

# Old Bordenian Association



# Website Digest 2014

[www.oldbordenians.co.uk](http://www.oldbordenians.co.uk)

# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

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# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

## 1. OBA Website – do you want to be kept updated?

The OBA Website team are well aware that there are no facilities available to notify our regular site visitors of new postings on the site or details of any planned (or unplanned!!) website downtime. To address this, we will be providing such a facility in the New Year. We will be keeping this simple – you register your name, email address and the type of information you would like to receive and we will send an email to you when appropriate!

If you want to take advantage of this facility, please send the following details to [webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk) :

Name:

Email address:

Years at Borden Grammar School (e.g. 1968-1973):

Member of the Old Bordenian Association: Yes / No

Notify me of new postings: Yes / No

Notify me of website maintenance or issues: Yes / No

If you wish to unsubscribe from this facility at a later date, simply let us know and we will remove your address from the distribution list. We won't allow your email address to be used by any other organisation, but we may use it occasionally to provide other Old Bordenian Association information. As we intend cutting our heavy postage costs by using technology rather than traditional post for all notifications to our members where possible, we would encourage you to register to ensure that you are always kept informed of latest news and events.

## 2. Spot the difference!!

My great grand-daughter is now into her second year at "big school". She will be six in a few weeks' time. The other day, she came home after an art lesson, and told her mother excitedly that they had learned all about Van Gogh – about his self-mutilation, his friendship with Cézanne, the way his moods influenced his choice of colours, and so on – and they had all been invited to choose one of his paintings to copy. This is at a normal Church of England Primary School, not some sort of private establishment for precocious or abnormally gifted children. Crikey! I doubt whether I had even heard of Van Gogh until I was in my Forties!

Her mother has just sent me a copy of a notice which has gone to all the parents about this Term's activities. History will include the causes and consequences of the Great Fire of London, which will be backed up by an examination of the equipment used then and now for fighting fires, and a visit from the Hampshire Fire Brigade who will tell the children what they do and how they do it.

I am still shaking my head in disbelief at the gulf between this and my experiences eighty-odd years ago at Lydd Primary School. My recollection of art is that it was a lesson in which you had to wear a kind of smock to prevent your clothes being covered in paint while you produced a grotesque Picasso-like image of an unidentifiable rectangular animal with four legs, all on the same side. And the really important thing about the Great Fire of London was that it happened in 1666, one of the easier dates to remember in our learning-by-rote programme. I was completely unaware of any relevance it might have to life in the 1930s.

As for finding out what I was doing at school, I was the only source of information for my parents – and a pretty unforthcoming one at that, no doubt. "What did you do at School today, Graham?" "Not much". "Yes, but what lessons did you have?" "Sums. I HATE sums". "Better not let your father hear you say that. Wash your hands. Your tea's ready".

This whole episode has prompted me to wind the clock on a little and to reflect on the differences between life at Borden today and in the pre-World War II period when I was a pupil. And in many ways the gulf seems to me as large as, if not larger than, it is in primary school education. In the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, I had the good fortune to be a School Governor, so I was able to observe some time ago the remarkable changes which have taken place over that time, but they haven't stopped happening since I retired.

For the less well-informed, a quick glance at the School's excellent Website and the Diary of Events will give you a flavour of what life is like for both Staff and Pupils these days, even if it is only a superficial one. You will see references, for example, to the History trip to Berlin, the Geography trip to Tenerife, a Spanish trip to Barcelona, a Ski trip and visits to Stratford and to the Central London Synagogue. In my day, we had one outing a year – typically, to the Southern Railway Works at Eastleigh!

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There are references, too, to the Kent Schools Speaking Competition, the School Council, a guided visit to Cambridge, to subjects at A-Level such as Film Studies, Photography, Psychology and Sociology. Instead of a solitary play each year – Ian Hay's "The Housemaster", for instance – there is a musical, "Miss Saigon", a pantomime and the Battle of the Bands. In due course, the drama facilities, it is hoped, will include new rigging to make light changes easier, motorized curtain and backdrops, a new technical suite with new lighting and sound equipment, and new comfortable auditorium-style chairs. In my day, poor old Reg Goff had to paint a wobbly bit of scenery when he could find the time! If you haven't done it, I can really recommend a meander through the BGS Website, which after all is only one click away from what you are viewing now. It's an education in itself.

So what do I conclude from these comparisons? Ah, that's more difficult! Is education 'better' than it was three generations ago? Well, it is certainly richer – in the sense of being much, much more varied, in the classroom and outside it. The availability of all these extra opportunities means that it has moved away from the strictly academic, which it tended to be, to a more rounded experience, designed to open the children's eyes and stimulate their imaginations. I find that immensely exciting – and very encouraging. It is equipping Bordenians with the attitudes and mental skills which I am sure will enable them to face the increasingly complex problems and challenges of life in the 21st Century.

Am I envious or, looking back, do I feel I in some way short-changed? No, not at all. I think that what I learned and how I learned it did a pretty good job at preparing me for what was to come. I once heard someone comparing the effects on the environmental observation habits and abilities of people living on flat, featureless plains with those surrounded by soaring mountains. Their powers of observation are fundamentally the same. It's just that the plain-dwellers are more conscious of things happening at a distance of a few feet, rather than miles away. Perhaps that's not a very good analogy, but you see what I am trying to say? In those distant days at school, we probably had to work a little harder to find our own way and to create our own stimuli, but at the time, the help we had was all we could reasonably expect, and often more.

And here we come to a paradox: how is it possible to reconcile the picture I have painted with all the horror stories we hear of literacy and numeracy deficiencies among school-leavers, and of how far down the international educational league tables we are in this country. Well, I won't pretend to know anything about the daunting and intractable problems of schools in deprived or ethnically-diverse areas. I am not sure whether there is any substance at all in what I have said, and in any case I would strongly urge everyone not to treat these remarks as generalisations.

All I can say is this. I have never been more optimistic about the future of Borden Grammar School and its pupils than I am now. In the BGS OFSTED Report last autumn, the inspectors commented on "the fierce pride" which pupils have in their School. When the School Roll is three times the size it was 70 years ago, I don't know why, but that surprises me. And cheers me no end!


Graham Barnes

1937-1944

## 3. Harold Vafeas - Obituary

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*A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life  
of  
Harold Sofronios Vafeas  
10<sup>th</sup> May 1935 – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014*



*Holy Trinity Church, Northdown  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
3:00 p.m.*

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing away of our former President and school headmaster, Harold Vafeas, on 25th January 2014, after a long struggle against cancer. The funeral took place on Friday 7th February 2014 at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Margate and was attended by many OBA Committee members, Governors, Teaching staff past and present, as well as several boys from Year 13.

Harold's family have asked that if anyone would like to make a donation in Harold's memory, it should go to the Pilgrim's Hospice. A JustGiving page has been set up for this purpose - [www.justgiving.com/haroldvafeas](http://www.justgiving.com/haroldvafeas).

A Memorial Service was held in Holy Trinity Church, Sittingbourne, on Tuesday 1 April 2014 to celebrate Harold's life. Graham Barnes gave a tribute from the Old Bordenian Association.

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## 4. Website Digest 2013

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We have again produced an easily accessible and printable copy of all the articles posted on the website over the past year, similar to the Maroon, which was discontinued in 2009. It includes all material suitable for printed format from January 2013 to December 2013. To access the digest, go to:

[http://old-bordenians.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/images/Digest/Website\\_Digest\\_2013\\_v1.0.pdf](http://old-bordenians.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/images/Digest/Website_Digest_2013_v1.0.pdf)

## 5. OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 31 January 2014

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### The minutes of a committee meeting held at the School on Friday 31 January, 2014

**Members present:** P. Lusted (in the chair), N. Hancock, K. Sears, A. Snelling, D. Palmer, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack, C. Laming

**Apologies for absence:** President J. Hopkins, T. Akehurst, D. Jarrett

The committee was informed of the death of the former president and head teacher Harold Vafeas and the committee stood for a minute's silence. Funeral arrangements were noted and details of a planned memorial service would be notified in due course. Committee members signed a card which would be sent to the family. A collection was also held and D. Palmer kindly agreed to add the proceeds to the Pilgrim's Hospice Just Giving appeal.

**Minutes and matters arising:** The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 October, 2013, were agreed and signed as a correct record. A. Snelling queried whether a decision taken at the previous meeting to cease paying for ad hoc donations from Association funds had been recorded and was reassured that it had under "Treasurer's report".

**Correspondence:** The secretary had received a kind letter from Jonathan Hopkins thanking the Association for its donations totalling £6,000 agreed at the previous meeting.

Mr Tim Topham had written to the school inquiring about his grandfather Edward Snee, who taught at the school in 1904 and had served as a second lieutenant in the Borden Cadet Corps. A background discussion involving G. Barnes, M. Stewart and Bryan Short had failed to uncover any further information but did highlight the fact that we have no idea what happened to staff members during the First World War – a gap in our now comprehensive knowledge of school war casualties.

The secretary had written to Mrs M. Vafeas extending the Association's deepest sympathy in her family's bereavement.

