadets had an educational and entertaining visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

Senior Army cadets have attended two separate week long courses; the Senior Cadet Instructor Course (SCIC) and a Master Cadet Course at Frimley Park Cadet Training Centre. This is the first time our cadets have attended the Master Cadet Course which is normally only open to community based cadets.

Since January our new cadets have attended the Recruit Weekend, two Skill at Arms training weekends and initial Range packages.

Our experienced cadets have completed an in-house Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Cadre alongside a Signals (Radio communications) training package.

Our Cadet Force Adult Volunteers have also enjoyed some staff training including K Qual courses to enable them to assist on ranges and field training exercises, M Qual courses to enable them to run field training exercises and the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) indoor cinematic range course enabling Range Conducting Officers to run the very useful and highly technical indoor virtual range.

Cadets deployed on Exercise First Light which gave new cadets their first experience of field training exercises and gave senior cadets an opportunity to practice leadership and refresh their fieldcraft skills.

At Easter we undertook Adventure Training over four days. We had been advised at the initial planning stages to remain within county and not to plan overnight residential training because of the possible COVID situation. We finally completed kayaking, canoeing, rafting, climbing, Army Obstacle Course and Navigation training all within our local area and we had a great time even with some awful weather.

One of our senior Army cadets has been allocated a place on a multi-activity Adventure Training week in Bavaria over the summer with the Cadet Centre for Adventure Training (CCAT).

We have planned our first Annual Inspection since cancelling the previous two. On Friday 24th June the contingent will be inspected by Lieutenant Colonel David Goodacre (OPA) for what will be our last inspection in the old school.

Soon after this we look forward to relocating the CCF to new buildings within the school, above the armoury and having access to the new school building and facilities.







