

Old Bordenian Association



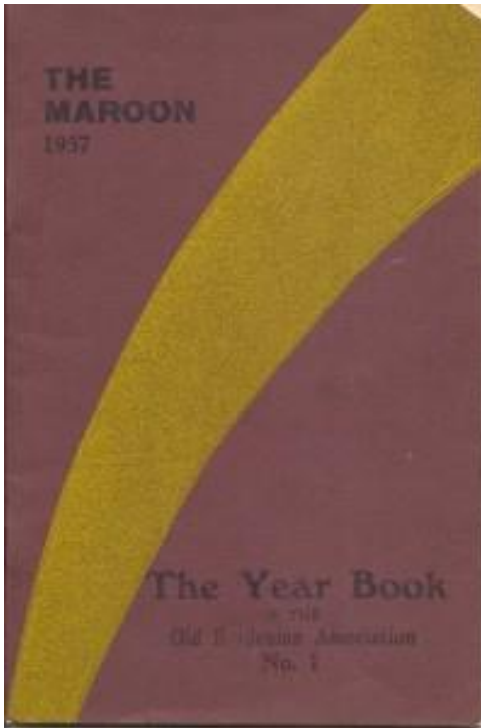
Website Digest 2012

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First Edition Of The Maroon – 1937

Posted Monday January 23rd 2012



We were contacted by the grand-daughter of an old boy of the school, Ralph Martyn, who attended in the 1930s. She asked if we could locate a copy of the old school magazine from the 1930s for him to purchase or view. Denis Jarrett, another old boy of the school and former editor of the Maroon, was asked to identify a suitable copy from his own personal archives. He has kindly lent me his copy of the very first edition of the Maroon, the former publication of the Old Bordenian Association, published in 1937 – some 75 years ago. Rather than share this with just one old boy, we have scanned the document and it is reproduced in its entirety on the website. It makes fascinating reading! [Website Digest editor's note – due to the age of the publication, it is illegible when trying to include any part of the document in this Digest]

Old Boy In Vietnam

Posted Sunday February 12th 2012

Once more showing just how far and wide Old Boys spread themselves around the world, we have a link to Philip Spencer, a resident of Vietnam, celebrating Tet or the Lunar New Year, with his family. Philip is a contemporary of Dave Palmer, our website engine room and "guardian". If you are in any doubt about which one is Philip – think "Mikado".

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW1Gamvw1I4&feature=youtu.be>

The link will take you to a video clip of Philip which obviously cannot be reproduced, but here is a screenshot taken from the video.



Borden Grammar School – Academy Status

Posted Sunday February 26th 2012

Below is a cutting from the local newspaper – Sittingbourne News Extra – announcing the news that BGS now has academy status and giving a brief overview of what that means. As an aside, for those old boys who don't have regular contact with the Sittingbourne area, you may not have heard that the East Kent Gazette, source of all local news for the vast majority of us, ceased publication last December (2011) after being in existence for 156 years!

www.kentonline.co.uk

Grammar school keen to cash in by becoming academy

by Hayley Robinson
hrobinson@thekmggroup.co.uk

A SEVENTH town school has become a new-style academy.

Education Secretary Michael Gove gave the green light to Borden Grammar School's application allowing it to transform earlier this month.

The move means it will no longer be governed by Kent County Council. As a result, an estimated £180,000 is expected to be released to the school in the next few weeks.

There will be no change to the name, admissions policy or uniform.

Head teacher Harold Vafeas said: "We have got to move with the times. The experience of neighbouring schools is that overall there is a financial and therefore educational benefit that will help us as we seek continually to improve academic standards."

He refused to be drawn on whether redundancies were in the pipeline but hinted that if there were any, it would have nothing to do with the school



Head teacher Harold Vafeas

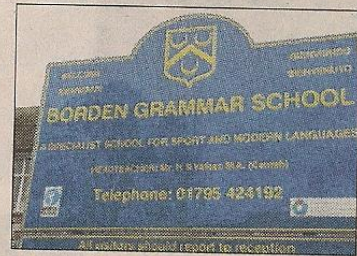
becoming an academy.

He said: "All schools are having to work out how to deal with the future. There has been a standstill in funding for 11 to 16-year-olds and that is likely to continue for two or three years.

"Any school would take the view it would try to avoid redundancies if at all possible."

The school plans to use some of the extra funding to refurbish its science laboratories.

Mr Vafeas added: "That's our priority. When work



starts depends on us securing additional grant funding because any refurbishment of science labs is an expensive process.

"The money won't cover it all so we will need to apply for additional funding."

