

Old Bordenian Association



Website Digest 2016

www.oldbordenians.co.uk

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2016

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1. "The Pirates Of Penzance" With The Girls Grammar School: May 1962

Richard Evans recounts his memories of the 1962 production of "The Pirates of Penzance", along with associated documents of the occasion:



"Every year at the end of the autumn term, it was a tradition at BGS that the School Play was performed. In fact I remember that in February 1955 the Old Boys also put on a play. Anyway, in 1961 it was decided that Borden and the Girls Grammar School should get together for a further production to be performed in May. For the initial year, 2 short pieces were chosen. The first was "Trial by Jury" a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, which was followed after the interval by "Androcles and the Lion" a play by George Bernard Shaw.

Producing two different works on the same evening would have been quite a task, but it must have been considered a success because in the following year it was decided to do a full length Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance".

I didn't take part in the 1961 production, probably because I was studying for A levels, but I did play a part the following year in 1962, as by that time I only had one further A level to worry about.

My main memory of taking part was that it was so enjoyable, not least because the girls school had just been completed and had up-to-date stage facilities. Getting to know those strange creatures called girls that up until then we had only been allowed to have limited contact with in A level maths classes, was an additional pleasure.

Looking at the programme and the photographs, I'm amazed by the sheer number of people that it involved. Producing all those costumes must have been a major operation for the needlework classes at the girls school.

But, it was Trevor Webb, the music teacher at the girls school, who deserved the most plaudits. When someone hit a wrong note or the tempo ground to a halt and we all dissolved into laughter, he never got angry with us, all the time showing patience and giving us encouragement until we got it right. Why couldn't all of school have been like that? It must have been a major operation for the needlework classes at the girls school.

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<i>THE CAST</i>			
MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY	...	Richard Evans	Producers Mr. D. LUCAS
THE PIRATE KING	Christopher Fletcher	Miss E. K. MUNRO
SAMUEL (his Lieutenant)	Terry Holmes	Director of Music Mr. T. R. WEBB
FREDERIC (the Pirate Apprentice)	Alan Whiting	Assistant Director Mr. D. LUCAS
SERGEANT OF POLICE	Tony Bussell	
MABEL	} General Stanley's Daughters	Joan Ryder	~~~~~
EDITH		Sandra Stone	
KATE		Elizabeth Allen	Our thanks are due to the following :-
ISOBEL		Joyce Yale	Stage Manager Mrs. Y. COVENEY
RUTH (a Pirate Maid of All Work)	...	Geraldine Snelling	Scenery Miss G. EVANS
Chorus of Pirates, Police, and General Stanley's Daughters			Make-up GIRLS OF THE SCHOOL
~~~~~			<b>Lighting</b> ... .. RICHARD EVANS
ACT I—A Rocky Seashore on the Coast of Cornwall.			<b>Costumes</b> ... .. Miss S. GRIGGS
ACT II—A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight.			Mrs. F. L. GRIGGS
~~~~~			Mrs. R. C. TAYLOR
There will be an Interval of fifteen minutes between the Acts.			Mrs. F. HOGBEN,
			Mrs. D. COVENEY
			and Girls of Forms 1D, 1M, 3E, 4G, 5F, 6C, 6U
			The BAROQUE ORCHESTRA (Leader : Renée Dammers)
			And other members of Staff and Girls.

In May 1963, another G&S operetta "HMS Pinafore" was produced, but by then I had left Borden for the big world outside."

Richard Evans

2. Old Bordenian Historian Needs Help

Old Bordenian Marc Stewart is appealing for information about men from Sittingbourne who died fighting for their country. The appeal was featured in Sittingbourne News Extra, one of Sittingbourne's local papers, recently (January 2016). Unfortunately, the quality of the newspaper article isn't good enough for reproduction in this digest, but is available on the website.

3. Joseph Wright – Obituary

It is with regret that we have recently heard of the death of Joseph Wright, at the age of 26. Joseph attended Borden Grammar School from 2000 to 2007. His death was reported in the Sittingbourne News Extra – again, the quality of the newspaper article isn't good enough for reproduction in this digest, but is available on the website.

4. BGS School Photos 1954 and 1960

Old Bordenian Richard Evans has provided a good deal of material related to the school from the mid-fifties to early sixties. I shall be adding this material to the website over the coming weeks. However, the long school photos would not be legible within this Digest, but they are available on the website, where it is possible to enlarge each photo considerably.

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5. Gregor Thomson (BGS 1986-1992) – Obituary

We sadly have to pass on the news of the death of Gregor Thomson. He was a student at the school from 1986 to 1992 and was a senior prefect and head of Swale House. He passed away after a battle with cancer on 7 February 2016.

He was born in June 1974 to Scottish parents though he was brought up in the Republic of Ireland. He was a model student, with the school recording that he 'is a real gentleman'. He took A Levels in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths achieving 2 As and 2 Bs..

6. 2016 Annual Reunion Dinner - Report and pictures

Fifty six Old Bordenians attended this year's annual dinner at UK Paper Clubhouse in Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, including retired headmaster Bryan Short and the vice-chair of school governors, Phil Bromwich.



Welcome messages were read out from OBA vice-president Peter Lusted and from Borden Grammar School head teacher Jonathan Hopkins.

The head teacher's report stated:

"Writing this has provided a welcome break from being in the middle of a two-day recruitment for a new Assistant Headteacher and it is probably appropriate to reference some of the long-standing staff who have retired in the past year:

- David Jenkins retired at Christmas after 34 years' service as Head of Science
- Geoff Sandiford also retired at Christmas after 31 years as Head of Technology
- Rob O'Brien retired as Head of English after 23 years' service in the summer.
- Keith Groom will be retiring this Easter having worked as a Technology teacher for 20 years.

Whilst recruitment is arguably the sternest challenge facing the profession we are fortunate that many staff choose to commit to the school for periods of long service.

Sporting success: Year 9 won the Kent Cup in Football, beating The Harvey from Folkestone 2-0 in the final. Year 7 'B' team shared the Kent Cup with Hurstmere School, having drawn the final 1-1. Over 100 teams enter the tournaments each year so these were stand out successes. Clearly the Old Bordenians reference on the side of the minibus propelled teams to victory!

Academically: The school achieved its' best GCSE results for years in the summer of 2015; this was obviously achieved against a backdrop of tougher standards nationally. The school achieved the best value-added score for any school in Swale and was delighted to do so well.

Borden on tour: School trips ranged from Geographers venturing to Iceland, Historians to Berlin and The Battlefields; Linguists to France & Spain; RE students to Auschwitz and skiers to The Alps! Parents of new boys are encouraged to start saving from an early age!

Smartening up the main building: Many old boys or parents who have attended school events in recent months have commented on how smart the main building looks following the installation of new windows and doors. The £450k project has been signed off and has maintained the character of the building whilst adding somewhat to its appearance.

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Finally, the school roll now stands out 820 students, 50 more than when I started a few years ago.”

The guest speaker was Old Boy Stephen Bedelle Lieutenant Commander (Royal Canadian Navy). Steve joined Borden Grammar School in 1969 and left after ‘O’ levels in summer 1974. He joined the Royal Navy in January 1975, aged 16, as a Junior Electrical Mechanic, and after a year of training joined his first ship, **HMS Euryalus**, a Plymouth based Leander class frigate.

Having only ever been abroad once before joining the Navy (a day trip to Ostende), his first trip abroad with the good ship **Euryalus** was, of course, to Ostende. A Caribbean deployment late in 1976 more than made up for this somewhat disappointing start to his globetrotting adventures with visits to several tropical islands and two trips to Rio de Janeiro.

Further sea time in HM ships **Cardiff** and **Avenger**, which included service in the Falklands Conflict in 1982, was followed by extensive training courses, then two more years of sea time in **HMS Scylla** and promotion to Chief Petty Officer Weapon Engineering Artificer in 1986.

After promotion from the ranks to Sub Lieutenant in 1990, another two years at sea beckoned, this time in **HMS London**, a Plymouth based frigate, which included trips to the States, Russia, the Gulf of Oman and Singapore.

Various shore appointments in the Portsmouth area culminated in promotion to Lieutenant Commander in 2003 and a final golden goodbye posting in 2005 to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on exchange with the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) for three years, ending a 34 year career in August 2008.

However, the opportunity to remain in Canada and continue serving, only this time with the RCN, was too good to pass up and he has served a further seven and a half years with the RCN in Canada’s capital city, Ottawa.

Steve concluded his speech with an impassioned appeal for the long term survival of the Old Bordenian Association and the protection of the long-term friendships it fosters from school days as well as the financial support it has been able to afford the school over the years. He was given a standing ovation.