The Rev. Stanley Evans had written in response to a note of thanks following the Remembrance service saying how much he had enjoyed the service and that he hoped to attend the annual dinner.

**Treasurer's report:** Association funds stood at £1,290 following the £6,000 donation to school causes agreed at the last meeting. We can expect the amount to increase by approximately £4,000 once the annual subs arrive in June. The accounts examiner, P. Taylor, had two queries on the accounts. He noticed that there had been a reference to two cash donations in the minutes of earlier meetings but had not been able to trace them as having been paid. He was informed by C. Laming that one had been paid in with the last annual dinner receipts. K. Shea said that he was in possession of the other donation. There was an on-going query over the costs of running the website involving the treasurer and D. Palmer.

**Dinner Secretary's report:** Arrangements are in hand for the 2014 annual dinner which will take place on Saturday 22 March at UK Paper Clubhouse. The ticket price is £22.50.

Leslie Olive, a former music teacher at BGS, had agreed to propose the main toast. The new president was invited to attend the dinner and respond.

The committee agreed to extend an annual invitation to the school caretaker, Tim Hewitt, to attend as its guest.

**Membership report:** Keith Shea reported: At the last meeting I provided a bit of a rushed report due to work commitments. Since then I've had a little more time to review matters and can offer updates on the figures that I reported last time.

There are still 340 members who have paid £10.00 each in June 2013, but only 57 rather than the 59 I reported have paid the £5.00 subscription. Other figures remain the same giving us 412 paid up members.

Closer examination of the bank statements throws up a greater number of members who no longer pay by standing order than I had thought. 48 members have stopped paying by standing order and a further 41 who would normally pay by cheque or cash have not paid their subscriptions either. These numbers exclude those

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notified to the OBA as having passed away. The loss of subscriptions through standing orders is a real concern as these are stopped by a positive action rather than the inaction of a forgotten cheque or cash payment.

I will issue reminders with the mailing going out tonight/next week but I do not expect to recover many of the members who had previously paid by standing order.

In addition to the above we have continued to receive subscriptions for four members who recently passed away and we should write to the families of David Nicholls, Les Holmes, John Ford and Chris Willson to let them know.

We have enticed eight new members in the last 12 months namely:

Simon Henton 77-82

Paul Diddams 79-84

Jonathan Reece Mills 83-88

Scott Curtis 84-85

Andrew Carpenter 84-89

Steve Earl 88-93

Adam Webb 95-02

Daniel Morgan 95-02

Since that last committee meeting we have been told sadly that Dr Brian Cory (at the School '39 – '46) has passed away and of course we are all aware that Harold Vafeas, head teacher of the school for the last nine years, passed away on 25 January.

**Hockey report:** Neil Hancock gave a brief update on the activities of OBHC. Much of the focus is on the men's 1st XI gaining promotion which they'd narrowly failed to do last season but all of the teams continue to perform as well as ever. The club had lost revenue due to the inclement weather and perimeter fences had been damaged in the recent storms. The club is looking to revamp its financial structure. The all-weather pitch is almost 10 years old and will need replacing at a cost of £150k in the next three to five years. A commercial loan may be required.

**Football report:** Keith Shea's report: In my last football report (4 Oct 2013) we had won our first game of the season after five straight defeats and, no doubt giddy with excitement, I foolishly predicted that we'd overturn the head start that we had given the rest of the league and storm up the table.

I was partially correct but it's been more of a damp, grey, overcast and slightly chilly improvement rather than the hoped for storm. Still we are now fourth (out of six) in the league and I think we have a strong chance of a podium finish.

In truth the league has been a bit of a distraction from the cup competitions where we have played our best football. As holders of the Knockout Cup, I'll just pause there for effect... we have made it through to the final yet again! Ho hum. And we are well placed to reach the final of one of the other competitions.

During the season we have at one time or another beaten all the other five teams so if we can just find a bit of consistency we are confident that we will come away with some silverware or, more likely, plasticware.

During the Christmas break we held a very successful Cocktails Evening. We relaxed our nutritionist's stringent dietary regulations to allow the players to gorge themselves on Nobby's Nuts and London Pride, although other snacks and drinks were available. All profits from the evening will go towards a worthy cause, most likely the end of season Cocktails Evening which will have a similar format but hopefully at an establishment serving Bullock's Olde Scrumptious.

For the record, the squad this season is:

Cliff Cork, Peter Thompson, Simon Thompson, Aida Mackender, Julian Cork, Gary Johnson, Jon Cork, Andy Hargreaves and Keith Shea.

Footnote: Quite literally. Julian suffered a broken big toe competing for a drop ball and we wish him a speedy recovery.

**Website report:** David Palmer reported: The website has been reasonably stable since the last report in September 2013. Ten new articles or comments on articles have been added since that report including, as promised in the last update, an offer to all site visitors to register with us to be kept informed of additions to the website or any future lengthy system downtime. Only one person has registered for the service outside the Website Committee!

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| Title   | Date       | Hits |
|---|------------|------|
| <a href="#">Board of Education School Inspection report - 1914</a><br>(Alias: board-of-education-school-inspection-report-1914)                     | 2013-07-09 | 1014 |
| <a href="#">BGS - 3 Peaks Challenge raising money for Cancer Research UK</a><br>(Alias: bgs-3-peaks-challenge-raising-money-for-cancer-research-uk) | 2013-04-18 | 574  |
| <a href="#">Contact Us</a><br>(Alias: contact-us)   | 2012-11-23 | 542  |
| <a href="#">For Sale: "Borden Grammar School – A History in Photographs"</a><br>(Alias: for-sale-borden-grammar-school-a-history-in-photographs)    | 2013-07-02 | 514  |
| <a href="#">Membership</a><br>(Alias: membership)   | 2013-01-17 | 487  |
| <a href="#">Borden Grammar School - the early years part 1</a><br>(Alias: founding-a-school-in-the-1870s-part-1)                                    | 2013-02-11 | 465  |
| <a href="#">Frank Nicholls - Obituary</a><br>(Alias: frank-nicholls-obituary)   | 2013-01-26 | 464  |
| <a href="#">Borden Grammar School - the early years part 2</a><br>(Alias: borden-grammar-school-the-early-years-part-2)                             | 2013-02-26 | 416  |
| <a href="#">Useful Links</a><br>(Alias: useful-links)   | 2013-02-04 | 409  |
| <a href="#">Remembrance</a><br>(Alias: remembrance)   | 2013-02-04 | 357  |

The picture on the left shows the most popular pages since the new site was launched, together with their respective hits. The one hundred year old Board of Education school inspection report has now been accessed over a thousand times!!! I'd like to reiterate the considerable financial benefits of the move to the school site, with the total cost of the website to the Association reduced to less than £20 a year, which covers the cost of the .co.uk and .com website addresses.

The annual Website Digest has been produced to be sent to those members that requested it when the Maroon ceased publication. There are currently 18 members requiring this service, although I will be checking with Keith that these 18 are still members! The Digest will also be posted on the website for all members to download and read at their leisure.

As always, it would be helpful if committee members would consider producing something of interest to post on the website. In my last report, I appealed especially for a piece on the benefits of the Association and what we have achieved in the last few years to try to attract new members. Graham Barnes produced an excellent article in response.

Contact points for the website committee continue to be David Palmer at [DavidPalmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:DavidPalmer@blueyonder.co.uk), Peter Lusted at [bowerlanders@icloud.com](mailto:bowerlanders@icloud.com) or Alan Snelling at [alan@uftoncompany.co.uk](mailto:alan@uftoncompany.co.uk).

**Remembrance report:** A report was circulated about the annual service of remembrance that had taken place at the school on 9 November 2013. It had been very well supported and was deemed a great success by those present. C. Laming said a meeting of remembrance committee would be arranged for the early summer to discuss this year's arrangements.

**Any other business:** N. Hancock gave notice that he would be tendering his resignation as treasurer at the AGM in October having served 13 years in the role. He was warmly thanked for his contribution. A volunteer is therefore sought.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

Date of the next committee meeting: Friday 13 June 2014.

## 6. OBA Reunion Dinner 2014 - report & photos

More than 60 Old Bordenians met on 22 March at UK Paper clubhouse in Sittingbourne for the 2014 annual reunion dinner of the Association.

Guest speaker was Leslie Olive, music master at Borden Grammar School in the 1970s, who went on to combine a career in education in Surrey and Suffolk with his talent for forming and running choirs and latterly his own full, and professional, symphony orchestra.

Les spoke passionately about the importance of education and the difference between education and business as he toured the room with microphone in hand to elicit the views of some of his former pupils. Both Ken Coker and Greg Barry spoke movingly about their time at school and what music and inspirational staff members had meant to them.

The new president of the Association, and head teacher at Borden, Jonathan Hopkins, responded to the toast to the School and Association with a comprehensive account of his teaching career and his family life. He thanked the old boys for their donation to school funds enabling the recent purchase of a new minibus and he recounted his first year at the School and the challenging conditions he had encountered including an Ofsted inspection within his first few weeks. He said he had been pleasantly surprised by the strength of support from the PTFA and the old boys and by the underlying spirit of Borden which, he had been advised by another staff member, gets under the skin.