■ ALL OF the town's secondary schools are now academies.

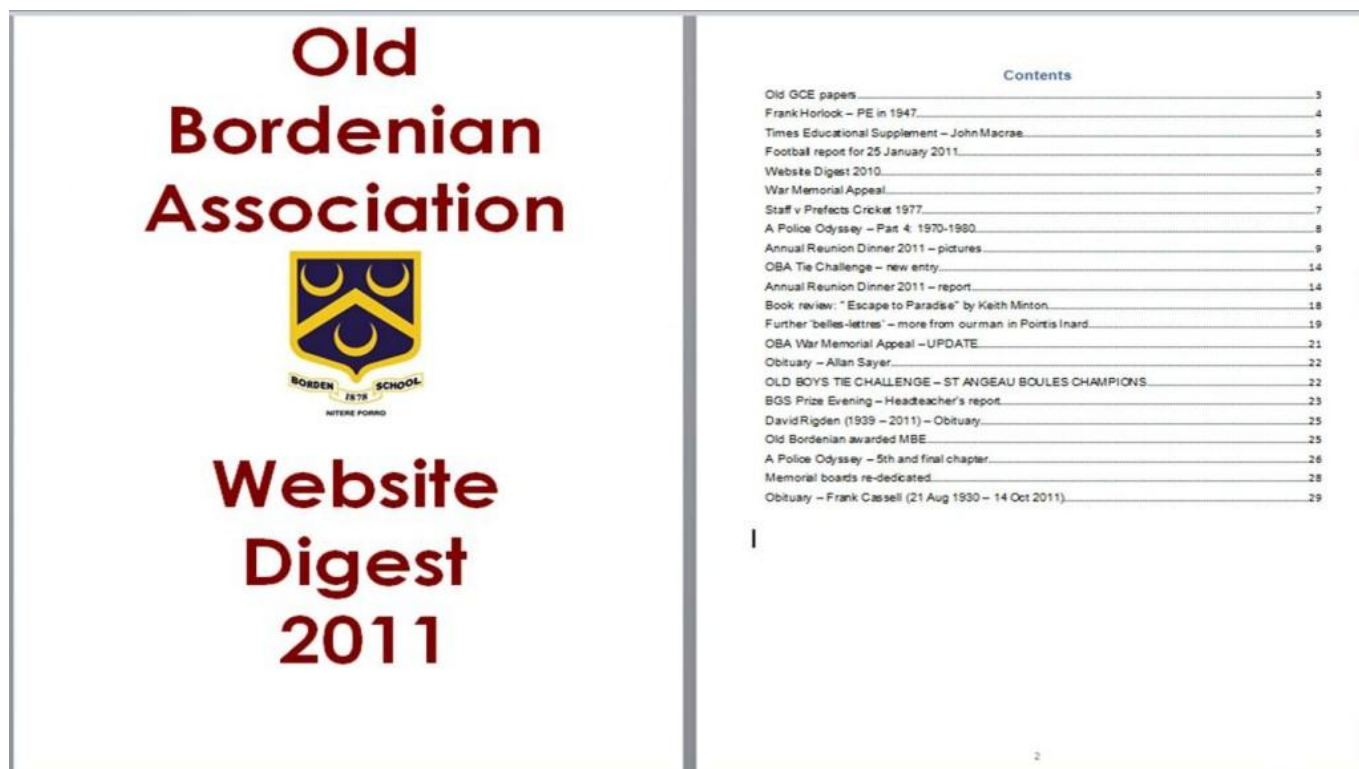
The Westlands School transformed in September 2010, Fulston and Highsted last October and Sittingbourne Community College (SCC) changed this month.

Regis Manor and The Westlands primary school, formerly Woodgrove, have also become academies.

They are included in the Swale Academies Trust which embraces The Westlands secondary school and SCC.

Website Digest 2011

Posted Saturday March 17th 2012



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 now discontinued annual publication – the Maroon. The current document upload facility of the site has meant posting the digest as 2 files. The Website Digest 2011 Part 1 and Website Digest 2011 Part 2 can be printed or downloaded and covers the annual cycle that would have been used for the Maroon. It includes all material suitable for printed format from January 2011 to December 2011, but excludes the old GCE examination papers (although one page is included to offer a taster!).

David Palmer, OBA Website Management

Old Bordenian Annual Reunion Dinner 2012 – Pictures

Posted Monday May 14th 2012

Below are a number of photos taken at this year's Annual Reunion Dinner, held on Saturday 12 May 2012. If any guests also took photos and would like to share them, please email them to us at webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk.