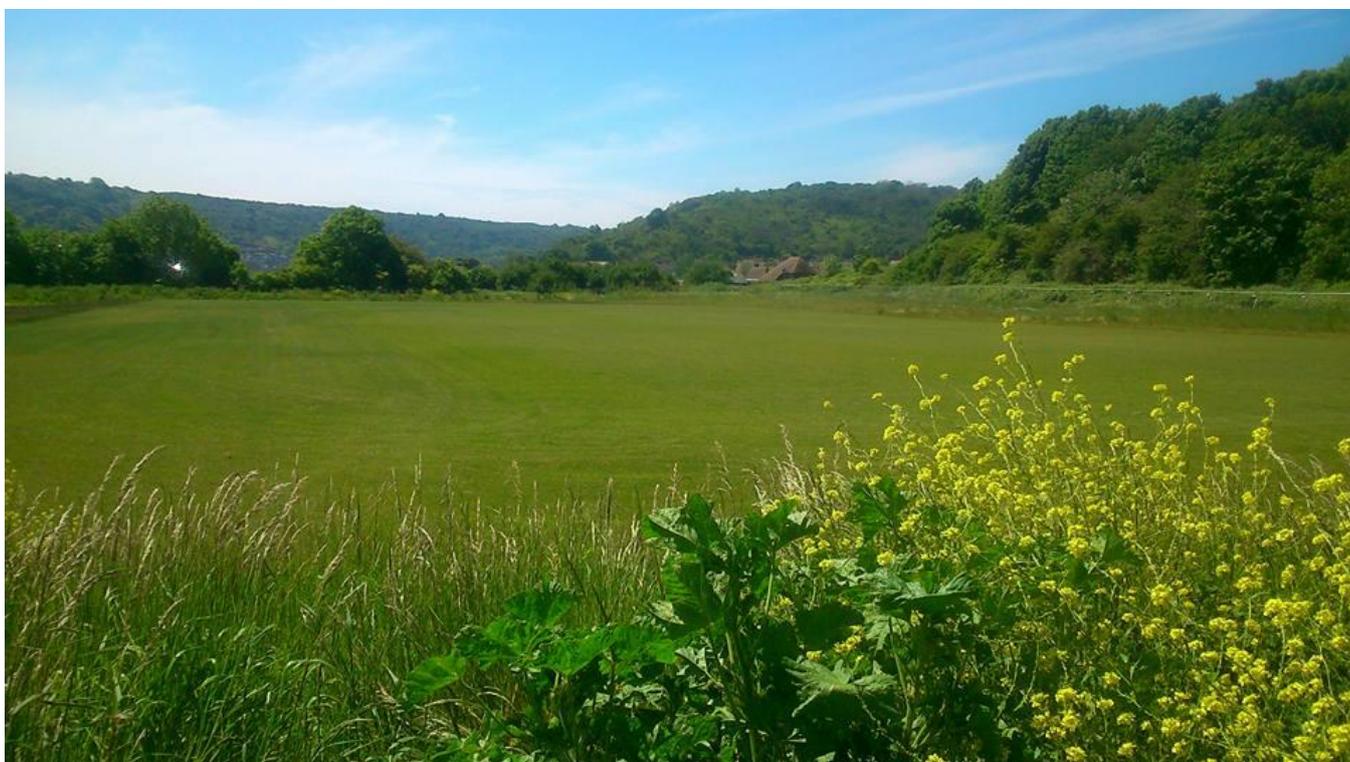




Facebook posts

Dan Donnelly

A levelled & re-seeded Leney Fields, complete with log piles for wildlife





Mike Graham

Very sad that the Leneys were ever allowed to go to waste. Hard to understand how 3 fields were lost when the school numbers increased by so much.

Dan Donnelly

I'm surprised the neglect and unhindered public access over so many years will allow it to be claimed a public right of way?

Mike Graham

That area was donated to the school by Mr Leney the chairman of Governors, along with the gymnasium. The school should never have allowed them to fall into disrepair. The school even attempted to sell off the area for housing, a scheme doomed to fail... See more

Antony Hook

At the OP AGM the Headmaster spoke about Leneys. It sounded very impressive with, I think, a drainage system under the new surface. Not that weather stopped play often... I recall playing rugby against another school in the driving snow.

Stephen Gavin

Where are these fields?

Dan Donnelly

Astor Ave, adjacent to the Boar's Head. View 1, looking diagonally towards the entrance ramp of Astor School. View 2, diagonally opposite, looking towards the top of King's Rd

Stephen Gavin

Hi Dan Donnelly,

I'd never have known. The hills around have so many more shrubs and trees on them than when I last saw them.

Alan Noake – Photos from school days

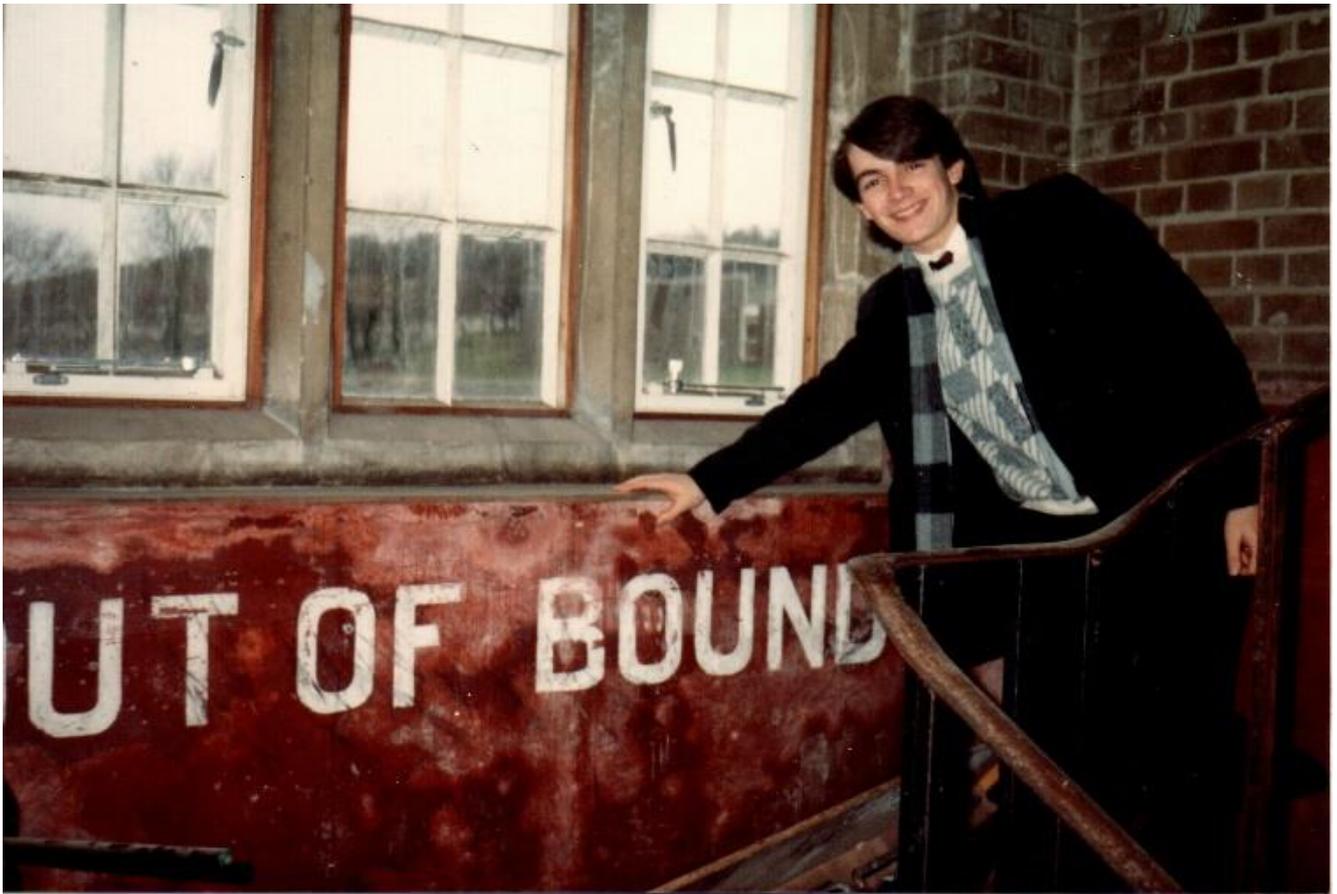
A few more gems from sorting out the loft c1986