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Members will be notified of the date for the 2015 annual reunion dinner in due course via the website and by email (now set for 7 March 2015).





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Mike Pack, new OBA Treasurer

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Les Olive, Guest Speaker



Jonathan Hopkins, OBA President

## 7. Christian Smith

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We are sorry to announce the untimely death of Christian Smith, who was at Borden from 1991 to 1993, following an accident while he was taking part in a charitable cycle ride. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

## 8. Kent Schools 220 Yards Relay Champions 1945

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This photograph of the Borden Grammar School team who won the Kent Schools 220 yards Relay Championship in 1945 was sent in by Ken George (1937-1945) who was an outstanding sprinter at School. At London University, he clocked 10.1 for the 100 yards, and 23.2 for the 220, which was some going in those days. He once raced against the Usain Bolt of the post-War era, the Jamaican E. McDonald Bailey. Unfortunately, he lost!

Back row, l to r : Geoff Holland, Frank Horlock (the Old Salt), Peter Kitcatt  
Front row : John Allard, Ken George, Bill Allard



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### 9. Memories of A.A. Jacobs (“Jake”) - BGS 1936-1943

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Sadly, Alan Jacobs – “Jake” to most of his friends and many of his pupils – died on 9th March, aged 89. He was one of a now-diminishing band of Old Boys whose formative years at Borden were spent under the headship of W.A.C. Claydon.



Although he was a year ahead of me, he was one of my closest school friends, especially when we became 'evacooees' in Wales, and later in the Sixth Form when he was Head Boy in 1942-43. Not just at School, but outside School hours. I have vivid memories of long walks with him on Sunday afternoons, when we covered the sort of distances that would nowadays qualify for charity sponsorship: Sheerness to Warden Point or even to Leysdown (although we did cheat sometimes and come back by bus). I spent many hours, too, watching him tackle difficult Chopin études on the upright piano in his front room, turning the pages when he nodded.

Jake was an accomplished pianist – and, later, organist. At School, he was asked by two Sixth Form giants – Denis Parham and John Spice (violinist and cellist respectively) – to join them in playing trios, despite his youthfulness and technical limitations; he said “they were very kind and tolerant!” When teaching at Nottingham, he played the piano for the Nottingham Hospitals Choir.

On leaving School, he did his national service in the R.E.M.E. We exchanged letters sporadically when he was in Egypt and I was in the Signals in India, but we caught up with each other again at Oxford, where we overlapped for a year or thereabouts. Jake was at New College reading English, while I was at Lincoln, and his love of English literature, which he developed under Cliff Beer at Borden, was already both apparent and infectious. He persuaded me to go with him to lectures by Lord David Cecil (one of his tutors) on the Elizabethan Poets, and they convinced me that I, too, should have read English, and not History – but by then, it was too late to change!

After he took his degree, we saw less of each other – mostly meeting at the Annual Reunion Dinner – because much of his teaching career was spent in Nottinghamshire. He began at Ilkeston Grammar School, but in 1956 moved to Mundella Grammar School, Nottingham, where he was Head of English. He stayed there until 1979 when the School was earmarked to become a Comprehensive, and spent the last five years before retirement teaching at Forest Fields Sixth Form College.

Jake was a Grammar School boy through and through. He was a product of one himself, of course, but he passionately championed and believed in them. And at Mundella, he was at his happiest because he was able to combine his love of music with his love of literature. He helped to produce the operas for which the School was famous, and accompanied pupils to Trinity School of Music. Above all, he was a very gifted English teacher, and clearly succeeded in passing on his own enthusiasm for the subject to his pupils. He still corresponded with some of them 35 years after they left School! Two Mundellans paid moving tributes to him at his funeral, describing how he had not merely touched but shaped their lives. One of them concluded with a Hamlet quotation: “He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again”. That was Shakespeare's quaint way of saying “They don't make 'em like Jake any more”.

Graham Barnes

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## 10. Request from James Connelly (BGS 1953-54)

We have been contacted by James (Jim) Connelly, who now lives in Canada, asking for anyone who remembers him to get in touch. He says "Greetings from Canada. I was briefly a pupil at BGS (Form 1 East) in 1953-54 before my family moved away. Like many in the school in those days, I travelled each day by train from Sheerness, a journey which yielded immense scope for mischief of various sorts. If anyone from those days remembers me, I would be delighted to hear from them." If you would like to get in touch with James, please email him at [james.connelly@tpsgc-pwqsc.gc.ca](mailto:james.connelly@tpsgc-pwqsc.gc.ca).

Graham Barnes mentioned the journey from the Island to school at the 2011 Annual Dinner - see a transcript of his speech starting on page 15 of the 2011 Website Digest. If you would like to share your stories of the journey to and from the island, send them to [webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk).

## 11. Laming cycles to Paris!



Caught in the act: The OBA's hon secretary Chris Laming snaffles some carbs at a lunch stop during the Demelza 101, a charity cycle ride from Sittingbourne to Paris in aid of the Sittingbourne based Demelza Hospice Care for Children charity. One hundred riders took part for the one cause and between them raised more than £200,000.

The event was staged over four days at the end of April and concluded at the Eiffel Tower.

Chris said: "It's an awfully long way and I'm pleased to say that I managed to cycle the whole route which included some fairly testing hilly sections."

He thanked all those who donated sponsorship money including a number of old boys and others connected with Borden Grammar School.

"I got involved in the event because a friend works for the charity and persuaded a group of us to take up the challenge. We trained very hard over many months and our reward was completing the ride safe in the knowledge that the money raised is going to a tremendous charity that does such good work in support of families in need of their care."

## 12. OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 13 June 2014

**The minutes of a committee meeting held at the School on Friday 13 June, 2014**

**Members present:** P. Lusted (in the chair), K. Sears, A. Snelling, D. Palmer, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, P. Taylor. M. Pack, C. Laming

**Apologies for absence:** President J. Hopkins, T. Akehurst, D. Jarrett, N. Hancock, K. Shea

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**Minutes and matters arising:** The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 31 January, 2014, were agreed and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

**Correspondence:** A letter been received from old boy George Beynon thanking Dave Palmer for the website digest and reflecting on the annual remembrance service.

The president had written requesting some financial support for a laser cutter to be used in the school technology department. It was agreed that a donation of £2,500 would be made immediately, with up to £2,000 to follow towards the end of the association's financial year. This would provide the cash flow to cover the outlay for the annual dinner in March.

**Treasurer's report:** Association funds stood at £4,958.86 with virtually all subs received and the head had been advised that funds were available if he had a project in mind. There had been no call on our funds this year to assist any boys who would otherwise not be able to afford to go on the Y9 trip to Ypres (we granted £1,000 last October towards travel expenses for the needy). We paid Les Olive £100 for his expenses and we have paid £130 as a deposit for next year's dinner. Postage paid to BGS re dinner notice was £280, so we should save on this next year with an email only pre-dinner campaign.

**Dinner Secretary's report:** More than 60 Old Bordenians met on 22 March at UK Paper clubhouse in Sittingbourne for the 2014 annual reunion dinner of the Association.

Guest speaker was Leslie Olive, music master at Borden Grammar School in the 1970s, who went on to combine a career in education in Surrey and Suffolk with his talent for forming and running choirs and latterly his own full, and professional, symphony orchestra.

Les spoke passionately about the importance of education and the difference between education and business as he toured the room with microphone in hand to elicit the views of some of his former pupils. Both Ken Coker and Greg Barry spoke movingly about their time at school and what music and inspirational staff members had meant to them.

The new president of the Association, and head teacher at Borden, Jonathan Hopkins, responded to the toast to the School and Association with a comprehensive account of his teaching career and his family life. He thanked the old boys for their donation to school funds enabling the recent purchase of a new minibus and he recounted his first year at the School and the challenging conditions he had encountered including an Ofsted inspection within his first few weeks. He said he had been pleasantly surprised by the strength of support from the PTFA and the old boys and by the underlying spirit of Borden which, he had been advised by another staff member, gets under the skin.

The 2015 annual reunion dinner will take place at UK Paper on Saturday 7 March and the guest speaker will be old boy Dennis Fowle who will speak on the subject of "So I started a newspaper and George Hardy is to blame".

**Membership report:** Nothing to report at this time of year.

**Hockey report:** Dave Palmer gave a brief account of OBHC's season noting that the Men's 1st XI had finished higher than Gore Court's 1st XI in the same division.

**Football report:** Keith Shea provided a full end of season report for the committee. This will be added to the Website as a separate article.