From right: Davy Spicer, Ken Beach, Phil Bryant, Stewart Jarrett, Lee Harding



From left: Keith Shea, Andy Bushell, Chris Laming





From left: ?, Mick Pack, Martyn Calder, Harold Vafeas. On right: Greg Pope







Members of the current 6th Form attended the Dinner for the first time.



Two more members of the current 6th Form in attendance





From right: ?, Bryan Short, Dennis Jarrett, Marc Stewart



From left: Tony Clayton, ?, Graham Barnes





Harold Vafeas, OBA President and BGS Headmaster



Martyn Calder, Guest Speaker



Phil Bryant, trying to sand the desks!!



From left: Keith Shea, Lee Harding, Phil Bryant, Stewart Jarrett, Andy Bushell, Davy Spicer, Dave Palmer



Dinner 2012 - report

Posted Thursday May 17th 2012

Below is a copy of the report of the 2012 Annual Reunion Dinner.

16 MAY 2012

REUNION DINNER 2012

<p>1940's Denis Jarrett, Ray Hill, Graham Barnes, Jim Cox, Bill Usher, Ken Heaver, Ken Sears, Bob Doucy, Stanley Evans, Peter Bedelle</p> <p>STAFF/GOVERNORS Harold Vafeas, Bryan Short, Tony Clayton, Bob Sutton, Phil Bromwich</p>	<p>1950's Alan Hill, Andrew Edney, Sean Caveney, Ivor Jones, John Faulkner, Ian Hazell, Terry Saunders, Keith Fairbrass, Alan Eyles, Neil Hancock</p> <p>1960's Richard Baker, Mick Long, Martyn Calder, John Ford, Ian Baron, Dave Feaver, Mike Pack, Greg Pope, Peter Lusted, Steve Goodhew,</p>	<p>1970's Andy White, Giles Ford, Robert Barnes, K. Beach, Stuart Goodhew, D. Crombie, Cliff Cork, Chris Laming, Les Smith, Keith Shea, Andy Bushell, Stuart Jarrett, K. Coker, Lee Harding, Phil Bryant, Dave Palmer, Dave Spicer, Paul Bedelle, Rob Dammers, Andrew Newman Terry Whitehead</p>	<p>1980 to 2012 T. Ottaway, S. Earl, A. Earl, Duncan Reed, Chris Terry, Tim Chandler, Simon Parker, Marc Stewart, H. Rook, SENIOR STUDENTS Adam Cross, Oliver Wilson, Akshar Patel, Daniel Forster</p>
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SPEAKERS

Martyn Calder kept us all interested and amused with his reflections on his origins from Queenborough, a fine naval port which had perhaps gone downhill in the last 700 years, his memories of attending Borden under George Hardy and Bryan Short, and snowball fights between passing British Rail school trains at Swale Halt. He recalled how he had discarded several career options in his own mind and decided on law, only for Bryan to say "why on earth would you choose that?"

After obtaining his degree at Reading University he followed a career in Property, concentrating on Estate Management where he played a major role in the acquisition of 600 former GLC small business units. Maintaining the naval theme with a potted history of Chatham Dockyard up to its closure, Martyn then told us of his involvement in the establishment of Chatham Maritime Trust, where he regularly

met two trustees with BGS links - Philippa Baron, wife of Ian Baron, a school colleague, and Tony Clayton, his former PE teacher, both of whom were at the Dinner.



In reply Harold Vafeas, our President, spoke of the changing role of the KCC and the school's decision to become an academy with its greater freedom. He thanked those supporters of the school - the PTA, the William Barrow Trust and the OBA. Highlights of the year were - being in the top 6 schools in Kent for having 100% pass rate at 3 A levels, having a very good HMI PE inspection describing the school as "inclusive and involved", beating Simon Langton 5-1 at football (to a big cheer!), Year 7's Bethlehem Rap at the Carol Service, and the Year 12/13 musical "Little Shop of Horrors".

We were 70 including 4 senior pupils from the school who had been invited as our guests.

This does unfortunately reflect the steady decline in attendance in recent years.

Thanks to Cliff Cork and Peter from Sittingbourne FC for the bar and Tim, the school caretaker, for all his help.