Neil Hancock then reminded those present that they were able to repay any debt they felt they owed to Borden Grammar by making a bequest to the school in their wills, citing the example of the late Kenneth Sears who had generously left £10,000 to the school. Neil pointed out that as an Academy the school is always in need of funds.

The pictures below are a selection of those taken at the Dinner (with many thanks to Dave Spicer). All pictures taken are available on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskwiHnH4>.



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Attendees (by table number) were:

Table 1: Alan Snelling; Martyn Calder; Cliff Cork; Mike Pack; Ian Baron; Peter Jeffrey

Table 2: Robert Dammers; Philip Nye; Paul Bedelle; Steve Bedelle; Phil Clements; Ken Coker

Table 3: Neil Hancock; Peter Taylor; Richard Waldmeyer; Alan Eyles; Phil Bromwich; David Carey

Table 4: Guy Lefroy; Alexander Earl; Steven Earl; Tim Hewett; Richard Evans; Dr Alan Whiting; Ray Hill; Alan Hill

Table 5: Barry Gilbert; Ian Hazell; Terry Saunders; Keith Fairbrass; Ivor Jones; Sean Caveney

Table 6: Rev'd Stanley Evans; Bryan Short; Allen Wraight; Graham Barnes; Ken George; E Hobday

Table 7: Dr Andrew Edney; Tony Whibley; Peter Bedelle; F E Baker; Dennis Fowle; John Bishop; Gerald Bishop; Mike Revell

Table 8: Bob Field; Dave Palmer; Dave Spicer; Phil Bryant; Stewart Jarrett; Andy Bushell; Keith Shea; Steve Crick; Lee Harding; Chris Laming

7. Old Bordenian Football Club - Notice of Reunion

It's a cold winter's Sunday morning at 11am and for just a brief moment you recall those wonderful moments of Sunday League football with the Old Bordenian FC. You may even have tried to outlast your boots and played with the veteran's team or, in one last attempt to control the waistline, played with the 5 a side team.

On the other hand, if :-

a) you have often thought 'what ever happened to so-and-so?' or

b) you failed to pay a 50p match fee, or missed a turn to wash the kit, or you are the person who kept the No.9 green and white striped shirt, now is the time to catch up with old mates and confess. Remember the stories get better each time they are told. No need to reply, just turn up. Old Bordenian FC reunion - Thursday 31 March 2016, 8pm onwards. The Golden Hope pub (new Wetherspoons, former Sittingbourne Magistrates Court), bottom of Park Road, Sittingbourne.

Organisers: Alan Snelling & Peter Lusted can be contacted via email to admin@oldbordenians.co.uk.

8. Old Bordenian Hockey Club - Appeal

Old Bordenian Hockey Club has launched an appeal for funds to replace the current pitch. Alan Wilson, Old Bordenian and Chairman of the Hockey Club, has sent a letter to OBHC club members outlining the need for this replacement (letter available to view on the website). The School and the Club together are making a substantial contribution to the funding of the project. If any OBA members are willing to make a donation, it would undoubtedly be gratefully received. If you wish to make a donation, the OBA can provide details.

9. BGS School Photo 1928

Old Bordenian Peter Highton has kindly provided a copy of the long 1928 school photo. Again, the long school photos would not be legible within this Digest, but they are available and can be expanded by going to the OBA Website's flickr pages at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskzmd1FL>.

10. Old Bordenians Football Club - Reunion

The Old Bordenian Football club 11-a-side team ceased playing in 1992 and, although a 5-a-side section formed shortly afterwards, there was nothing to bring them all together again. Therefore it was decided to create an event which would hopefully do just that. Nothing strenuous was considered, so it was just a meeting in a pub without the need to play football!

Would it work – yes indeed! We met in the **Golden Hope** pub in Sittingbourne on 31st March and 16 former players turned up, some of whom had not met in over 20 years. Some players were now living abroad or on holiday so there could even have been more.

The various discussions were about goals scored and goals missed. With 16 players covering the football years from 1973 to 1991, there were plenty of incidents from which to choose. There were also several alcohol fuelled requests to play yet another "last" veterans match but we all know it will not happen. But it was unanimously agreed to hold another reunion next year.

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Various photos were taken. See below for a small selection or the OBA flickr site (<https://flic.kr/s/aHsky1wGHc>) for all photos. We were going to play "**Name that Player**" but we decided to put the names on each photo to avoid any embarrassment.



Jamie Henley; Peter Lusted; Alan Snelling



Dave Palmer, Matt Norris, Rob Kemsley, Alan Boyns, Andy Bushell

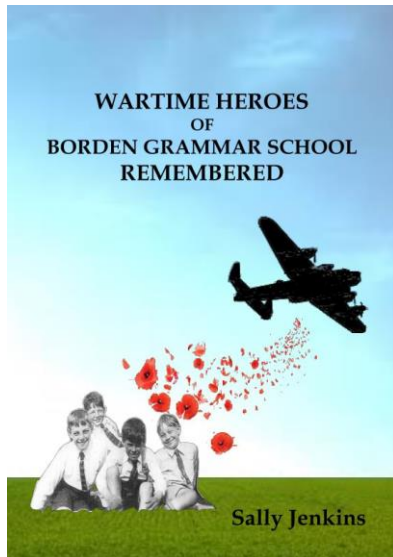


Phil Griffiths, Soz Ferrar, Stuart Reynolds



Peter Le Beau, Andy Bushell, Roger Goodger

11. Wartime Heroes Remembered



Recently a new book has been published which will be of interest to Old Bordenians. Written by Sally Jenkins, daughter of Old Bordenian Bob Jenkins and dedicated to his memory, it is called Wartime Heroes of Borden Grammar School Remembered. It comprises around 250 pages, including just over 40 pages of School history from 1878 onwards. The bulk of the Book, however, is devoted to a collection of biographical details of over 60 of the 90 or so Old Boys killed on active service in WW1 and WW2 - a poignant reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe to so many young men who gave their lives.

It is part funded by Swale Borough Council and published by the Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, 67 East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 4BQ. where copies are available. Copies are also obtainable by post (cost £10.95 inc P & P); enquiries to sales@sittingbourne-museum.co.uk.

12. Brian Tyler – Obituary

We are sorry to hear that Brian Tyler passed away peacefully on 24 April, 2016, aged 86. The funeral service took place on Tuesday 10 May at 1pm, at the Garden of England Crematorium, Bobbing.

Peter Lusted, OBA vice-President, commented "I cannot claim to be one of Brian's contemporaries, but first met him when I started playing for the Old Boys Football team, aged 17 in 1968. Brian was the "old man" playing wide on the left side. It soon became clear that this "old man" was a player of some quality and could certainly teach the young Old Boys a thing or two. I subsequently learnt that he had played for Portsmouth. Brian was one of life's and football's gentlemen and it was always good to see him at Old Boys' Dinners and have a chat. A sad loss indeed."

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Ted Hobday has responded to this news:

Sorry to hear of Brian's death. He and I were in the same "B" form, starting at 2B in 1941 and finishing in 1946. New boys together in Mr Goff's form. We were very friendly throughout those years and usually got together at OBA events, at least when I was at home from sea.

Brian was always a "sporty" type, playing all games for form, house and school and a great favourite with Mr Horlock because of his sports. He was also always in the lead of most things that took place.

The other thing that he and I had in common (together with others that started in 41) is that we and George Hardy were new boys together! Although they were the war years, culminating in the "Doodlebug" period, they were good years at BGS.

And of course I am the same age as Brian!

Ted Hobday

Marc Stewart has also responded to the news:

Bryan Tyler was the nephew of another Old Bordenian, Sergeant William Tyler, Machine Gun Corps, who was killed in action in 1916, aged twenty. Until very recently, Bryan was a regular attendee at the OBA's Remembrance Service, held each year in the school to commemorate those old boys who lost their lives in the two world wars, and was invariably dressed in his very dapper houndstooth suit. He clearly had a great deal of respect for his uncle, once commenting that he must've been "bloody good", or words to that effect, in order to be promoted to sergeant at such a young age. He'll be greatly missed.

Marc

13. School photo - Form 3A 1967/68

Old Bordenian Bob Wiberg sent in this photo of Form 3A from 1967 / 1968.



Names shown below:

These have been provided by Peter Nokes and Cliff Cork:

Back row:- Dave Shoebridge; Paul 'Spanner' Baron; Dave 'Fred' Wheately; Robert 'Mig' Wiberg; Paul 'Drac' Dracott; Graham 'Dozy' Driscoll; Richard 'Dick' Esling; Andrew 'Muzza' Murray; Dave 'Twitty' Witts.