**Website report:** The website has been stable since the last report. Eleven new articles or comments on

| Title   | Date       |
|---|------------|
| <a href="#">Laming cycles to Paris!</a><br>(Alias: laming-cycles-to-paris)  | 2014-05-07 |
| <a href="#">Request from James Connelly (BGS 1953-54)</a><br>(Alias: request-from-james-connelly-bgs-1953-54)             | 2014-04-28 |
| <a href="#">Memories of A.A. Jacobs ("Jake") - BGS 1936-1943</a><br>(Alias: memories-of-a-a-jacobs-jake-bgs-1936-1943)    | 2014-04-26 |
| <a href="#">Kent Schools 220 Yards Relay Champions 1945</a><br>(Alias: kent-schools-220-yards-relay-champions-1945)       | 2014-04-11 |
| <a href="#">Christian Smith</a><br>(Alias: christian-smith)   | 2014-04-11 |
| <a href="#">OBA Reunion Dinner 2014 - report &amp; photos</a><br>(Alias: oba-reunion-dinner-2014-report-photos)           | 2014-03-23 |
| <a href="#">2014 Annual Reunion Dinner</a><br>(Alias: 2014-annual-reunion-dinner)   | 2014-02-10 |
| <a href="#">OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 31 January 2014</a><br>(Alias: oba-committee-meeting-minutes-31-january-2014) | 2014-02-10 |
| <a href="#">Website Digest 2013</a><br>(Alias: website-digest-2013)   | 2014-02-10 |
| <a href="#">Harold Vafeas</a><br>(Alias: harold-vafeas)   | 2014-01-29 |
| <a href="#">Spot the difference!</a><br>(Alias: spot-the-difference)  | 2014-01-18 |

articles have been added since that report. Eleven new articles or comments on now registered to be informed of any new articles posted onto the website.

The picture on the left shows the most recent additions to the website, together with their date of posting. As always, it would be helpful if committee members would consider producing something of interest to post on the website.

We'd like to reiterate the small cost to the Association of the website. This is less than £20 a year, which covers the cost of the .co.uk and .com website addresses.

The Website Committee will be investigating the possibility of raising funds by incorporating suitable advertising on the website in the future.

Contact points for the website committee continue to be David Palmer at DavidPalmer@blueyonder.co.uk, Peter Lusted at bowerlanders@icloud.com or Alan Snelling at alan@uftoncompany.co.uk.

# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

**Remembrance report:** Minutes of a meeting held on Sunday 11 May, 2014, at 5 Roonagh Court, Sittingbourne.

Members present: C. Laming, N. Hancock

Apologies received from D. Jarrett and K. Sears

1 Date of remembrance service 2014: It was agreed that this year's service would be held on Saturday 8 November.

2 CL would write to Bryan Short asking whether he would be prepared to lead the religious service this year. Stanley Evans would also be invited – CL to send note.

3 The school would be asked to reserve the Old Hall for the ceremony.

4 Nothing had been heard from M. Stewart. CL would send him another email to see whether he would be prepared to give another talk as in previous years.

5 CL would write to the head teacher asking for school involvement – senior students and staff and inquiring whether a tour of the school might be possible (Tim Hewitt).

6 CL would make contact with David Jarrett to check which veterans Denis would normally invite. Try to ensure continuity of invitations to regular attendees. Ditto the invitations normally issued by M. Stewart.

7 CL to take care of the usual catering supplies – wine / nibbles.

8 Graham Barnes to be asked to MC the event.

**Any other business:** A proposal by Dave Palmer to limit the OBA committee meetings to one per annum (immediately following the AGM in October) was accepted. Ad hoc meetings would be called at other times in the year only if required.

Mike Pack volunteered to take over from Neil Hancock as Hon. Treasurer when Neil steps down in October.

Mike Pack reported on the memorial service held in Sittingbourne for Harold Vafeas. The secretary was asked to let the head know that the OBA would be willing to contribute to any school memorial to Harold.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

AGM and next committee meeting takes place on Friday 3 October 2014 – note 7.00 pm start time.

## 13. Old Bordenians Football Club - end of season report 2013/14

It is tempting to file exactly the same end of season report as last year's having experienced two remarkably similar back to back seasons in the Sittingbourne 5-a- side League. However ....

Last season we had a very slow start but then enjoyed a purple patch towards the end and eventually finished 4th in the league narrowly missing out on the runners-up spot. This year we had a slow start and a storming finish and finished 4th again, although we were not as close to 2nd spot.

We won through to two cup finals last year and we did the same this year. Last season we lost one of the finals 1-3 and did the same this year and by the same score. We went on to win the Knockout Cup 2-1 last year, our first winner's trophy for many years and, guess what, WE WON IT AGAIN THIS YEAR but this time by a stonking 3 goals to a rather inadequate 1. No doubt about it, a slight improvement.

We had a good incentive to win it AGAIN because we have mislaid the actual trophy so it gives us another year to find it. If that fails then we will have to go for the hat trick of wins in the hope that, just as Brazil did in 1970 (stay with me on this one) we get to keep the trophy for good.

There, alas, any similarity between Brazil and the Old Bordenians ends although it could be argued that some of us playing competitive 5 a side into our 50s and 60s does make us nuts.

Our squad is again largely unchanged from last year but avid readers will have remembered that, at the end of last season there was a tantalizing chance that the squad could be bolstered by even more younger legs. Well, you can stop fretting because it did happen and we now have 4 players in the squad still in their 30s!

And the good news doesn't stop there because they will still be in their 30s next season so with a better start to the 2014/2015 season we are hoping to add to our haul (let's be honest, it is now a haul) of silver (tin) ware.

'Old Bordenians, still the Knockout Cup holders' the stadium announcer could have screamed but just as last year there is still no announcer and still no stadium.

Below is a photo of the Knockout Cup winners sans the Knockout Cup.

## OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014



The 2013/2014 squad: Standing (just) from left to right: Andy Hargreaves, Cliff Cork, Gary Johnson, Peter Thompson, Keith Shea and Simon Thompson. In the front (wondering how they will stand up afterwards) are Jon Cork, Adrian Mackender, Julian Cork and, in the bag, is Shy Nick our 10th squad member.

As ever, we are always keen to hear from any Old Bordenians wanting to play. Contact details below.

Keith Shea

12th June 2014.

[toshea@live.co.uk](mailto:toshea@live.co.uk)

### 14. Music From The Waves

We have received information regarding the exploits of an Old Bordenian via a former teacher of the school (Les Olive, who was the guest speaker at the last OBA Reunion Dinner). Les's email is reproduced below.

*Martin Soons, whom I taught as a boy at Borden Grammar School in the 1970s, sets sail on Monday (16th June) to sail around Britain in aid of the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra.*

*I am joining him on two legs of the journey, from Lymington around Land's End to Padstow, and then again from Kinlochbervie to the Orkneys.*

*Martin suffered a femoral deep vein thrombosis after a ski-ing accident severely damaged his knee, and he will be in daily contact with West Suffolk Hospital as he continues to dose himself with Warfarin all the way round his 2,000-mile challenge.*

*His doctors have encouraged him to go ahead with the circumnavigation, because he can, but also because his courageous example in this great adventure will encourage other people suffering from a dvt not to give up their normal lives.*

*The Suffolk Philharmonic is also a great adventure, and perhaps the greatest challenge of my own life.*

*Since we launched in 2012 we have been greeted with the most amazing feedback from people who have attended our free community concerts and our symphony concerts alike.*

*But the costs are high. At our symphony concerts, sell-out ticket sales can cover no more than half the costs.*

*To help give the SPO project a fair wind, Martin has generously invited the SPO to benefit from sponsorship of his circumnavigation.*

*Please will you support him, and in doing so support the SPO, and support me?*

## OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

*You will find the story on Martin's blog at [www.kepturningright.com](http://www.kepturningright.com) where there is a link to the Suffolk Philharmonic's page on the Just Giving website.*

*If this appeal is successful, we plan to include Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture in our 2nd November concert to mark its success and as a kind of musical-nautical "thank you."*

*Please give very generously.*

*Best wishes*

*Les Olive*

### 15.50 Years On: Class of 1957-1964 Reunion



For the past few months, Colin Wiles and Bill Bailey have been organising a reunion to "celebrate" leaving Borden Grammar School 50 years ago. This took place on Friday 6 June 2014 and Bill has produced the following report of the event:

On Friday 6th June 2014 I joined a group of elderly gentlemen gathered outside the main entrance of BGS...some 50 years after leaving the school. Tim Hewitt, property manager, was there to greet us and, after a group photo (see above), conducted us around to the right hand side of the old building so that we could enter via a door where once there had been a path between school and the basketball court that we knew back in the mid-sixties. Having done the rounds of the "old" school we moved onto the newer areas, and the splendid library.

At every turn there was a great deal of nostalgia, this was Ken Booth's classroom (Latin and music)...now full of computers, this was the library...now full of computers...and so on. The main vestibule was more familiar as was the headmaster's office, which had not changed much at all. We were delighted to see the lighted sign above his door was still in place...how often did I wait in trepidation for it to display "Enter" in green for an appointment with George Hardy? No cane above the fireplace, however, so we were safe. As we toured around it became clear that every room had been re-designated, repainted and generally cheered. Jim Howard's Spanish and French room on the eastern corner now enlarged to incorporate a section of corridor. And likewise the corridors, now lined with students' work.