Peter Lusted and
Mike Pack

Peter Hemingway

Posted Tuesday May 29th 2012



Peter Hemingway was an old boy of the school from 1940 to 1945. He died suddenly in May 1995, but his legacy lives on. His sister, Mrs Enid Palmer (no relation to the author of this article), has informed us that he has recently had one of his buildings chosen to win the Prix du 20ieme Siecle by the Royal Institute of Architecture in Canada. She informs us that the award is the prize for the best architecture of the 20th Century. The building chosen was originally built as the Coronation Swimming Pool in Edmonton, Alberta, but was renamed the Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre after his death. An award will be presented at St John's Newfoundland

in June and it is hoped that his youngest daughter will be able to attend. Use this link for further details of the award: http://www.raic.org/honours_and_awards/awards_xxe/2012/index_e.htm.

Peter's obituary appeared in the 1995/96 Maroon and is reproduced here for the benefit of those Old Boys that knew Peter.

PETER G. HEMINGWAY

PETER HEMINGWAY died suddenly on 15th May, 1995, at his home in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, at the age of 65. He had been a pupil at Borden Grammar School from 1940 to 1945 and apart from winning the School art prize, as listed in *The Maroon* for 1946, he may only be remembered for his complete inability to contribute to any team sports. Peter was, from an early age, an excellent shot and a keen wildfowler — preferring the loneliness of the Sheppey marshes to the School sports ground.

After his years at Borden, he studied architecture at the Medway School of Art and spent his National Service years as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers where he often said his only contribution to architecture was to install the first flush toilets in one of the darkest parts of West Africa. On his return to England, now a qualified architect, Peter was responsible for the restoration of Minster Abbey Church in 1954, and a plaque in this ancient church commemorates his work.

After a short working life with Wimpeys, Peter emigrated to Canada having heard that Edmonton was known then as the fastest growing city in the Northern Hemisphere and feeling sure they would need an architect at some point.

After a few years working for the Alberta Government, Peter went into partnership with a fellow architect and for some years, the practice made a successful and winning team. Eventually, Peter felt a preference to continue on his own and built a reputation for his outstanding work. At least ten of Alberta's finest architects were either apprenticed or worked with him. His obituary in the Edmonton Journal said that part of the rich legacy Peter left behind is the city's signature building — the Muttart Conservatory, the rectilinear glass-box Stanley Building and the Coronation Swimming Pool which reflects his Japanese-like attention to detail. The latter two buildings won Massey Medals, the coveted awards for outstanding architectural achievement named after the former governor general Vincent Massey.

One of Alberta's leading architects said of him "It was a lot of fun working for him. There was an incredible office atmosphere. It is sad to see him go but he has left behind a lot of jewels on the Alberta landscape. His best work I think is the Coronation Pool. Whenever I give a visiting architect a tour of the city, they are always dazzled by that design."

In Canada, Peter found the success he sought but also the sporting life which was so necessary to him. He became a legendary fly fisherman and one of his life-long friends said "Peter was a great artist but when he had a fly-fishing rod in his hands, he was in his prime. He was fabulous at it."

Peter's artistic talents have fortunately been handed down to all his children. His son, Simon, is a lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Texas, his eldest daughter, Sarah, lives in England and is an artist and zoologist working with the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust and his youngest daughter, Mistaya, is a ballet dancer currently taking up her scholarship in Stuttgart.

E. PALMER, Sister.

...and a postscript to Peter Hemingway's life

Peter Hemingway, a pupil at the School from 1940 to 1945, died suddenly in May 1995, and The Maroon of 1995/96 carried an obituary mentioning, among other things, his outstanding career as an architect which reached its zenith in Edmonton, Alberta .

Perhaps his best known building was the Coronation Swimming Pool, a startlingly-futuristic design made from steel, wood, concrete, glass and cables which was generally acknowledged to be years ahead of its time. It is still one of the pieces of architecture which sets Edmonton apart from the rest of the Country. Now his sister, Mrs Enid Palmer writes:



I thought someone might be interested to know that in his memory one of his buildings (the Coronation Pool) has been renamed "The Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre". To anyone who remembers him, this may be particularly ironic as he certainly did not excel at team games, and his name will not be found in any School sports record books. In the depths of winter, however, he was known to keep fit with a routine of skipping and exercises in what in a Canadian house is called "the rumpus room". To Old Bordenians ancient enough to be eligible for Saga holidays, if they have ventured on the Western Canada tour, they would probably have been taken to visit the Muttart Conservatory, another of Peter's award-winning buildings. I understand that Peter's complete works can be found on the University of Calgary's website.