Middle Row:- Stephen 'Sid' Morley; David 'Paddy' Dickson; Andrew Smith; Ashley 'Fish' Phillips; Clive Cummins; Richard 'Glick' Garlick; David 'Hig' Highton; Geoffrey Baker; Peter 'Knocker' Nokes.

Front Row:- ?? Dave Harris ?? ; Andrew Price; John Martin; ? 'Lucy' Attwell; Cliff 'Crick' Cork; Martin Ralph (??); John Pritchard; Lesley 'Tatty' Simmons; Peter 'Bog' Sellen.

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14. History 'O' Level paper - 1962

As we approach the end of the traditional GCE examination season, I thought it would be appropriate to reproduce a number of examination papers from earlier years. These were published on the original website a few years ago, but were lost when we moved to the new site in 2013. I have added the papers to the OBA Flickr site as it is easier to expand the papers to a legible size. This link will take you to the 1962 History 'O' Level paper (now GCSE) - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskytCSE5> and you will need to click on the individual pages to expand.

15. Maths 'O' Level paper - 1959

Continuing the publishing of old GCE papers, typing in the following to an internet web browser will take you to the 1959 Maths 'O' level paper - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskyg7Er>. As usual, click on the individual pages to expand.

16. French 'A' Level paper - 1969

Continuing the publishing of old GCE papers, typing in the following to an internet web browser will take you to the 1969 French 'A' level paper - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskCzU2st>. As usual, click on the individual pages to expand.

17. English Literature 'O' Level paper - 1973

Continuing the publishing of old GCE papers, typing in the following to an internet web browser will take you to the 1973 English Literature 'O' level paper - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskBNB75V>. As usual, click on the individual pages to expand.

18. Additional Maths 'O' Level paper - 1973

Continuing the publishing of old GCE papers, typing in the following to an internet web browser will take you to the 1973 Additional Mathematics 'O' level paper - <https://flic.kr/s/aHskyth5wy>. As usual, click on the individual pages to expand.

19. BGS Head Boy and Prefects - 1961/62

Continuing the publication of artefacts provided by Old Bordenian, Richard Evans, here is the Head Boy and Prefects from 1961/62.



BACK ROW: Ogle, Wackett, Stapley, Parrett, Wood
MIDDLE ROW: Evans, Carter, Muddiman, Shepherd, Chandler, Bird
FRONT ROW: Fletcher, Holmes (Head Boy), Jackson

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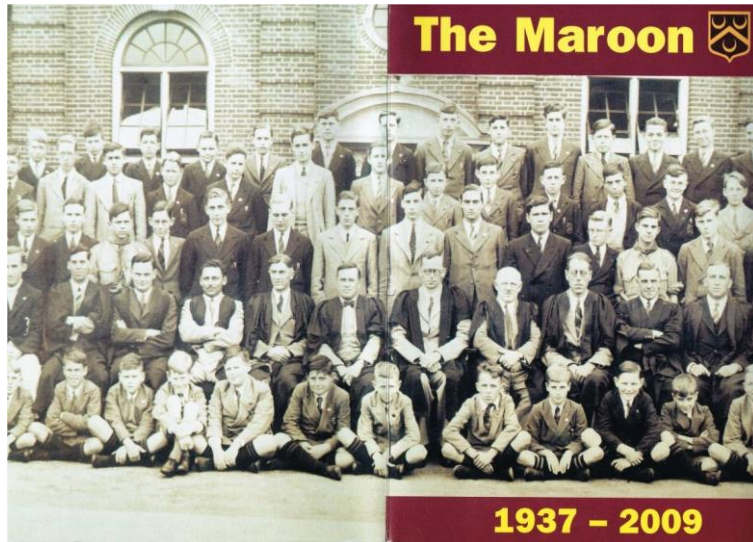
20. Old Bordenian on stage at Glastonbury!

If anyone wonders what happens to OBs that fail to pay attention in class, and you happen to be at Glastonbury this year, come along and see Barclay James Harvest on the Acoustic Stage on Friday 24th June. I'll be at the back of the space pushing up faders and pressing buttons as I'm their lighting designer for this event. I can't promise wearing the OBA tie, but I'll try and write about it when I return.

Thanks

Ken Coker 1969 - 1976.

21. Maroon 2009



The Maroon was the original publication produced by the Old Bordenian Association. The last edition was published and distributed to members in 2009. Whilst its passing was a sad occasion and was mourned at the time by many Old Boys, this unfortunately didn't extend to any volunteers to take over the production and editing of the magazine. The website has now taken over as the communication vehicle for the Association, and I aim to add to the site as many of the old Maroon publications as possible over the coming months / years to ensure they are available to as wide an audience as possible. I am starting with the last

edition. I will also add the contents of each edition on the website, separate from the pdf of the actual magazine, to enable any searches of the website (using the search box at the top right of the website) to find specific articles. [Website Digest readers – it is clearly not practical to reproduce the entire Maroon here, but it is available on the website]

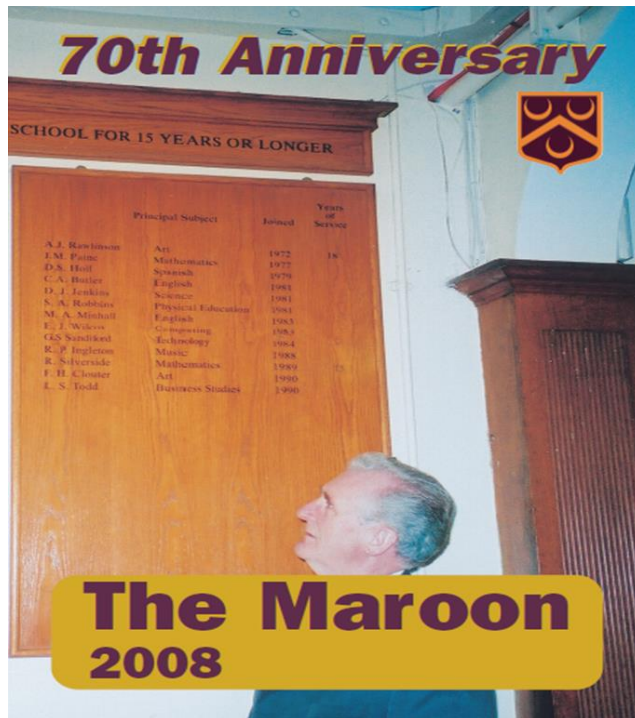
Maroon 2009 Contents

- Page 7 - The President's Letter
- Page 8 - Annual General Meeting 2008
- Page 9 - Constitution
- Page 11 - Officers and Committee
- Page 12 - Accounts and Treasurer's letter
- Page 14 - Obituaries
- Page 16 - New Memorial Honours Boards
- Page 17 - Editorial remarks
- Page 18 - Annual Dinner 2008
- Page 21 - Sheppey Reunion Dinner 2008
- Page 21 - Golf Challenge Match 2009
- Page 22 - Six of the Best
- Page 28 - OBA Website Report
- Page 30 - Hockey Club Report
- Page 35 - Football Club Report
- Page 40 - Like father, like son
- Page 40 - The Wellards
- Page 43 - The Hightons
- Page 45 - The Popes
- Page 50 - The Lamings
- Page 53 - If the cap doesn't fit...
- Page 55 - 20 Years in the Peak District
- Page 57 - Marathon Man Extraordinary
- Page 59 - The Companionship of....
- Page 60 - From the Head's Files
- Page 63 - Membership List

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22. Maroon 2008

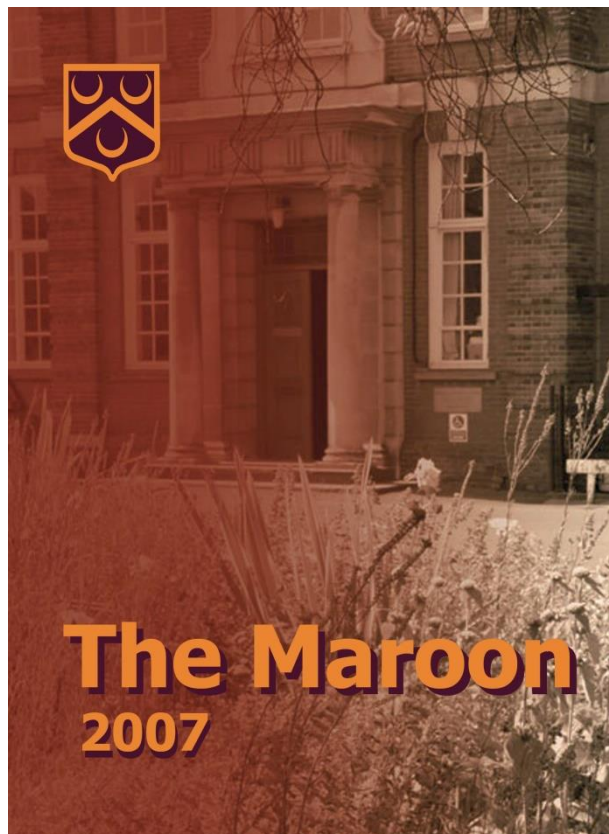
Continuing the addition of Maroon publications to the website (see Maroon 2009 above), the contents of Maroon 2008 are below. The magazine is available on the website.