Even "our" hall, minus its wall bars, had found use as a dining hall (re-charging machine for pre-payment luncheon cards!). The hall did at least retain the knock down stage and the stage electrician's board was where I left it. One of our party, Chris Willott climbed onto the stage to reprise his triumph as Edith the maid in the school production of "Blythe Spirit" (see photo). Fortunately, he resisted the temptation to sing "Always" in a piping falsetto this time.

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We noted that the hole in the ceiling that we created had, at last, been patched. A stage maroon proved to be a little more powerful than anticipated during one production, filling the hall with smoke and deafening the watchers of the dress rehearsal of.....the name of the production escapes me. And the outside area to the south of our hall, where I filmed "Driving Dizz" (see You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wsclcpjt6EE>), has been roofed over, there is now a cafeteria.

Up the staff staircase to the first floor, the dining room and kitchens had become classrooms. And "Tot" Wheatley's "new" maths block had been enlarged and re-modelled and was now a lab. These changes didn't stop the memories returning, especially when we found the whole school photos on the top corridor where we were pleased to find labs where labs should be.....minus the woodblock floors that harboured the mercury that we spilt when misbehaving.

The tour proved to be a great ice-breaker, bridging the years and getting us in the right frame of mind for the evening's event across the road in the UK Paper Club where drinks (served by a Young Bordenian) and a buffet were waiting. It was interesting to note that, after a while, the missing hair and the extra pounds didn't matter because the features and mannerisms of youth were still there. 26 Old Boys, plus one (excuse me Ann) "Old Girl" who joined us occasionally for a science A level, quite a few with partners, gathered from all over the world. Australia, Zambia, Grand Cayman, Malaga, Italy and all over the UK, too. Over 25,000 miles travelled. After a short welcome by the two organisers, Colin Wiles and Bill Bailey, an informal evening of nostalgia followed, a few items of memorabilia on show and a slide show of photographs and cine films. We realised that this was our "Prom" as we didn't so much leave school as drift away after the exams. No leavers' dinner, no stretched limos.

We embraced a wide range of professions too, a professor, lecturer, a lawyer, schoolmasters, IT men, mine logistics, accountancy, refrigeration, Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm. George Hardy once said something to the effect that his aim was to make gentlemen of working class lads...whether we were working class is open to debate but I think George would feel pleased with the gentlemen who gathered together in the old school.

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There was general agreement that the event was a great success, the finances worked out well, and so there will be an even more informal event eventually, probably in a pub somewhere, partly to enable those who missed the event to catch up with the old crowd, partly to spend the balance of the pot gifted by non-attenders. Anybody who joined Borden in the mid to late fifties who is interested can email Bill Bailey on [billandcherrill@gmail.com](mailto:billandcherrill@gmail.com) to be included on the circulation list.

### Attendees

55 intake: Tony Crosse, David Mitchell, John Shepherd

56 intake: Trevor Beer, Andrew Potts, Tony Stables, Paul Taylor, George Welch,

57 intake : Andrew Bailey, Michael Beer, Phil Champness, Stephen Coulson, Michael Cox, Phil Dangerfield, Rebecca Dittman, William Foreman, Tom Frewin., David Garlick, Richard Harris, Dizz Izzard, Roger Lerpiniere, Doug Littlejohns, Nigel Moon, Alan Saunders, J Barry Smith, Alan Walker, Colin Wiles, Chris Willott, Richard Worthington.

58 intake: Paul Benians

Others who can be contacted via Bill Bailey

Mark Ackhurst, Malcolm Bradshaw, John Burrage, Richard Chadwick, Alan Gillett, Mark Wilson, Dennis Parsons, John Hogan, Patrick Lockerby, Fred Lupton, Alan Ormsby, Robert Priston, David Trinkwon, John Walker.

Editor's note: If any attendees would like to add comments, please send an email to [webmaster@oldbordenians.com](mailto:webmaster@oldbordenians.com) and I will add to the website.

## 16. Marion Minhall

---

We have just sadly heard that Marion Minhall, a former teacher at the school, has passed away after a short illness. Our sympathy and condolences are with her family.

Marion was a regular at the Old Boys Dinner and indeed was our Guest Speaker in 2008 just after she retired, having joined Borden in 1984 where she became Head of Lower School and was especially responsible for developing the Debating Society which saw the school team reach the All England finals.

The funeral took place at Borden Church on Thursday 24th July at 11-30am.

Link to BGS site article –

[http://website.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=796](http://website.bordengrammar.kent.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=796)

Comment received from John Gibbard :

*I would like to pass on my sincere condolences following the news of Marion's passing.*

*In my time at BGS along with my brother Richard, 'Mrs Minhall' was a genuine and profound influence on my education. From her engaging English literature lessons, her role as our form mistress, champion*



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*of our debating and public speaking teams and the pastoral care she offered throughout she is part of many of my fondest memories at the school.*

*I recall standing on the stage in the old hall reciting Shakespeare under her instruction for a recital to be held in a random barn somewhere in front of Felicity Kendall (I'm not sure what competition it was!) and, to this day I can still recite much of the Hamlet soliloquy as a direct result of her insistence one afternoon that if boys were to say 'to be or not to be, that is the question' then they should jolly well learn the whole thing. We did, and it stuck.*

*I remember also her real devotion to her 'boys' and initiatives like her uniform shop (finally, proper rugby tops and school scarves) and I remember her cheerful anecdotes and her choked recollections (at the OB's dinner in 2008) of another dear teacher, Jon Adams after his untimely death in Qatar.*

*The confidence I have in public speaking and debating and my continued affection for the same (albeit less publicly) are entirely down to her and I am forever grateful for that. I am pleased to have caught up with her in 2008 and only wish, like so many, that there were more opportunities to do so in later years.*

*Once again, my deepest sympathies at the loss of your mum, please take some comfort that all our memories of her are brilliant ones,  
fondly*

*John Gibbard (leaver 1996)*

### **17. Old Bordenian (and current teacher) called up for England!**

---

Simon Robbins, Old Bordenian and current Borden Grammar School teacher, has been selected for the England over 55s Hockey Squad. Further details can be found on the Old Bordenian Hockey Club website.

### **18. Can you spare a couple of hours a year?**

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I've just worked out the average age of an Old Bordenian Association Committee Member. It is 107.333 recurring. Mark you, I only just scraped a Pass in Maths, but the figure I've arrived at seems entirely plausible to me. After all, most of us have been on the Committee for 70 or 80 years. Well, it seems like it....

We are appealing here and now for someone out there – ideally at least a couple of someones – to bring that average down. It may sound like a massive ask and a massive commitment, but it isn't – not least because we have just decided that, unless emergencies arise, we'll try to get by in future with one general Committee Meeting a year. On the same evening as the AGM.

There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the matters which need most attention – in particular the Website and the Remembrance Gathering – are dealt with by sub-groups which meet as often as is required. The remainder – the Dinner, finance, the sports sections, etc. – more or less roll on under their own steam and do not need the input of Committee discussions. Secondly, thanks to Bill Gates, we now have instant communication at our fingertips when something crops up; there aren't many of us who don't have electronic mailboxes these days. We simply don't need to make inroads into people's valuable private time by summoning them to quarterly meetings.

So it's not a huge sacrifice, being a Committee Member. One meeting a year, with appropriate lubricants provided, isn't asking a lot, is it? Then why am I making this appeal? Well, being an Old Bordenian brings many benefits, but the Secret of Eternal Youth isn't one of them! Above all we badly need an input from those who left School in the past, say, 20 or 30 years to help us make the Association more relevant and attractive in the 21st Century. It is already doing what we believe is valuable work by keeping Old Bordenians in touch, by sponsoring projects like remembering those who gave their lives in conflict; and by providing modest financial assistance to the School, partly to acknowledge the debt we all owe to Borden. But there may be other things we could do, or better ways of doing what is already being done, which will more readily occur to new, and especially younger, minds.

If it sounds a bit intimidating to turn up by yourself at this year's AGM (Friday 3rd October, 7pm), why not bring a like-minded companion, and come as a pair – or a threesome or foursome for that matter? The more the merrier. We really would be grateful for your presence, and nobody will pressure you to sign up for life.

Graham Barnes

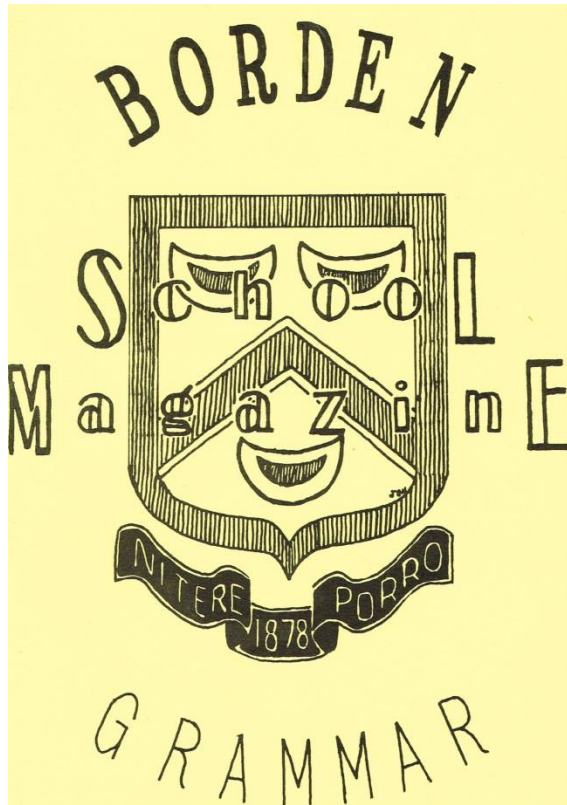
### **19.25 Years On!!**

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Were you a Borden pupil 25 years ago? When there were no First or Second Formers (or should that be Year 7 and Year 8 students in modern terms?) wandering the corridors. If so, you may find the 1989 Borden School magazine, reproduced below, of interest. [Website Digest editor's note: Unfortunately, I am unable to reproduce the whole magazine here in the digest, but I have listed what is available in the magazine. Readers of the paper copy of this Digest will need to access the electronic version via a local library, son, daughter, nephew,

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niece, etc.!] Do any of the reports within the magazine jog memories? Feel free to share your thoughts with other Old Boys by sending them to [webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk) and I'll publish on this website.