Alan Noake & Lee Walker



Alan Noake, Form Room



Alan Noake, Breaking School Rules



"Basher" Quinn



Lee Walker, Alan Noake & Lee Leitham



Les Lane, Alan Noake, John Coreless, Adrian Abbott, Sean Zimdahl, Dave Brookes & others



Rod Dempster, Dave Brookes, Stephen James, Gerald Doran & Les Lane

Stephen James

Great pictures! That brings back some memories!

Matt Lorimer

Wow! That brought back some memories! 🙌🙌🙌

Keith Medgett

My brother Ian breaking the same rules at the recent open day!



Chris Curling

Keith Medgett i remember us playing cards up there, good times

Keith Medgett

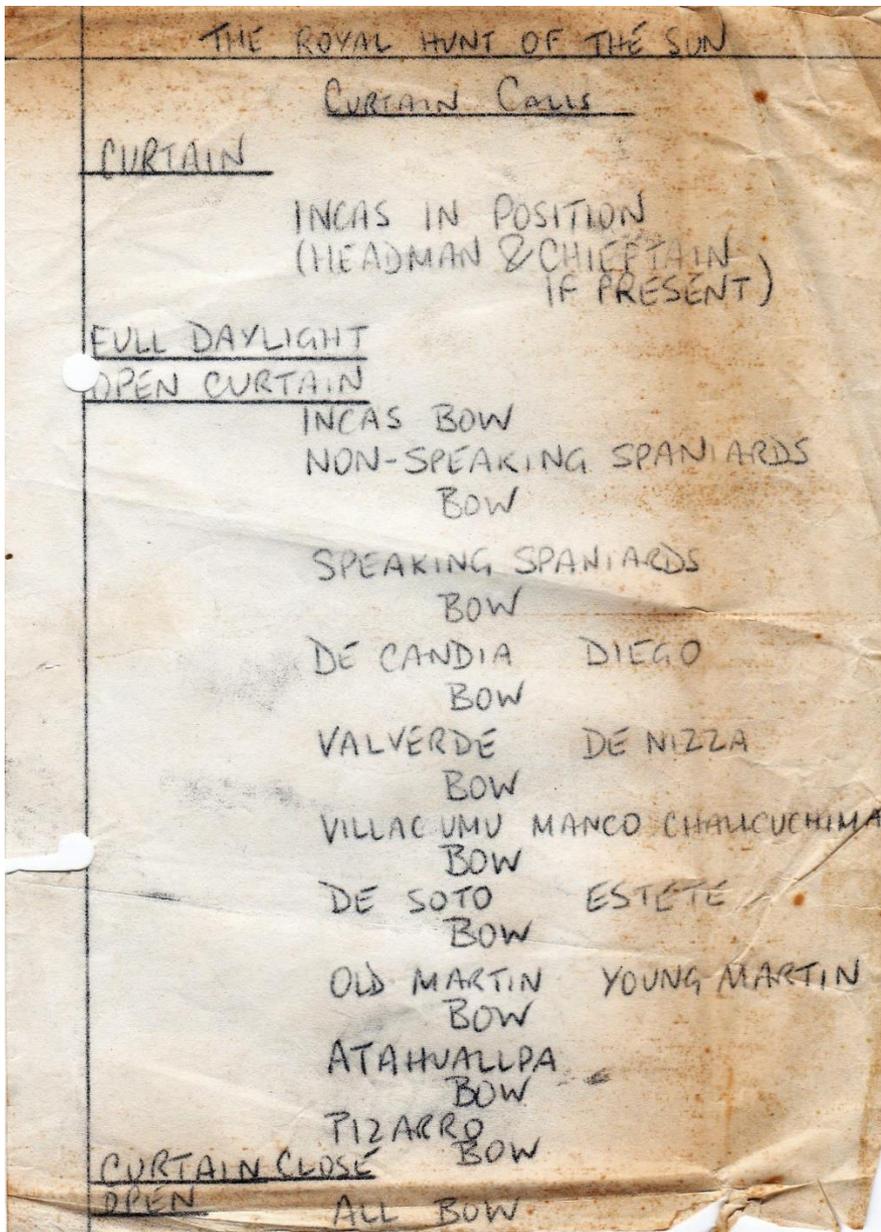
Chris Curling indeed, and metalhead coming up when we were on top of the water tanks and getting away with it!