Maroon 2008 Contents

- Page 7 The President's Letter
- Page 8 Annual General Meeting 2007
- Page 10 Accounts
- Page 11 Officers and Committee
- Page 12 Editorial
- Page 13 Obituaries
- Page 16 Annual Dinner 2007
- Page 18 Sheppey Reunion Dinner 2007
- Page 19 OBA Website Report
- Page 20 OBA Ties
- Page 21 Hockey Club Report
- Page 22 Football Report
- Page 24 Whatever happened to...?
- Page 26 New Library
- Page 28 A tour of the School
- Page 38 A la Crem.
- Page 39 Last tango in St Gau
- Page 42 New tricks
- Page 44 Barge Boys Reunited
- Page 46 Godzone
- Page 48 Uganda
- Page 49 A Revivalist Meeting
- Page 51 From the Head's files
- Page 54 Membership List

23. Maroon 2007



Continuing the addition of Maroon publications to the website (see Maroon 2009 above), the contents of Maroon 2007 are below. The magazine is available on the website.

Maroon 2007 Contents

- Page 7 The President's Letter
- Page 8 Annual General Meeting 2006
- Page 11 Notice of AGM 2007
- Page 12 Accounts 2006
- Page 13 Officers and Committee
- Page 14 Obituaries
- Page 17 We will remember them
- Page 20 OBA Website & Editorial
- Page 22 Annual Dinner 2006
- Page 24 Sheppey Reunion Dinner 2006
- Page 25 Free Beer
- Page 26 Hockey Club Report
- Page 28 Football Report
- Page 30 Retirement of Ann Wood
- Page 31 Anyone for Tennessee?
- Page 32 Interview techniques
- Page 34 Cat-snapping
- Page 36 A biology lesson in Brazil
- Page 38 Fifty years on
- Page 40 Notes from a small island
- Page 42 Latina memoranda
- Page 43 From the Head's files
- Page 46 Wanted!
- Page 47 Membership List.

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24. John Clancy – Obituary

It is with regret that we have heard of the death of Old Bordenian John Clancy, at the age of 75. The Sittingbourne News Extra paid tribute to John in the 27 July 2016 edition. This was a full page tribute to John and would therefore be illegible in this digest, but it is available on the website.

25. Duncan Goddard – Obituary

It is with a sad heart that we have to report the death of Duncan Goddard this morning. Duncan followed his father Ken and brother Ian, to Borden and then became involved with the Old Boys, where he served the Association brilliantly as Dinner Secretary and as a Committee member for many years before moving to Devon. He was a terrific personality and possessed his late father's wonderful sense of humour. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. The funeral took place at Ottery St Mary church on Tuesday 20th September at 2pm.

26. OBA AGM - minutes of meeting held 7 October 2016

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the school on Friday 7 October, 2016

Members present: P. Lusted (in the chair), S. Caveney, D. Palmer, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack, C. Laming, M. Stewart, N. Hancock, I. Hazell, T. Saunders.

Apologies for absence: G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, T. Young, A. Snelling. Those present reflected on the recent death of former committee member and stalwart dinner organiser Duncan Goddard. He would be sadly missed.

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 2 October, 2015, were agreed and signed as a correct record. The committee would continue striving for a positive working relationship with the school. There were no other matters arising.

The 2016 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: Vacant

Website representative: D. Palmer

Website advertising: Role deleted

OBA governor: M. Stewart

Football rep: K. Shea

Hockey rep: D. Palmer

Committee: N. Hancock, P. Taylor, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, A. Snelling, I. Hazell, T. Saunders

Accounts examiner: P. Taylor

The election of officers and committee en bloc was unanimously approved, having been proposed by D. Palmer and seconded by P. Taylor.

Constitutional changes: Various 'tidying up' changes largely concerning roles and responsibilities were tabled by D. Palmer and agreed by those present (proposed by I. Hazell and seconded by P. Lusted). A new version of the Constitution is contained within these minutes

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's report: There has been very modest activity in the last 12 months and I will confine my comments to just three points of note:

1 The loss of £217 on the annual dinner resulted from a committee decision to reduce the cost of the meal from £23 to £20 with the Association funding the cost of hiring the hall (£255). This was an attempt to increase numbers or at least reduce the recent fall off.

2 The income from subscriptions actually increased this year (by £10) reversing the recent trend that I referred to in my report last year. Keith Shea will provide details but I believe that we have enrolled at least four new members this year.

3 The donations to the school totaling £215 comprise a cricket prize of £90 (last paid by us three years ago) and the cost of servicing the clock (£125).

The outcome as shown in the balance sheet (circulated at the meeting and recorded in the minutes book) is a surplus for the year of £2,965 and a healthy bank balance of £10,031.

Finally, my thanks go to Peter Taylor for undertaking the 'examining' duties.

Mike Pack, Hon. Treasurer

Membership secretary's report: We have 393 (last year 392) 'paid up' members this year. This total includes:

- 380 paying members including 1 (1) honorary member and 9 (13) other life members who choose to pay a subscription even though they are not obliged to.
- 1 honorary member and 11 (7) life members exempt from paying a subscription,
- 1 unknown subscriber

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There are 6 standing orders paid up until last year that were not renewed this year and as last year I will issue reminders over the next few weeks to those that haven't renewed. Last year's reminders did produce some success so hopefully it will do again this year.

The table below shows the actual amount paid by all members so far. You will see that a few members pay more than the current subscription of £10, whilst others continue to pay a lesser amount reflecting previous subscription rates. Some payments are made in advance but I have only included the proportion of those advance payments attributable to this current year.

OBA subscriptions received 1/6/16 - 31/5/17		
Number of members	Amount paid £:p	Total of subscriptions received (£:p)
12	0.00	0.00
1	1.00	1.00
4	1.50	6.00
45	5.00	225.00
2	6.50	13.00
317	10.00	3170.00
1	11.50	11.50
6	15.00	90.00
4	20.00	80.00
1	25.00	25.00
Total No = 393		
£ total =		3621.50

So this year we have received £3,621.50 plus a further £10 (see below) making £3631.50 against last year's reported £3646.50. This year's total includes 1 (2) mysterious £10 subscription from someone who does not appear on my records and a £20 cheque from Leslie Nicholls for his 2015 and 2016 subscriptions and he has sent in his membership form so that we can set up an SO for 2017 and beyond.

We continue to receive subscriptions for 5 (6) members who have died and I must write to the families concerned to ensure that this is not an oversight on their part.

Sadly since the last AGM we have been made aware of the death of Duncan Goddard (70 – 77).

3 new members have joined the Association and they are:

- Darren Dixon (89-94)
- Richard Evans (54-62)
- Dr Alan Whiting (55-63).

As noted above Leslie Nicholls (45-52) has re-joined the association.

The membership is 1 more than last year although the income has fallen by £15 but hopefully the reminders may bolster that income.

Further progress has been made with capturing email addresses and we now have 230 (226) addresses on the database for the 393 members.

Keith Shea, Membership secretary

Meeting / dinner dates for the forthcoming year:

Annual dinner 2017: Saturday 25 March

AGM and committee meeting: Friday 6 October at 7.00 pm

There being no further business the AGM closed at 7.55 p.m.

THE CONSTITUTION of the OLD BORDENIAN ASSOCIATION

1. The name shall be OLD BORDENIAN ASSOCIATION.
2. The following shall be eligible for membership of the Association:-
 - (a) All those whose names have appeared on the Roll of the School
 - (b) Past and present members of the staff of the School
 - (c) Past and present members of the School's Governing Body
3. Honorary Life Membership of the Association may be conferred if it is considered that services have been rendered to the Association or to the School which merit the award of this distinction. The conferral of an Honorary Life Membership shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
4. The objects of the Association shall be as follows:-
 - (a) To hold reunions, to foster good fellowship and a corporate spirit amongst members.