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|--|
| Page 1: Summer 89 - Editorial                        |
| Pg 2-3: School Governors                             |
| Pg 4-5: News & Notes; Parents & Friends              |
| Pg 6-7: Valedictories                                |
| Pg 8-9: Valedictories (cont); Old Boys' Successes    |
| Pg 10-11: Successes (cont); Prizegiving              |
| Pg 12-13: Prize List - 1988                          |
| Pg 14-15: Prizes (cont); After Hours - school clubs  |
| Pg 16-17: After Hours - school clubs (cont)          |
| Pg 18-19: After Hours - school clubs (cont)          |
| Pg 20-21: Sports & Games (Games Staff 1988-89)       |
| Pg 22-23: Sports & Games (House comps, Soccer)       |
| Pg 24-25: Sports & Games (Hockey & Cricket results)  |
| Pg 26-27: Sports & Games (Sports Day 89, Athletics)  |
| Pg 28-29: Sports & Games (Squash, Football report)   |
| Pg 30-31: Sports & Games (Football & Hockey reports) |
| Pg 32-33: Sports & Games (Hockey & Cricket reports)  |
| Pg 34-35: Club News (Chess, Fencing, Orchestra)      |
| Pg 36-37: Club News (Radio, Jazz, Folk, Debating)    |

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| Pg 38-39: Club News (Debates)                          |
| Pg 40-41: School Parliament; Trips                     |
| Pg 42-43: Trips (cont)                                 |
| Pg 44-45: Trips (cont)                                 |
| Pg 46-47: Trips (cont)                                 |
| Pg 48-49: School Play                                  |
| Pg 50-51: School Play (cont); Away From The Chalk-face |
| Pg 52-53: Away From The Chalk-face (cont)              |
| Pg 54-55: Endpieces (Film Search)                      |
| Pg 56-57: Endpieces (cont)                             |
| Pg 58-59: Endpieces (cont)                             |
| Pg 60: Advertisements                                  |
| Back cover: Advertisement                              |

### 20. OBA Annual General Meeting Minutes - 3 October 2014

**The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the School on Friday 3 October, 2014**

**Members present:** P. Lusted (in the chair), A. Snelling, D. Palmer, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack, C. Laming

**Apologies for absence:** N. Hancock, K. Sears, T. Akehurst, D. Jarrett, S. Caveney

**Minutes and matters arising:** The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 October, 2013, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The secretary was asked to re-confirm to the school that the Association would offer a £50 annual school prize, to be awarded in the field of information technology studies.

There were no other matters arising.

# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

## **The 2014 officers and committee were elected as follows:**

President: J. Hopkins

Vice-President: P. Lusted

Hon. Secretary: C. Laming

Hon. Treasurer: M. Pack

Membership secretary: K. Shea

Dinner Secretary: C. Laming

Website representative: D. Palmer

Website advertising: K. Shea

OBA governor: A. Wilson

Football rep: K. Shea

Hockey rep: D. Palmer

Committee: N. Hancock, P. Taylor, S. Caveney, T. Akehurst, G. Barnes, M. Stewart, D. Jarrett, B. Gilbert, K. Sears, A Snelling

Accounts examiner: P. Taylor

Neil Hancock stood down as Hon. Treasurer and was warmly thanked in his absence for his service in the role over the past 13 years. Mike Pack has agreed to succeed him. Dave Palmer volunteered to take over as hockey rep.

The election of officers and committee en bloc was unanimously approved, having been proposed by G. Barnes and seconded by B. Gilbert.

**Constitutional changes:** None

**Correspondence:** None.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer had provided draft accounts and explanatory notes. These showed that for the year ended 31 July 2014 the association had made a loss of £4,683.03 taking into account donations of £8,500 to BGS, and other sundry items of expenditure including a loss on the dinner of £53.45, versus an income for the period of £4,209.59. However, the Association had £2,339.36 in the bank at the same date plus £228.80 from the sale of ties and a further £236 in the staff fund which the treasurer proposed should in future be added to the general fund.

The draft accounts would be checked by the accounts examiner and a meeting would be convened between the outgoing and incoming treasurers and the accounts examiner to effect a handover of the Association's accounts. This would include arrangements for a new banking mandate. It was agreed the new signatories would be the treasurer, the secretary and the vice-president.

The accounts would need to be signed off at a later date to be advised, possibly by an extraordinary committee meeting at the end of January.

**Membership report:** Keith Shea reported: We have 408 'paid up' members this year including 10 life members who do not pay an annual subscription.

On top of that we have 18 members who haven't yet paid their subscriptions. 17 of those pay by standing order which is not a good sign as the cancellation of a standing order is a predetermined act rather than an oversight so it means that the standing order has been cancelled for a reason.

The table below breaks down our 398 members (excluding the 10 life members referred to above) into those who are i) Honorary members and not required to pay subscriptions (3 members); ii) Life Members who are scheduled to pay £5 (11) and iii) the rest of the membership (384). The table shows the actual amount paid by these members. You will see that a number of members pay more than the required £10, whilst others continue to pay an old rate. Those shown below as paying nothing had in fact paid in advance in previous years and therefore nothing is due from them this year.

## OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

| Amount Paid        | Subscription Due |           |            | Grand Total |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
|                    | £0               | £5        | £10        |             |
| £0.00              | 2                | 2         | 12         | 16          |
| £1.00              |                  |           | 1          | 1           |
| £1.50              |                  |           | 4          | 4           |
| £5.00              |                  | 9         | 39         | 48          |
| £6.50              |                  |           | 2          | 2           |
| £10.00             | 1                |           | 309        | 310         |
| £15.00             |                  |           | 6          | 6           |
| £20.00             |                  |           | 7          | 7           |
| £30.00             |                  |           | 3          | 3           |
| £11.50             |                  |           | 1          | 1           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>3</b>         | <b>11</b> | <b>384</b> | <b>398</b>  |

We have so far received £3691.50 from these 398 members.

We continue to receive subscriptions for 7 members who have died and we should write to the families concerned to ensure that this is not an oversight on their part.

I will issue reminders over the next few weeks to those that haven't renewed, but I do not expect to recover much from the members who had previously paid by standing order for the reason mentioned above.

The gradual decline in membership continues. Last year we lost 14 members who paid by standing order and this year it is likely that we will lose another 17. We do need to try to stem the tide and increase the membership to ensure the long term future of the Association. One idea that has been put forward is to make all Old Bordenians members of the Association and ask for donations rather than subscriptions. This may be too unwieldy and therefore difficult to administer, after all there have been 100 or so leavers each year since 1974 (that's 4000 leavers) but this and any other ideas are worth consideration.

Progress has been made with capturing email addresses and we now have 212 addresses on the database for the 408 members. My thanks to Dave Palmer, Alan Snelling and Peter Lusted for updating the data base which I haven't had the time to do because of work commitments.

**AGM and Committee Meeting date:** Friday 2 October, 2015 at 7.00 pm

**Annual dinner:** Saturday 7 March, 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.43 pm.

### 21. OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 3 October 2014

**The minutes of a committee meeting held at the School on Friday 3 October, 2014**

**Members present:** P. Lusted (in the chair), A. Snelling, D. Palmer, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack, C. Laming

**Apologies for absence:** N. Hancock, K. Sears, T. Akehurst, D. Jarrett, S. Caveney

**Minutes and matters arising:** The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 13 June, 2014, were agreed and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Treasurer's report:** As per the AGM report.

**Dinner Secretary's report:** The 2015 annual reunion dinner will take place at UK Paper on Saturday 7 March and the guest speaker will be old boy Dennis Fowle who will speak on the subject of "So I started a newspaper and George Hardy is to blame".

**Membership report:** As per the AGM report

# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

**Hockey report:** None.

**Football report:** The 2014/2015 indoor 5 a side season is only one evening (2 games) old and so there is little to report from the new season. Had we not finished second in both of those games I may have tried a little harder.

Instead I shall submit the report issued for the last committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 which summarized the 2013/2014 season although I am able to offer the occasional update in *italics*.