Mark Gatehouse

Never made my way to the top of the tower...I'll always regret it.

Len Howell – Memories from 1976/77

When deciding whether to send a book to a charity shop, I found this and realised that I could not have looked properly at that book since 1976/7. Not hugely exciting but may be of interest to any who were involved in this production. Also justification for finally trying to find a better home for that book



Simon Carter

Wow. I'm on the list. Miguel D'Estete. Struggling to recall who played De Soto. Stephen Overy, I think.

Simon Carter

No... Stephen was Old Martin. It was Mark Janaway!

Howard Golding

I did make up with Mick Nunn. nuff said.....

Simon Carter

Howard Golding You made that up! 🤔🤔

Howard Golding

Simon Carter bloody didn't, He had a group of us whopping this orange gunk over all the Aztecs!

Simon Carter

Incas, mate! I was given a small beard. Not nearly as impressive as yours!

Howard Golding

Simon Carter thats a beard that screams "Years of repressed memories"!!!!!!

Len Howell

Howard Golding Me too.

John Walder

I had a non speaking part in that!

Simon Carter

Loving the titles underlined using a ruler! Standards!!

Steve Howard

I was in that, one of the many extras, I remember the full body makeup, not having time to take it all off before rushing home after a rehearsal and being sworn at by some locals on the way.

Michael Ashby – Old Pharosians football - 1939

The OP team of 1939! KHR gets everywhere!



Mark Gatehouse

Crikey. More than a passing resemblance to Jo-Jo. [Shakes].

John Walder

Of course, KHR was present throughout my time at DBGS but it was not until many years later that heard of him again which was during a meeting of the Welsh Exam Board when a chap I had known for some years and with whom I was very friendly was sitting next to me and asked me where I had been at school. I told him I had been at DBGS and he asked me if I knew KHR. When I told him that he had taught me geography and had been my form teacher when in my 5th year he grew very excited and was very keen to tell me that his parents had housed KHR through the war in EBBW Vale. It has been a source of annoyance to me that I have consistently failed to remember his name for what must be more than 30 years!

Obituaries

Sir William Fittall

11/03/2022 – From the Church of England Website

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have paid tribute to the Church of England's former Secretary General, Sir William Fittall, who has died, aged 68. He was Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council and General Synod from 2002 to 2015.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "I am deeply sad to hear of the death of William Fittall, who as well as being a valued colleague was also a dear and much-loved friend for over forty years.

"His tireless service to the Church of England, as Secretary General of the Archbishops Council, exemplified the kind of man he was: exceptionally able, respected by all, dedicated to the church and committed to Christ.