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(b) To arrange sports and various activities for the members through recognised sections whose members should normally be paid up members of the Association.

(c) To assist the School and its organisations financially and in other ways.

5. There shall be free membership for the first three years after leaving School and thereafter the subscriptions shall be as fixed at the AGM from time to time and as published on the Old Bordenian website. No further Life Members, except Honorary Life Members, shall be accepted for membership.

6. All subscriptions shall be due on June 1st of each year.

7. Where a member is in arrears for more than one year membership shall lapse.

8. The funds of the Association shall be administered by the Honorary Treasurer, and all cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and either the Vice-President or the Honorary Secretary or such other signatories agreed by the Committee.

9. (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October at the School or such other location agreed by the Committee.

(b) If there are any special items that members may wish to include in the agenda, including changes to this Constitution, these must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least two weeks in advance.

(c) Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be published at least three months in advance on the Old Bordenian Website.

(d) The Treasurer shall prepare the Association's Annual Accounts made up to 31st July each year and have them certified by an Examiner appointed by the Committee and shall present them to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

10. The Officers of the Association, all of whom shall be Honorary and must be members of the Association, shall be elected at the AGM.

11. (a) The affairs of the Association shall be controlled by a Committee consisting of the following:- The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Dinner Secretary, , Website Representative, OBA Representative on the Board of School Governors, six other members and a subscribing member nominated by each of the recognised sections.

(b) The Committee shall have the power of co-option. Co-opted members shall have the same voting rights as Committee members.

12. Four members of Committee shall constitute a quorum for both the Committee meetings and the AGM.

13. The Committee shall have the power to set up various sub-committees and co-opt to them additional members from within the Association.

14. All minutes, reports and proceedings of sub-committees, duly signed by the Chairman, shall be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Extra Ordinary General Meeting. The Committee may call an Extra Ordinary General Meeting on the written application of ten fully paid up members of the Association.

27. OBA Committee Meeting - minutes of meeting held 7 October 2016

Members present: P. Lusted (in the chair), S. Caveney, D. Palmer, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack, C. Laming, M. Stewart, N. Hancock, I. Hazell, T. Saunders.

Apologies for absence: G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, A. Snelling.

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 2 October, 2015, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Correspondence: None.

Football report: The new season has started and much like all the other seasons we anticipate a slow start especially as our goalkeeper for the past 6 years has retired and we haven't replaced him. Instead we are taking it in turns in goal until we find the one who is least useless; mind you it could be worse, we could have Joe Hart in goal. However, the use of stunt goalkeepers is paying off, as we are top of the table after 4 games, 3 wins and 1 defeat, so it seems that our previously appalling league form is down to our bespectacled ex- goalkeeper. Maybe we should have suspected something when he followed the walls around the pitch to reach his goal. Half time changeovers took ages. This early season form won't last of course but it makes a pleasant change.

The lack of suitable venues for the Sittingbourne Indoor 5-a-side League has meant that we again have the 9.00PM – 10.30PM slot on Wednesdays but that only put one team off (Oz Clark 5 and they won everything last season so we're not sorry to see them go) however, two new teams have joined so there are now seven teams. That will make for interesting cup draws but it also provides more variety in the league so it's no bad thing.

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We have added one new player, Dave Collins, who we poached from Oz Clark 5 and he has made a difference to our performances and, even better, he is an Old Bordenian too.

Last season we finished in fifth place as you will see from the final table below but 4th was on the cards until we lost our final game against St Michaels.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Scored	Against	GD	Points
Oz Clarke 5	30	26	3	100	13	+87	81
Kestrels 2	30	19	3	47	22	+25	60
Faversham 2	30	15	4	47	40	+7	49
St Michaels	30	9	3	33	59	-26	30
Old Bordenians	30	6	8	33	55	-22	26
Faversham	30	3	3	14	85	-71	12

Again we had more success in the cups and won two runners-up medals in the Consolation Cup and in the Charity Cup. At this rate Peter Thomson will have to add an extension to his trophy cabinet.

This year's squad is: Peter Thomson, Cliff Cork, Jon Cork, Julian Cork, Simon Thomson, Gary Johnson, James Thingamy, Dave Collins and Keith Shea. Many thanks to our ex goalkeeper Aida who really will be sorely missed. So we desperately need a goalkeeper, one with his own gloves would be the icing on the cake and if they turn out to be goalkeeping gloves that would be the cherry on the top. If that's you please get in touch with me at toshea@live.co.uk

One last point: The first of hopefully many reunions of the Old Bordenians Football Club was held on 31st March 2016 and you can see a report on the Old Bordenians website.

Keith Shea, Football secretary

Hockey report: The following report was provided by Alan Wilson, Chairman of OBHC:

There have been some important developments as regards the men's 1st X1.

For some years, Old Boys men's 1st X1 have resided in Kent/Sussex Division 1, mostly, but not always, in the top half of the table, and, last season finishing fourth. As part of the usual end of season/pre-season review of the Club, it was clear that, although we were, overall, pleased with the 2015/2016 results of the men's 1st X1, we remained convinced that, with the addition of a couple of strong players, and a sound plan, we are quite capable of playing at a higher level.

We were aware of two players who were giving consideration to a change of club and discussions ensued. The result is that Tom Richford, who has played in the National Premier League for Canterbury for some years, and who was last year, and for several previous seasons, their 1st X1 captain, has decided to join Old Bordenian HC. Tom is a player of high quality and brings a wealth of experience. Sam Lund, an Old Bordenian who, for family reasons, has played at Holcombe HC, at the top level, since leaving Borden, also has joined us.

The former Canterbury HC men's 1st X1 coaching team of Kwan Browne and Huw Stevens have moved to National Premier club Hampstead and Westminster and, having shared our thoughts and plan with Huw, we are pleased to report that he has committed to coach also at Old Bordenian HC. Huw is a highly respected and experienced coach who will bring much to our club.

The need for a 1st X1 manager was identified some seasons ago but no suitable candidate was available. Bob Foster, a former OBHC 1st X1 player, has agreed to take on that role. With James Henley as captain and Richard Ford and Iain Burwood as co-vice-captains, the management structure is sound and experienced. The Club has high hopes for success for this season and beyond.

The Ladies 1st X1 management remains in the capable hands of Sanj Atwal as coach, Jo Wilson as captain and Jackie Woodhouse as vice-captain. Katie Lovelock, having taken a season's sabbatical in order to give birth, returns for the 2016/2017 season, and three new players have joined the club over the summer break.

In order to attract new players, the Club will run several Back To Hockey sessions in September which are aimed at men and ladies who used to play but, for whatever reasons, have stopped, and at any men and ladies who just want to give the sport a try. Anyone interested should email info@obhc.co.uk and go to the Club's website (www.obhc.co.uk) for details.

The Club continues to run 6 men's teams and 2 ladies teams, U14s, U16s and coaching for minis age 5 – 11.

Old Bordenian HC continues to host and manage, on behalf of Kent Hockey Association, the Swale Junior Development Centre and the Kent U13 boys Junior Academy Centre.

The artificial grass pitch at the School, owned jointly by Old Bordenian HC and Borden Grammar School, is in need of a replacement surface. The estimated cost of that project is £200,000+VAT and it is hoped that the work will take place in the summer of 2017. Competition for funding from bodies such as Sport England and others is intense and the club/school partnership must demonstrate that it will commit significant funding of its own to the project. Donations, of any amount, will be greatly appreciated and will strengthen the case for applications to potential funders. If you can consider making a donation, please email info@obhc.co.uk to find out how to do it. This project is vital to the future of the excellent artificial grass facility which the Club and School are very fortunate to possess.

Alan Wilson

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The final 2015/16 league positions of the respective teams are as follows:

- (a) Men's 1st X1 – Kent / Sussex Regional League Division 1 – 4th
- (b) Men's 2nd X1 – Kent Area League Division 1 – 5th (following promotion last year)
- (c) Men's 3rd X1 – Kent Area League Division 2 – 11th (relegated to Kent Open Premier A, following promotion last year)
- (d) Men's 4th XI - Kent Open Premier C – 10th
- (e) Men's 5th XI – Kent Open Division 2 – 8th
- (f) Men's 6th XI – Kent Open Division 3 – 10th
- (g) Ladies 1st XI – Kent Women's Premier Division – 3rd
- (h) Ladies 2nd XI – Kent Women's Division 4 – 10th (following promotion last year)

David Palmer, OBA Hockey Representative

Website report:

We continue to add articles to the website when they are received from members, although these continue to be few and far between! To supplement this input, we have added a number of old GCE 'O' and 'A' level papers to coincide with the exam season in May / June and also have started to add previous Maroon magazines to ensure they are readily available to all. Where possible, the contents of each of the magazines are listed on the website to ensure they are searchable, using the site's search facility.