"Football report for 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

It is tempting to file exactly the same end of season report as last year's having experienced two remarkably similar back to back seasons in the Sittingbourne 5-a- side League.

Last season we had a very slow start but then enjoyed a purple patch towards the end and eventually finished 4th in the league narrowly missing out on the runners-up spot. This year we had a slow start and a storming finish and finished 4<sup>th</sup> again, although we were not as close to 2<sup>nd</sup> spot.

We won through to two cup finals last year and we did the same this year. Last season we lost one of the finals 1-3 and did the same this year and by the same score. We went on to win the Knockout Cup 2-1 last year, our first winner's trophy for many years and, guess what, WE WON IT AGAIN THIS YEAR but this time by a stonking 3 goals to a rather inadequate 1. No doubt about it, a slight improvement.

We had a good incentive to win it AGAIN because we have mislaid the actual trophy so it gives us another year to find it. If that fails then we will have to go for the hat trick of wins in the hope that, just as Brazil did in 1970 (stay with me on this one) we get to keep the trophy for good. *Call off the dogs, the trophy has been recovered. It was found at the house of Peter "I haven't seen it. Cliff or Aida had it" Thompson, thus easing the pressure on us to win it for a third time.*

There, alas, any similarity between Brazil and the Old Bordenians ends although it could be argued that some of us playing competitive 5 a side into our 50s and 60s does make us nuts. *Should anyone still harbour thoughts of any similarity then we can scotch that by pointing out that we, unlike Brazil, did not lose 7-1 to anyone last season.*

Our squad is again largely unchanged from last year but avid readers will have remembered that, at the end of last season there was a tantalizing chance that the squad could be bolstered by even more younger legs. Well, you can stop fretting because it did happen and we now have 4 players in the squad still in their 30s!

And the good news doesn't stop there because they will still be in their 30s next season so with a better start to the 2014/2015 season\* we are hoping to add to our haul (let's be honest, it is now a haul) of silver (tin) ware. \*Whoops.

'Old Bordenians, still the Knockout Cup holders' the stadium announcer could have screamed but just as last year there is still no announcer and still no stadium.

**Website report:** The website continues to be stable. Eight new articles or comments on articles have been added since the last report.

| Title   | Date       | Hits |
|---|------------|------|
| Can you spare a couple of hours a year?<br>(Alias: can-you-spare-a-couple-of-hours-a-year)  | 2014-08-27 | 33   |
| Old Bordenian (and current teacher) called up for England!<br>(Alias: old-bordenian-and-current-teacher-called-up-for-england)    | 2014-08-05 | 40   |
| Comment from John Gibbard<br>(Alias: comment-from-john-gibbard)   | 2014-07-22 | 63   |
| Marion Minhall<br>(Alias: marion-minhall)   | 2014-07-09 | 299  |
| 50 Years On: Class of 1957-1964 Reunion<br>(Alias: 50-years-on-class-of-1957-1964-reunion)  | 2014-06-18 | 107  |
| Music From The Waves<br>(Alias: music-from-the-waves)   | 2014-06-17 | 73   |
| Old Bordenians Football Club - end of season report 2013/14<br>(Alias: old-bordenians-football-club-end-of-season-report-2013-14) | 2014-06-17 | 60   |
| OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 13 June 2014<br>(Alias: oba-committee-meeting-minutes-13-june-2014)                               | 2014-06-17 | 80   |

The table on the left shows these recent additions to the website, together with their date of posting and number of hits to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

As always, it would be helpful if committee members would consider producing something of interest to post on the website.

The OBA email addresses, [admin@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:admin@oldbordenians.co.uk) and [webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk) are publicised in the "Contact Us" section of the website and available for use by

all. Any emails sent to these addresses are automatically forwarded to the 3 website committee members for action.

Once again, I feel I should point out the small cost to the Association of maintaining the website, which is less than £20. This covers the cost of the .co.uk and .com website addresses.

# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

The Website Committee will be investigating the possibility of raising funds by incorporating suitable advertising on the website in the future, but this will have to be in conjunction with the school who host the website.

Contact points for the website committee continue to be David Palmer at [DavidPalmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:DavidPalmer@blueyonder.co.uk), Peter Lusted at [bowerlanders@icloud.com](mailto:bowerlanders@icloud.com) or Alan Snelling at [alan@uftoncompany.co.uk](mailto:alan@uftoncompany.co.uk).

**Remembrance report:** This year's annual service of remembrance is planned for Saturday 8 November, 11.00 at BGS.

**Any other business:** K. Shea suggested using Facebook as a means to reach potential members of the Association.

There was a lengthy debate about the future of the Association, its funding and its declining membership.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

## 22. Maroon 1989

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Looking back 25 years, it transpires that our guest speaker at the 2015 Dinner, Dennis Fowle, contributed an article to the Maroon that year. With apologies to Dennis if he planned to use this article as the draft for his speech!! [Website Digest editor's note: Unfortunately, I am unable to reproduce the Maroon article here in the Digest, as the quality would make it illegible]

## 23. Ken Sears

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We regret to announce the passing away of Ken Sears on 9 November 2014. Ken was a long standing member of the OBA committee and will be sadly missed. More details of Ken's life and contribution to the Old Boys will be added shortly.

The funeral took place on Thursday 20th November 2014 at 2-30pm at Hope Street Church, Sheerness.

## 24. Ken Sears (1927-2014) - An Appreciation

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Every individual is unique, but some are unquicker than others! And Ken Sears, who died on 9th November 2014, was certainly one of those.

Born in Sheerness, he lived in the same house in Winstanley Road all his life. After attending the Broadway Primary School, he went to Borden until he was 18 and thence to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he graduated in Modern History. He spent a further year in Government Studies at Mansfield College before being employed initially by Coventry Council and then by the City and Guilds Institute, where he worked as an Education Officer for the rest of his career. So much for the bare facts. What made Ken so remarkable, however, was his huge range of interests and 'extramural' activities, of which three in particular stand out.

Not necessarily in order of importance, the first was Oxford itself. He relished University life and enjoyed a lifelong love affair with academia, which manifested itself in all sorts of ways. He was a familiar figure at Lincoln, where he frequently exercised his right as an M.A. to dine at High Table once a term; he was Treasurer of the Mansfield Alumni Association for many years, and

a member of the Adam von Trott Committee; and he had a very large collection of books, including over 200 history books. He was a keen collector of other items too, including old coins, and he had the pin worn by Captain Scott on his ill-fated Antarctic Expedition.

## OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

Ken always kept a schoolboy diary and, at the time it happened, he noted the attempt on Hitler's life in 1944. When he went to Mansfield, he found that one of the architects of the plot, Adam von Trott, had been a student there before the War, so after a great deal of painstaking research (out of which developed an enduring friendship with the von Trott family), he wrote and had published a book about him entitled "Opposing Hitler".

His second great passion in life arose from his acute awareness of the self-sacrifice of those who died for this Country on active service, especially in WW1. When he was quite young, he discovered that his great, great grandfather had fought at Waterloo (he even had his Waterloo Medal, shown in the picture above), and perhaps it was this, plus the fact that his father fought at Ypres, which sparked his original interest. He became a Trustee of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Chapel at Ypres, led many pilgrimages there, and for several years edited the Friends' monthly newsletter. He also sought out and laid wreaths on the graves of many Old Bordenians killed in Belgium and France in both World Wars.



The third big motivation in Ken's life was his religion. Like his father, he was a committed member of the Congregational Church (later to become part of the United Reform Church) where he was a lay preacher. He demonstrated his beliefs not just in worship but in many practical ways. For instance, you might find him in the kitchens of the American Church in London, helping to prepare meals for the homeless. He also supported a hospital in India, run by the London Missionary Society.

The list of Ken's interests and involvements is almost endless. Surprisingly for someone who was not the 'athletic type' at School, he was a keen Member of Kent County Cricket Club, and sat regularly at Canterbury on a bench which he donated in memory of his parents; his interest in Parliamentary affairs was evidenced by his membership of the Hansard Society; for 35 years, he was a Governor of St George's Primary School in Sheerness; and last but not least, he was a Member of the Committee of the OBA. for almost 60 years.

As unusual as his range of activities were the character and idiosyncrasies of the man himself. He spurned many of the technological advances of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Everything he wrote was in his own neat handwriting, not from a typewriter or computer keyboard; he had a black-and-white TV set long after they became museum pieces; his telephone had a dial, not push-buttons and he had the same car for the best part of 50 years! Above everything else, Ken had a prodigious memory. He never seemed to forget a name, a place, an event or even the remarks of others, which he could recall verbatim.

This may help to explain why conversations with him were so extraordinary and often such lengthy affairs. As one of the eulogists at his funeral said, you didn't start up a conversation with Ken if you were in a hurry! He took you on a journey from A to B via C to Z – interspersing his remarks with all kinds of excursions down interesting side-roads, rather like Ronnie Corbett's monologue stories. But he always found his way back to the main highway again!