"As a Reader, and as a gifted organist, he served his local church faithfully for very many years. The Church of England owes him a great debt of gratitude.

"In the years before he was Secretary General he was a distinguished and effective civil servant, working on issues of security, reconciliation and seeking to bring hope in dark times.

"I pray for William's family and friends, who will miss him greatly, to be comforted and sustained by God in this time of grief. May he have found, in the eternal arms of his beloved God, the peace that passes all understanding."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “William Fittall was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and a wise servant of the Church of England. He used his many gifts and talents in the service of the kingdom and will be much missed. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”



During his time as Secretary General, Sir William notably helped to ensure the passage of the legislation enabling women to be bishops, and the accompanying arrangements.

Before joining the Church professionally, his civil service career saw him undertake roles in the Home Office, the Northern Ireland Office and Cabinet Office.

He was a Licensed Lay Minister in his local parish church in Kent, and also an organist.

The Church of England’s present Secretary General, William Nye, who succeeded Sir William, said: “William will be very much missed by staff in the National Church Institutions, by members of the General Synod, and by many friends and colleagues. He was a dynamo of energy, who contributed hugely to the life of the Church nationally. He was a faithful and devoted Christian in his local church, where he served as a Reader.

“Many Church House colleagues will recall fondly William’s leadership, encouragement and good humour. He achieved very much for the Church, and also for the country in his previous distinguished public service.

“We hold his wife Barbara and their family in our prayers at this time.”

Sir William Fittall b.26/7/53 d.10/3/22

(Image: William Fittall, on the left, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, former Archbishop of York, and Stephen Slack (former Chief Legal Advisor) at a meeting of General Synod in York)

Steve Bailey

Peter Futcher – On Facebook

9 February 2022

Very sad to hear that Steve Bailey died suddenly on Saturday following a heart attack. A legend of a man who I was lucky to be taught by and to work with at King's in Canterbury latterly..... he remarried ten years ago or so and had moved to Spain for the golf, amongst other things...

Antony Hook

Oh no, that is sad to hear.

Richard Hanson

I'm so sorry to hear that. That's very sad news. My favourite teacher and football coachI do wonder whether me having a Capri as my first car was his fault!! RIP

Gavin Shopland

Absolute shock, a great inspiration and lovely bloke. RIP Mr Bailey ❤️

Paul Eades

A nice bloke and a good teacher. RIP Mr Bailey.

Dave Winter

I agree. Best teacher, lovely bloke.

Trevor Nightingale

He was my form teacher in the first year back in '87. A really nice guy and that's such sad news.

Jon Russell

Really sorry to here this. He was a quality fella.

Giles Falconer

Very sorry to hear this news - I always enjoyed chatting to Steve when we worked together, and still remember his assembly - about a school trip to Spain by coach in 1992 (?) with a driver who didn't know the way - as just about the funniest I heard in 32 years of teaching.

Paul Paul

Giles Falconer The notorious Barcelona Olympic trip.

Giles Falconer

Paul Paul yes, that must be it. Sadly he never finished the whole story as time ran out, and for some reason never told the rest of the story (at least not in assembly!)

Paul Paul

Giles Falconer I know some of the boys who were on the trip. It seemingly lurched from disaster to disaster even before leaving Dover.

Rob Neil

Incredibly sad news

Paul Wapkaplett

Wasn't in his classes but remember him as one of the good guys. RIP

Howard Golding

I'll let mum know, he was her era.

Peter Futcher

Author

Gary Mark Cloke Readers Inc. !

Andy Holmes

Howard Golding I think I spent more time in Mrs Golding's office than I did in lessons in Lower school! I hope she is well

Howard Golding

Andy Holmes she retired due to ill health and it has plagued her since. How she keeps going is beyond me. She remembers boys names from this site whenever I mention them. She frequently asks me to look up old teachers and I send her the photos of the new school as it is being built

Ritchie Hulks

Always looked forward to Mr Bailey's geography lessons, mainly because they'd be about football! Took us to play golf at Kingsdown for PE in the sixth form too. Top guy. My condolences to his family.

Stephen Yarrow

Thanks for sharing this Peter Futcher. Very sorry to hear the news - Steve Bailey was my form master in 4B & 5B - really settled me down. Charming & patient form tutor, great guy.

Danny MacGregor

Sad news indeed!