During the year, the Website team decided to email all OBA members whenever a new article was added to the website, provided we didn't inundate members with emails. This ensured members were aware of new postings immediately, without the need to keep checking the site. Members were able to opt out of these information emails, with one member taking advantage of this opt out. The ability to opt out of website update emails is included in every email sent out, in line with bulk emailing etiquette.

Annex 1 shows the additions since last year's AGM, together with their date of posting and number of hits to 28th August 2016. For information, I have also added, at Annex 2, a table showing those postings with the most hits since the new site went live in January 2013.

As noted above, few articles are received from OBA members. To enhance the usefulness of the site and make it more appealing to fellow Old Bordenians, it would be appreciated if members would consider producing something of interest to post on the website. Any such articles should be emailed to webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk.

The website continues to be reasonably stable. There was a short period during Spring 2016 when the school site (host of the OBA website) was hit by a virus and the site was unavailable for a short period. However, during this time, the school IT technician took the opportunity to upgrade the hosting system to the latest versions of software. At my request, a 'Search' facility was also added. This can be found at the top right hand side of the website. We continue to be grateful to the school for providing the hosting capability for the website to reduce our annual costs. This in turn allows us to provide more money to school projects.

A Website Digest, containing all articles published in 2015 was produced and posted to those OBA members that registered to receive one when the Maroon ceased publication. The number of customers for the digest is reducing as a number of the original recipients have let me know that they now have access to the internet. The Digest, as usual, was made available to all members on the Website for download and printing.

The cost of maintaining the OBA website remains at less than £20 a year. This covers the cost of the registration of the .co.uk and .com website addresses.

The OBA email addresses, admin@oldbordenians.co.uk and webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk are publicised in the "Contact Us" section of the website and available for use by all members. Any emails sent to these addresses are automatically forwarded to the 3 website committee members for action.

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.

David Palmer, Peter Lusted, Alan Snelling

OBA Website Committee

28 August 2016

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Annex 1 - OBA Website posts since September 2015

Title	Date	Hits	Title	Date	Hits
Old Bordenian Hockey Club - Appeal (Alias: old-bordenian-hockey-club-appeal) Category: Sports News	2016-03-23	239	Maroon 2007 (Alias: maroon-2007) Category: Maroon	2016-08-01	40
Old Bordenian Football Club - Notice of Reunion (Alias: old-bordenian-football-club-notice-of-reunion) Category: Events	2016-03-13	325	John Clancy - Obituary (Alias: john-clancy-obituary) Category: Obituaries	2016-08-01	109
2016 Annual Reunion Dinner - Report and pictures (Alias: 2016-annual-reunion-dinner-report-and-pictures) Category: Events	2016-03-13	970	Maroon 2008 (Alias: maroon-2008) Category: Maroon	2016-08-01	43
Gregor Thomson (BGS 1966-1992) - Obituary (Alias: gregor-thomson-1966-1992-obituary) Category: Obituaries	2016-03-13	268	Maroon 2009 (Alias: maroon-2009) Category: Maroon	2016-08-01	43
BGS School Photo - 1954 (Alias: bgs-school-photo-1954) Category: School Photos	2016-02-22	282	Old Bordenian on stage at Glastonbury! (Alias: old-bordenian-on-stage-at-glastonbury) Category: General News	2016-06-20	352
BGS School Photo - 1960 (Alias: bgs-school-photo-1960) Category: School Photos	2016-02-22	366	BGS Head Boy and Prefects 1961/62 (Alias: bgs-head-boy-and-prefects-1961-62) Category: School Photos	2016-06-18	178
Joseph Wright - Obituary (Alias: joseph-wright-obituary) Category: Obituaries	2016-02-15	473	Additional Maths 'O' Level paper - 1973 (Alias: additional-maths-o-level-paper-1973) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-06-18	80
Old Bordenian Historian Needs Help (Alias: old-bordenian-historian-needs-help) Category: Remembrance	2016-02-15	214	English Literature 'O' Level paper - 1973 (Alias: english-literature-o-level-paper-1973) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-06-18	172
Production Of "The Pirates Of Penzance" With The Girls Grammar School: May 1962 (Alias: production-of-the-pirates-of-penzance-with-the-girls-grammar-school-may-1962) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-02-01	460	French 'A' Level paper - 1969 (Alias: french-a-level-paper-1969) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-06-18	93
Website Digest 2015 (Alias: website-digest-2015) Category: General News	2016-02-01	252	Maths 'O' Level paper - 1959 (Alias: maths-o-level-paper-1959) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-06-18	83
2016 Annual Reunion Dinner - 5th March (Alias: 2016-annual-reunion-dinner-5th-march) Category: Events	2016-01-17	268	History 'O' Level paper - 1962 (Alias: history-o-level-paper-1962) Category: Down Memory Lane	2016-06-18	87
Old Bordenian awarded MBE in New Year Honours List (Alias: old-bordenian-awarded-mbe-in-new-year-honours-list) Category: General News	2016-01-03	271	Comment from Marc Stewart (Alias: comment-from-marc-stewart) Category: Comments	2016-06-18	75
Annual Reunion Dinner - 5th March 2016 (Alias: annual-reunion-dinner-5th-march-2016) Category: Events	2015-11-25	526	Year 12 Work Placements required! (Alias: year-12-work-placements-required) Category: Borden Grammar News	2016-05-21	56
Robin Bush (BGS 1944-50) (Alias: robin-bush) Category: Obituaries	2015-11-19	639	Comment from Ted Hobday (Alias: comment-from-ted-hobday) Category: Comments	2016-05-20	178
Apprenticeship opportunity for Old Bordenians aged 18-24 (Alias: apprenticeship-opportunity-for-old-bordenians-aged-18-24) Category: General News	2015-11-08	131	School photo - Form 3A 1967/68 (Alias: school-photo-form-3a-1967-68) Category: School Photos	2016-05-17	366
News of Old Boys - Steve Piper (Alias: news-of-old-boys-steve-piper) Category: General News	2015-09-14	176	Brian Tyler - obituary (Alias: brian-tyler-obituary) Category: Obituaries	2016-05-17	393
			Wartime Heroes Remembered (Alias: wartime-heroes-remembered) Category: Remembrance	2016-05-17	419
			Old Bordenians Football Club - Reunion (Alias: old-bordenians-football-club-reunion) Category: Remembrance	2016-05-17	215

Annex 2 - OBA Website posts – top 10 by number of hits to 28 August 2016

Title	Date	Hits
We will remember them.... (Alias: we-will-remember-them) Category: Remembrance	2013-11-14	3680
For Sale: "Borden Grammar School – A History in Photographs" (Alias: for-sale-borden-grammar-school-a-history-in-photographs) Category: School Memorabilia	2013-07-02	3017
Borden Grammar School - the early years part 1 (Alias: founding-a-school-in-the-1870s-part-1) Category: Down Memory Lane	2013-02-11	2743
Memories of A.A. Jacobs ("Jake") - BGS 1936-1943 (Alias: memories-of-a-a-jacob-s-jake-bgs-1936-1943) Category: Obituaries	2014-04-26	2363
Harold Vafeas (Alias: harold-vafeas) Category: Obituaries	2014-01-29	2338
Contact Us (Alias: contact-us) Category: Uncategorized	2012-11-23	2046
Membership (Alias: membership) Category: Uncategorized	2013-01-17	1941
Useful Links (Alias: useful-links) Category: Uncategorized	2013-02-04	1757
Board of Education School Inspection report - 1914 (Alias: board-of-education-school-inspection-report-1914) Category: School Memorabilia	2013-07-09	1694
Why Join the Old Bordenian Association? (Alias: why-join-the-old-bordenian-association) Category: Remembrance	2013-09-28	1686

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Dinner report: D. Palmer reported that arrangements are in hand for the annual dinner on 25 March but that help was needed due to his impending absence on the weekend of the event. P. Lusted said a combination of supporters (himself, A. Snelling and M. Pack) would work together to produce place cards and table plans and liaise with UK Paper.

The committee accepted an idea from Mike Pack that the dinner notice should contain an alert to the effect that unless dinner support increased, then the 2017 dinner may be the last.

P. Lusted agreed to approach Phil Bromwich to ask whether he might be prepared to speak. As an alternative there could be a combination of speakers from the football and hockey sections.