Where Are They Now – 1962 To 1969 Update

Posted Sunday June 17th 2012

As a result of Martyn Calder being our guest speaker at the 2012 Dinner, contact was made with several of our group, meaning updated news:-

Les Wilding – was unable to make the dinner but writes:- *Well I'm definitely not working now. After setting up and implementing the strategy to offshore all Royal Bank of Scotland IT work to India, there was nothing left for me to do, but switch off the lights! I stopped work in September 2010 and have undertaken the occasional consultancy work to keep me busy. Mind you, I don't know how I had time to fit in work before, as this retirement lark seems to be a full time job with all the other things I want to do*

I'm off to Canada for the month of May, doing Calgary, Ice Parkway and Vancouver in a motorhome. Then the Rocky Mountaineer back to Calgary before a flight to Toronto, Niagara and Ottawa, before returning home. One of those trips Lynne and I have been promising ourselves for years and now its here, we're into the last minute planning panic.

Mike Symons also wrote : *Unfortunately I will not be able to join you. I am still working hard running our sign making business, although it has a few perks, as I am going to Las Vegas on Sunday for a week for an International Convention.*

Dave Feaver - still local but now retired but helping run his son's business. He saw **Nigel Dalby** who is still driving coaches.

Martyn Calder - now semi retired in Surrey and keeping amused doing some consultancy work.

Ian Baron - still local and enjoying his sailing in his retirement.

Greg Pope – looking to slip into retirement from his solicitor's practice and enjoy more golf in Cromer. Has seen **Dave Holmes** who is flitting between France and Norfolk where he is still doing some consultancy work in the frozen food world. Greg discovered at his parents' home his Form One East football shirt and felt obliged to let us have a photo of him in it 50 years later! Clearly older, greyer and not thinner but no doubt casts fear into every One West footballer!



John Ford – it was good to see John able to make the Dinner and to hear that familiar deep barracking voice. We all wish him well.

Steve Goodhew – now retired and in Loughborough but a regular at Deal to take his boat out fishing.

Mike Pack – with his banking career long forgotten (but still makes the golf days!) he still loves being the local postie in Cranbrook. Old Boys committee member over many years.

Roger Goodger writes:-

Sorry not being able to attend this year's dinner, and also sorry to see numbers continue to decline. As one who has personally contributed to the recent slump (I think I've missed the last three or even four), I feel it incumbent on me to suggest that part of the problem is that May is not a good month. I know it isn't for me, as every year we seem to be taking holidays, visiting friends etc etc. May marks the beginning of the holiday period, especially for us, er, slightly more senior folk who have more time on our hands (I now work a three-day week!) I could always work round the last Saturday before Easter, but May is really difficult.

Having got that off my chest, I hope that everybody at the dinner was in rude health, and continue to prosper. I'm lurching along, still playing squash (but currently nursing a torn calf muscle). If I can manage it, this weekend we're off climbing Munro's in Scotland.

If Alan S is still thinking of organising a football match, I still have my boots, and if I don't tell the wife...

P.S. Chris Willis and wife stayed with us in February. He has one kid at Imperial and the other about to start Uni this year.

Peter Lusted - retired in Chilham (and France!), still playing tennis and some golf (will those school colours ever be awarded??). Old Boys committee member for many years.

If there is anyone else out there with some current news please write in to us. See the photos on the website of those at the Dinner.

Roger Chapman – BGS 1970 To 1976

Posted Wednesday July 25th 2012



As the Open Golf championship concluded last weekend, it seems an opportune time to publicise the recent achievements of someone who is probably Borden Grammar School's most successful golfer. Roger Chapman, who was at the school in the 1970s, now plays on the Senior tour and has this year won both the Senior PGA title and the US Senior Open. To those non-golfers out there who may ask 'is that good', the only other players to have claimed both these veteran major championships in the same season are Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Hale Irwin! A number of national newspapers have reported on Roger's success including the Daily Telegraph <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/golf/9404246/Roger-Chapman-joins-list-of-golfing-greats-after-winning-the-US-Senior-Open.html> and the Daily Mail <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/golf/article-2178404/Roger-Chapman-set-Senior-Open-Turnberry-double-major-success.html> . Congratulations to Roger and we wish him much success in the future.

Old Bordenian Association Website News

Posted Thursday December 6th 2012

Regular visitors to this site will be aware that there have been problems with the site over the last 3-4 months. I offer my apologies for this downtime and hope it didn't cause too much inconvenience. These problems have now been partly resolved and the site is accessible to all, although there is no facility to login or leave comments on any of the posts. We are taking steps to move the site onto a different hosting platform and we are working to put this into effect by the end of the month. The website address will remain the same.

To whet your appetite, I have received further chapters of Bryan Short's history of the school, which I shall publish on the new site when it is up and running.

End of Digest

The next digest will include all articles posted on the Old Bordenians Website that are suitable for a printed format during 2013.

David Palmer, OBA Website Committee

January 2013