Damion Napier

A great guy. RIP.

Rod Haddrell

Very sad. He never taught me but I played in the 1st 11 team alongside him and I'll never forget how he took a fitness session a day before an East Kent League game, made us do multiple bunny hops across the gym and then had a whole team for the match who could barely walk!

Paul Paul

A fine teacher, a very nice man, respected by all. Environmental Studies, the best subject most of us ever studied, was his baby I think.

Chris Penn

What sad news, a great man, true Gent, inspired me to compete and work hard at whatever and became a friend in later years, a teacher who knew how to teach because he had no agenda other than for you to do well, God bless you Steve and thankyou again. Penny

Steve Blake

Made Geography lessons enjoyable.....by talking about football!!

Made my 3rd year in the sixth form bearable, and was a big part of the encouragement I needed to get off my arse and go to teacher training college. RIP Mr Bailey



Sean Ellis

Very sad news. An absolute gentleman

Andy Holmes

He will be missed

David McCulloch

Sad news. Like many I had a soft spot for him. He used to call me 'Lefty McCulloch' in football on account of my useless left foot! It's thanks to him that I actually learned to play with both feet. And yes, Environmental Studies (two hours of slide shows in the dark in the hall) were his baby. RIP.

Ken Goodwin

Sad news. A decent man, laid back, easy to talk to, and a good teacher.

Steve Durrant

Really sad news, we were only just talking about him during the reunion tour on Saturday - suspect he would have enjoyed the Matt Le Tissier stained glass window in the library. Did make me chuckle thinking about the Barcelona Olympics trip. I wrote 2 accounts of that week, one, heavily redacted, for the school newsletter, and the other that detailed it in all it's glory!

Ashley Frater

A top bloke, taken too soon

Carl Jepson

One of my favourite teachers in first year back in 1976. Always enjoyed the ES excursions. RIP

John Walder

Very sad news, a top bloke.

Mike Deal

Great bloke and teacher. Introduced me to Barclay James Harvest.

Ian Fuggle

That is sad news.

Michael Odell

Very sad to hear this. Great man and inspiration to all of us who were lucky enough to meet him.

Mark Janaway

Top bloke and my form master 4B/5B in '77/78, lived on Lower Rd River for a while..

Jeremy Saynor

Really sad to read this. As has been said before a great man and really good form tutor

Derek Mathieson

Very sorry to hear this. Steve was one of the good guys

Andrew Burns

I echo the comments here and I am not surprised to see a teacher so universally respected. His easy going style, love for ES and ability to relate to pupils was inspiring.

Jeremy Mitchinson

Sad news, great guy

Colin Barnett

So sad. What a cool guy. Some very fond memories from the class of 74-81

Mark Gatehouse

Didn't cross him much but when I did he was always kind, informal and interested. RIP Mr Bailey.

Gary Duggan

Sad news. RIP

Paul Skelton

I believe he could have tuned golf professional at one time.

Peter Futcher

Author

Paul Skelton he actually played and won a tournament in Marbella last Saturday. Got home, sat down and a sudden heart attack. He knew nothing of it thankfully but good to know that in retirement he was doing what he loved.

Andy Preece

Desperately sorry to Hear this.. he was exceptional

Paul Morris

Very sorry to hear this - what a lovely guy. Taught Geography to us in 84/85 and did so with great patience and good humour - treated us like adults (which I appreciate more now than I should have done then).

Didn't he also have a lovely black Golf GTi Mk1?

Simon LeBon Barrett

Steve is my father in law and I've only just learned of this page. I'll make sure that his daughters and the rest of his family read your heartfelt messages.

Paul Paul

Simon LeBon Barrett A fine man, great teacher, all round top bloke.

Jon Russell

Simon LeBon Barrett yeah. He was a quality guy. Condolences

Gary Beeden

Simon LeBon Barrett my favourite teacher

Frank Ott

From Martyn Webster

The Ott family : the obituary for Lt (RN) Frank Ott who died on 30th January 2022 aged 100 years appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 25th March 2022. He had been born in Dover in 1922 the son of Ephraim Ott a butcher with a stall in the market. The family lived in Charlton Avenue. Older brother Frederick Ott was an old boy of DGSB, but what about the other brother Leonard and Frank himself? The obituary states that Frank was educated at grammar school, but which one? I can trace no record in the contemporary DGSB Pharos magazines of his name, only brother Frederick. Can anyone confirm whether Frank was himself an Old Pharosian?