N. Hancock agreed to forward the names of regular attendees at the Sheppey Dinner in the hope that their attendance might boost numbers and it was also hoped that the success of a recent football section reunion might be repeated around the time of the 2017 dinner in a bid to attract support.

It was agreed that supporters of the hockey and football sections who were not actual members of the Association would be welcome to attend the dinner. K. Shea would seek to convert their attendance into membership on the night of the dinner if possible by giving out membership forms.

Remembrance: N. Hancock reported that the annual service of remembrance would take place at school on Saturday 12 November at 11.00 and it was hoped the committee would support the event. C. Laming would produce the order of service and Rev S. Evans had kindly agreed to officiate. M. Stewart would give a talk and would also invite family members of fallen old boys to attend.

Any other business: M. Stewart reminded the committee that as OB Governor he was able to raise any issues of concern with the governing body. He was warmly thanked for taking on the role.

D. Palmer raised an issue concerning the school archive and the process for obtaining information about the school when, as happens occasionally, committee members are approached via the website or the school office for information about former teachers or old boys. He said the lack of a proper school archive or archivist hindered the process and that there was no one to whom information requests could be referred. M. Stewart agreed to consider the issue with a view to raising the need to create a proper archive and archivist via the governing body.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

28. Graham Barnes – Obituary



Graham Barnes (BGS 1937-44), who died on 9 October 2016, aged ninety, was a stalwart supporter of both Borden Grammar School and Old Bordenian Association for more than 70 years. The funeral was held on Wednesday 26 October at 12:40pm at Charing Crematorium and afterwards at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel.

Born in Sheerness, Graham received his early education at the Broadway School, where he began his lifelong friendship with Ken Sears (d. 2014) and entered Borden Grammar School in 1937. His studies were interrupted two years later by the outbreak of the War, and he was one of those pupils evacuated to Pengam in South Wales with Messrs. Highton, Higson and Snelling.

When the threat of enemy bombing had subsided, Graham returned with his fellow evacuees to Borden and, in his final year, served as School Captain. With hostilities not yet over, Graham was then called up for service in the Royal Signals. His two years in uniform took him to India, where he witnessed first-hand the turmoil that accompanied the end of the British Raj. He would also recall how his fellow soldiers, many of whom would have left school aged fourteen, if not earlier, were so impressed by his grammar school education that they nicknamed him “teacher”!

When finally demobbed in 1946, Graham won a scholarship to read Modern History at Lincoln College, Oxford. He had applied there on the advice of Ken Sears, who had matriculated at the same college the previous year and was also reading for a degree in Modern History. Living in digs in Summertown, Graham completed a shortened degree, cramming three years of work into two. Many years later, when describing his undergraduate days to me, a Lincoln Historian of more recent vintage, he wistfully observed that two years really wasn't enough for him to take full advantage of all that Oxford had to offer.

Reaching the end of his degree, Graham realised that he would soon need to earn a living and so took himself to Oxford's Appointments Committee. They pointed him toward an advertising vacancy, something he had never considered before, but the Committee's suggestion proved to be an inspired one: Graham got the job and then embarked upon a highly-successful career in advertising, ultimately rising to become a partner in a major firm in London. Along the way, he married Brenda, his wife of more than sixty years, and their family – including the recent addition of a great-grandchild – was the source of constant pride.

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What with his military service, undergraduate studies, demanding career and a growing family, it would, perhaps, have been all too easy for Graham to move on and forget about Borden Grammar School. But thankfully for everyone associated with the School, this never came to pass. He sat for many years on the committee of the Old Bordenian Association, serving for a time as vice-president and then as the final editor of *The Maroon*. He also served as a school governor and, on one occasion, was asked by the headmaster of the day to share his experiences of wartime evacuation with a Y9 History class. Unbeknown to Graham, one of the pupils sat in front of him that day was me! We were all, I think, a little nervous - all we had been told beforehand was that an 'important man' was coming into our lesson and that we would be best advised to call him 'sir' - but Graham cheerfully answered our questions and, much to our amazement, showed us some of his old exercise books.

But it was through Graham's unswerving support of my research on Borden's military casualties that I came to know him best. As the names of more and more previously-unknown Old Boy casualties came to light, his sense of satisfaction was obvious: his own name, he realised, could all too easily have been among those listed on our war memorials - indeed, he knew several Old Boys who had lost their lives in the last war - and he was determined that these men, so long forgotten, should now be honoured by the School and Association. He contributed generously toward the cost of the new war memorials. He presided over the



Association's annual Remembrance Service with effortless gravitas. Even during his final illness, he insisted on helping me to track down the relatives of some of our casualties. When the School's Roll of Honour is finally published, including the foreword he agreed to write, it will be as much a tribute to Graham's memory as it will be to our war dead.

There is much more that could be said about Graham, not least his wicked sense of humour. Only a couple of years ago, he combined his ready wit with a knack for doggerel in *A Biblical A to Z*, a self-published poetic romp through twenty-six Biblical characters. I hope a copy makes its way into the Old Boy's shelf of the School Library, if not the Theology section. And then there was his advice: 'try everything once', he told me, 'apart from incest and buggery' But while on a period of (literal) gardening leave, he encouraged me to consider a career in teaching and, a few years down the line, here I am teaching History in a school in London.

After seventy years of his unfailing support, it is hard to imagine a School and an Association without Graham. It is even harder to imagine that so many members of the current School community will be unaware of his immense contributions over the decades. A part of me hopes that something will be

named after him, perhaps a school prize (not that he would ever have agreed to the idea, I'm sure he'd be difficult and say that we could go ahead and have the "Graham Barnes Memorial Vending Machine"). Or perhaps these few words could be read out at a morning assembly; anything, really, to ensure that his remarkable commitment to the School is not forgotten.

Despite the differences in our ages, I have lost a real friend and, like all those who knew him, will miss him greatly.

Marc Stewart (BGS 1997-2004)

Chris Laming has provided the following illustration of Graham's wonderful sense of humour and way with words, from the 1997 edition of *The Maroon*:

Bonbon voyage by Graham Barnes (Borden Grammar School 1937 - 44)

Last spring, for the first time in many years, I abandoned my resolve not to take part in the European Hang-gliding Championships. Well, they say a change is as good as a rest, don't they? So this time, I decided not to take part in the Ardeche White Water Canoeing Championships.

I must say I enjoyed not doing this immensely - so much so that in future I have more or less made my mind up not to do canoeing rather than not to do hang-gliding. It's less strenuous, spiritually more rewarding and you meet a much nicer class of person.

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Anyway, on the way back, I called in at Montelimar. The hills to the west of town are blessed with a unique geological structure, which owes its origins to the Plasticene Age. When the earth's crust was formed (during the Crustaceous Age, what else?), some of the molten material was absorbed by the crust and has stayed in malleable form ever since.

It is known the world over as "nougat", after its discoverer, Jean-Paul Nougat. It was he, who, in 1745, first stumbled into a vast underground cavern and found this remarkable substance all around him. Imagine his wonderment when, in the flickering light of his disposable BIC cigarette lighter, he first gazed on huge stalactites of the stuff, miraculously sculpted by nature into the shape of Chartres Cathedral, the organ of the Albert Hall, General de Gaulle's nose etc.

The real exploitation of nougat, however, didn't begin until the nineteenth century, when the nougat-miners of Montelimar worked in appalling conditions.

For up to 12 hours at a time, they lay on their backs, hacking away at the unyielding seams of nougat - with caged canaries as their only companions to give warning of the deadly build-up of peanut gas. At the end of each shift, there were no pithead baths in which they could wash away the all-pervasive white or pink grime of the nougat-face.

Nowadays, of course, nougat is mostly mined by open-cast methods. Indeed, the hillsides over-looking the town are covered in ugly scars, but the French have never allowed environmental factors and sentimentality to interfere with commerce.

Otherwise they would have abolished Calais years ago.

And, make no mistake, nougat is big business. Montelimar isn't so much dominated as completely suffused by nougat. Every shop sells it, every sign proclaims it, every inhabitant owes his livelihood to it.

Montelimar has been built for, by, with and on nougat; it is the Mecca for nougaholics from all over the world. Thousands of them flock there each year to indulge their cravings.

Alas, in line with the permissive trends of our society, it is now increasingly common to see nude nougat-eating - although those who practise it claim it is not exhibitionism but a practical necessity in view of the sticky, messy nature of the confection.

Of the permanent population of Montelimar, which numbers 29,000, many are engaged in vital ancillary operations. For instance, at least 10,000 of them are dentists; in any city these days, one cannot escape the tragic spectacle of urban decay, least of all in Montelimar.