Ken was unfailingly kind, gentle and patient. When did anyone ever hear him lose his temper or see him act discourteously? I knew Ken for

79 years – from the Broadway School, then at Borden (including evacuation to S. Wales) right up to and including Lincoln College and then on the OBA Committee for the past 25 years. Like everyone else who knew him, I shall miss him greatly.

Graham Barnes

### 25.2015 Annual Reunion Dinner

This year we are changing the way that we notify Old Boys about the Dinner:-

1. Emails will be sent to all OBA members where we hold your email address.
2. Letters will only be sent to those Old Boys, who are members of the OBA, who have attended the last two dinners.
3. A Dinner Letter is available to download on the website.

## OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

In the past an invitation letter has been sent to all OBA members but taking into account that the majority do not attend the Dinner, this has been a considerable cost to the Association which will now be saved.

Our aim for future Dinners is to switch across to electronic notification as quickly as we are able.

Peter Lusted

### 26. OBA Annual Remembrance Service - 8 November 2014

The Annual Old Bordenian Association remembrance gathering was held at the School at 11a.m. on Saturday 8th November, to commemorate the 99 Old Bordenians who were killed on active service during the two World Wars and in other conflicts. It was attended by a number of Old Bordenians, including Denis Jarrett, one of the founders of this event; by Anne Whitehead, daughter of Able Seaman Harry Bruce Hartridge, Royal Navy; and by Kathy Gambell and family, relatives of George Alfred King, Merchant Navy. We were also pleased to welcome three pupils from the School: Anthony Brinkman (School Captain), Tom Chapman (Vice-Captain) and prefect Lois Wakefield.

The service itself, conducted by Rev. Stanley Evans, took place in the vestibule beneath the Memorial Boards. The names of those who died were read out, followed by a minute's silence. As usual, it was a simple but moving act of remembrance. Afterwards, we adjourned to the School Library and listened to a talk by Marc Stewart on one of the Old Boys killed in WW1, Harold Locke, one of no fewer than nine brothers who attended Borden. Marc is now within sight of completing the mammoth task of compiling biographies of each of the individuals who were killed, which serve to remind us that they were not just names but flesh-and-blood young men to whom we all owe an unrepayable debt of gratitude.

### 27. Evacuees to Lewis School, Pengam



The son of Old Bordenian John Doran has provided us with a couple of photographs of Borden Grammar School evacuees that were sent to Lewis School, Pengam in the Rhymney Valley in South Wales in 1940. Unlike most of the others, John's family decided to stay in S Wales when the rest returned. After we received the pictures, Ken George, via OBA committee member Graham Barnes, has sent us a copy of the photograph from an old Maroon with names of many of those pictured, together with an accompanying article by John Young. John wrote "I've attempted to put a name to all the faces, though I can't vouch for the total accuracy of this exercise. There are also some names I cannot recall – perhaps other old boys can fill in the blanks. For the benefit of younger members, the picture was taken circa 1940-41. The evacuees were led by Mr Alan Highton (far right), assisted originally by Mr Higson and Mr Snelling. Mr Higson was later called up and Mr Snelling recalled to BGS. The lady teacher in the photo was recruited locally and various members of staff from Borden came on relief during the summer terms (notably Mr 'Mossy' Miller who met his future wife on one such visit). The picture shows 'Jimmy' Howard paying a visit to the 'outpost'. Mrs Highton & Mrs Snelling were a great support to us, particularly in the early months by keeping up morale and ensuring we wrote home regularly (and although we, or they, were unaware of the process) 'counselling' us on our first time away from home & family."

If you can identify any of the few remaining unknown faces, please let us know.

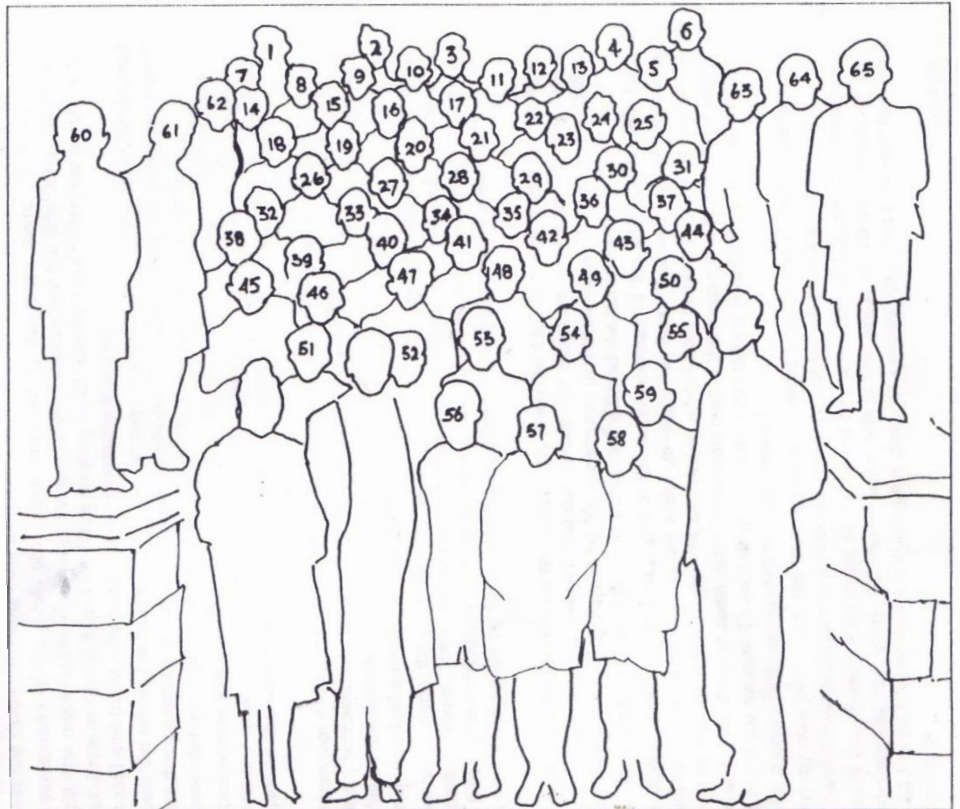


# OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2014

## LEGEND

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Alan Jacobs             | 34. John Highton      |
| 2. Gordon Rogers           | 35. Geoffrey Coomber  |
| 3. Douglas Bourne          | 36. Donald Hancock    |
| 4. Gordon Harris           | 37. Ken George        |
| 5. Edwin Spillet           | 38. John Young        |
| 6. Wilf Baron              | 39. Maurice Lelliot   |
| 7. Ken Sears               | 40. Harris (Jnr)      |
| 8. ?                       | 41. Kenneth Kirkbride |
| 9. Ronald Swan             | 42. David Orrom       |
| 10. John Carter            | 43. Leslie Cornelius  |
| 11. Albert Hammond         | 44. James Wright      |
| 12. D. Rabbitt             | 45. Ivan Paine        |
| 13. Ronald Gray            | 46. Des Keohane       |
| 14. Bill Sutton            | 47. Bob Catchpole     |
| 15. Graham Barnes          | 48. Francis Howting   |
| 16. Bernie Ward            | 49. Jim Stead         |
| 17. Stan Silverston        | 50. John Doran        |
| 18. Alan Haycock           | 51. Jim Foster        |
| 19. Eric Matthews          | 52. Peter Highton     |
| 20. Gordon 'Bucket' Powell | 53. Harry James       |
| 21. ?                      | 54. Ron Austin        |
| 22. Doug Beasley           | 55. ?                 |
| 23. Pop Smith              | 56. Ed Westacott      |
| 24. Geoffrey Beynon        | 57. George Beynon     |
| 25. ?                      | 58. Teddy Feist       |
| 26. Roger Hale             | 59. Alan Hopkins      |
| 27. Tubby Lowes            | 60. ?                 |
| 28. Bill Blunt             | 61. Jimmy Booty       |
| 29. Thompselt              | 62. Ray Philo         |
| 30. Peter Kitcatt          | 63. Bob Doucy         |
| 31. John Harvey            | 64. Eric Penny        |
| 32. Tony Hedges            | 65. John Sims         |
| 33. Thom                   |                       |

Mrs. Mary Simmonds,  
Jimmy Howard (on relief from B.G.S.),  
Alan Highton (Leader)



As well as the large number of Borden Grammar pupils, other notable attendees of the Lewis School have been Neil Kinnock, former leader of the Labour Party and Simon Weston, Falklands war veteran.

Coincidentally, whilst researching old Maroon magazines, I came across the following letter to the OBA Secretary from Geoff Beynon, the late brother of George Beynon (an OBA Life Member), and both in the photograph above:

3 Templewood,  
Welwyn Garden City,  
Herts.

21st September, 1968

Dear Mr. Secretary,

You may like to draw the attention of the Editor of the *Maroon* to the fact that Mr. Neville Richards has died — he was Senior Mathematics Master at Lewis School, Pengam, during the time when some of us were evacuated to S. Wales and did in fact succeed L. S. Knights as Head of the School. Contemporaries of mine (B. A. Ward, W. Sutton, N. Brand, G. Barnes, to name a few) will recall that he was also C.O. of the School's A.T.C. contingent — or was it the local unit?

With best wishes,

GEOFF. BEYNON

\* \* \*