Naval observer decorated after playing his part in the sinking of the Japanese cruiser *Haguro* in 1945

LIEUTENANT FRANK OTT, who has died aged 100, was a Fleet Air Arm observer who was awarded the DSC for his part in the sinking of the Japanese cruiser *Haguro* in May 1945 by the British East Indies fleet.

Ott was the senior observer in 851 Naval Air Squadron, flying lend-lease Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers, when a task force from the East Indies Fleet sailed at short notice from Trincomalee for Operation Dukedom, the interception of *Haguro* and the destroyer *Kamikaze*.

The ships had been located on their way to evacuate Japanese troops from the Andaman Islands. Ott's squadron was disembarked from the escort carrier *Shah*, but a defective catapult prevented her from operating Avengers and so 851 NAS had to be embarked in her sister ship *Emperor*, which usually operated Grumman Hellcat fighters.

On May 15, Ott and his crew flew a prolonged but unfruitful search for *Haguro*, landing on the aircraft carrier after more than five hours with very little fuel left. The enemy cruiser was located by 851's commanding officer more than 200 miles from the carrier.

Later the same day they took off again and attack *Haguro* with two fully fuelled and armed Avengers, but they could not find the cruiser at its predicted position. On Ott's advice, his pilot extended the search, and half an hour later they located the ship.

The three Avengers, each armed with four 500lb semi-armour-piercing bombs, carried out independent attacks, encountering intense anti-aircraft fire. One of the aircraft was shot down, however, and the crew taken prisoner. The rest recovered aboard *Emperor* after reporting "probable hits".

These two long sorties, one of them under enemy fire, had left Ott and the others exhausted but elated to have played their part in what would turn out to be one of the last major sea battles of the Second World War. *Haguro* was sunk early the next morning by a brilliant torpedo attack carried out by destroyers of the 26th Flotilla south-west of Penang in the Malacca Straits. Ott and his pilot were awarded the DSC, and their telegraphist air-gunner the DSM.



Ott in his khaki tropical uniform, far left, and, left, *Haguro*, sunk in one of the last major sea battles of the Second World War



observer in the Fleet Air Arm. After receiving his observer's "wings" he returned to the UK to become a sub-lieutenant.

In September 1943 he crossed the Atlantic again, this time in RMS *Queen Mary*, to join the new 851 NAS, commissioned at the US Naval Air Station Squantum, Massachusetts, on October 1.

After working up at Norfolk, Virginia, the squadron flew across the United States to join HMS *Shah*, a new escort carrier, in San Francisco. Ott travelled by train, however, with the squadron's air mechanics and spent New Year's Day 1944 at a railway station in Chicago.

After embarking her aircraft, *Shah* sailed across the Pacific to Melbourne in January and eventually joined the East Indies Fleet based at Trincomalee in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) on March 19. For more than a year she carried out trade protection operations in the Indian Ocean, but after Operation Dukedom, in September, 851 NAS left its American aircraft behind in Ceylon and sailed home in *Shah*. The squadron disbanded at Gourock near the Firth of Clyde after arriving there in October 1945.

After his demobilisation Ott returned to the Admiralty until 1948, when he moved to the London County Council as an administrative assistant in the Education

Office. In 1953 he gained a BSc in Economics from the University of London and subsequently became assistant Secretary at Birmingham University, supervising a new building programme. Later he became Assistant Bursar, but was lent to the adjacent Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he took charge of its development plan. In 1973 he was appointed Bursar of Bristol University where he remained until retirement in 1987.

Ott was for 20 years a member of the Glastonbury Male Voice Choir, a Freemason for 70 years and a founder of the Society of Friends of the Fleet Air Arm Museum at RNAS Yeovilton.

He married, in 1946, Olive Rita Read, known as Rita, after they met on a train. They had no children, but shared a love of Great Danes, which they bred and showed. Friends remembered with amusement seeing the Ott's in their small Austin A30 with a Great Dane sitting on the back seat as if directing them.

Rita was disabled by a stroke in 1998 and Frank looked after her until her death in 2008. He was determined to reach 100 and, although he was in hospital by then, he was delighted to receive his card from the Queen.

Frank Ott, born January 5 1922, died January 30 2022