Many of the remainder are sign-writers. They must be to account for a density of signage which would put Las Vegas to shame: "Drive in Nougat Parlour", "Draught Nougat Sold Here", "Pick Your Own Nougat", "Free range, unsprayed Nougat", "Take-away Nougat", "Topless Nougat Bar" etc.

Whether in phosphorescent paint or neon they batter away at the senses.

Perhaps sign language has assumed more importance in Montelimar than in most communities. After all, it's pretty difficult to talk when your mouth is crammed full of this stick-jaw material.

As you approach the outskirts of Montelimar on the way north, a garage sign advises "Your last chance to fill up with Nougat before Valence".

You have to hand it to the locals: they could certainly teach the liquorice moguls of Pontefract a thing or two about marketing.

Graham Barnes

The Association have received a number of tributes to Graham. These are published below.

All that I can say is that any words that I may use to describe my feelings about the loss of Graham pale into insignificance when compared with his mastery of the English language. **Peter Taylor**

My own memories are of the several times I ran him over to Sittingbourne for either committee meetings or the Dinner. I could have listened to him all night. Recollections about schooldays, opinions on current affairs, an interest in anything and everything, the journey always passed so quickly which is a sure sign of being with a super conversationalist. He was just a fantastic bloke and one of, if not the, most significant contributor to the School and the Association that there has been. **Mike Pack**

Graham was one of the committee which planned the building of the hockey pitch and clubhouse. He was one of the of the most charming, amusing, intelligent persons I have had the pleasure of working with. There was always something to learn from Graham. He is a great loss. **Alan Wilson**

From the time I joined the committee in 1969 I felt I almost knew Graham even though I did not meet him until several years later when he himself joined the committee. He was regularly mentioned at meetings as the Old Boy who generously arranged (and paid for) the plates that were necessary for the photos in the Maroon, and was obviously a keen supporter. His contemporaries always spoke of him fondly. Once I met

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him I understood why. His wisdom helped us solve many a problem and he had a great sense of humour. His commitment to the Old Boys and to the school as the OBA governor was tremendous and he will be sadly missed. **Peter Lusted**

29. OBA Remembrance Service 2016



The 99 Old Bordenians who gave their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts were remembered in a service at Borden Grammar School on Saturday 12 November 2016 attended by more than 20 people including relations of the fallen and members of the OBA committee.

The Rev Stanley Evans, OBA, officiated and Borden Grammar School's captain and vice-captain took part in the service which included the laying of a wreath beneath the school memorial boards.

Old Bordenian Marc Stewart gave a short lecture about the life of one fallen old boy, George King, who lost his life aged 18 when his ship was torpedoed by a German U Boat in the Indian Ocean, a poignant reminder for those present of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many former pupils of the school.

30. Sports photographs from the 1960s

Old Bordenian Cliff Cork (BGS 1965-1972) has discovered several photos from the archives of Sittingbourne Heritage Museum. A few sporting members of the committee have added some details, but if you can provide any missing names or dates, please send them to us at webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk.



Sports day - senior mile

Date: unknown.

Runners: Stevens (right); Lewis (left)

Spectators: John Weekes - right, Ken Booth -left (Latin), Mr Bishton - to the right of Ken Booth

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Hockey

Date: 1966 / 1967

Roger Beer, Malcolm Lambkin, Paul Akhurst, Phil Leadbetter, Michal Lehane, David Jarrett,
Ian Cross, Paul Dobson, Phil Wyatt, Greg Pope, Tony Holland



Hockey

Date: 1962 / 1963

George Welch, Bill Webb, Paul Taylor, Andy Ogle, John Shepherd, Ian Ballard
Bob Whelan, ?, Richard Chadwick, ?, John Stapley

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Sports - javelin

Date: unknown

?, ?, Dickie Reed, ?, ? Fraser, Geoff Fuller,

?, ?, Alec Proven, Chris Fuller, ?,

Greg Pope, Chris Sayer, Ron Gleeson, Graham Brignall, Johnny Pritchard



Sports Day - hurdles

Date: Unknown

?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?

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Football team - may not be BGS

Date: unknown

?, ?, ?, ?, Graham Lambkin(?)

Frank Penfold, ?, ?, ?

31. Denis Jarrett, MBE – Obituary



It is with regret that we announce the death of Denis Jarrett, MBE. Denis left Borden Grammar School in 1941 and was an active member of the Old Bordenian Association for very many years, having been the editor of the Maroon, the Association's yearbook, from 1948 to 1974. Denis passed away on Friday 13 January 2017. His funeral will be held at 10:00 on Monday 30th January at the Garden of England Crematorium, Bobbing, Kent and then on to the Mess Deck, The Historic Dockyard Chatham. Further details will be available at the Garden of England crematorium.

Chris Laming, secretary of the OBA, said "He was a wonderful and inspirational leader who did so much for his pupils, his colleagues, and his fellow sportsmen, for education, for Westlands, for Borden and the Old Boys and for the memory of his brother and those friends who didn't have chance to live such a full and rewarding life having made the ultimate sacrifice in WW2. It always struck me that Denis had a very acute awareness of the difference between right and wrong and good and evil but he could always balance his serious side, and his great ability to cajole others into doing things for the cause, with an infectious sense of humour. This, and his great fund of stories, made him great company."

Alan Wilson, Chairman of Old Bordenian Hockey Club, paid tribute to Denis, one of the club's founding members and a vice President: "Denis, with the Millen brothers, Ernie and Aubrey, conceived the idea of forming Old Bordenian HC when they returned from the Second World War. It is interesting that there are quite a few sports clubs which, like ours, were founded around that time and we can only speculate that this may have been a reaction to the horrors witnessed during the war and a desire to create something good and lasting. Denis made a great contribution to his world in so many ways: in education, as Headmaster at Westlands, in sport, having played for Kent and as a founding member and a staunch and loyal supporter of OBHC for so many years, as a leader of the Air Training Corps, as a governor of Borden Grammar School and as a member of the Old Bordenian Association, for which he was the editor of the Association's annual Maroon for many years. For services to education, Denis was awarded an MBE. Denis was a man of principle with a keen intellect and a warm character. The world is a better place for having had Denis Jarrett."

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32.2017 Annual Reunion Dinner - 25 March 2017

This year's Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday 25th March. The guest speaker will be Phil Bromwich, a school governor for many years. Richard Parkin has let me know that a group of old boys at the school between 1987-1992 are planning to attend this year, marking the 25th year of their leaving and hope others from the same period will join them. If you wish to contact Richard regarding this, please email webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk and I will pass on your email.

Full details and how to book your place are contained in the notice below. Please book by Saturday 11 March. Details of the dinner have been emailed to all OBA members. If you are a member and have not received an email, we either don't have your email address or we have an incorrect / old address for you. If this is the case, could you send an email to admin@oldbordenians.co.uk . to ensure we keep you up to date with news and updates.

**Old Bordenian Association - Annual Reunion Dinner - Saturday 25th March 201&
UK Paper Leisure Club, Opposite Borden Grammar School in Avenue of Remembrance,
Sittingbourne**

***UK Paper Clubhouse bar will be open from 6.00 pm. Dinner at 7.00 pm
Red, white and rose wine will be available from the UK Paper Bar @ £12.50 / bottle. Please do not
bring your own wine to this venue. Lounge suit required.***

The guest speaker will be Phil Bromwich. Phil has been a school governor (including chairman) for many years, and has been a regular at the Old Boys Dinner. We look forward to hearing about school life from the "other side of the fence".

Recent years have seen a decline in the numbers of Old Boys joining the Association and those attending the Dinner. Your committee is aware that the time may come in the very near future when it is no longer a viable proposition to hold the Dinner. Unfortunately, the Sheppey Dinner has ceased for the foreseeable future, so we are sending this invitation to all recent attendees even though you may not be a current member of the Association, and welcome you to this event. This year, as a trial, we are also inviting the Old Bordenian Football Club to include some of their long serving players and members, most of whom are Old Bordenians, but some may not have been pupils at the school, in recognition of how reliant the club has been on these key, loyal, club men over many years.

To reserve a seat, please complete the slip below and return it **before Saturday 11th March**. No tickets or receipts will be issued.

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OBA Annual Dinner - 25 MARCH 2017

To: Mike Pack, Tithe Barn Bungalow, Carriers Road, Cranbrook, TN17 3JU. Tel 01580 713236

Please reserve..... places @ £20.00 each for the following member(s) (main contact first). Please make cheques payable to: **Old Bordenian Association:**

Name	Years attended school	Email address (important)	Telephone no.
.....
.....

Special dietary requirements.....