

Old Bordenian Association



Website Digest 2013

www.oldbordenians.co.uk

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Contents

1.	Maurice Eastman – Obituary	3
2.	OBA Website - update	3
3.	Don Prichard - Obituary	3
4.	OBA AGM Minutes - 5 October 2012	4
5.	Moving Forward	5
6.	Frank Nicholls - Obituary	7
7.	Geoff Beynon - Obituary	8
8.	Borden Grammar School - the early years part 1	9
9.	Jonathan Brownridge - Obituary	11
10.	Borden Grammar School - the early years part 2	11
11.	OBA Reunion Dinner 2013 - photos	16
12.	Dinner 2013	23
13.	OBA Dinner 2013 - more photos and "1963 intake" memorabilia	24
14.	John Ford - Obituary	25
15.	Reminiscences of a pupil of the 1940s	26
16.	BGS - 3 Peaks Challenge raising money for Cancer Research UK	27
17.	Chris Willson - Obituary	28
18.	OBA Football Club - Report 2012-13	28
19.	For Sale: "Borden Grammar School – A History in Photographs"	29
20.	Board of Education School Inspection report - 1914	30
21.	Borden Grammar School - the early years part 3 and 4	31
22.	Why join the Old Bordenian Association?	41
23.	OBA Annual General Meeting Minutes - 4 October 2013	41
24.	OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 4 October 2013	43
25.	Old Bordenian Sports Clubs - update	45
26.	2014 OBA Annual Reunion Dinner	45
27.	Old Bordenians: 1957-1964 cohort	46
28.	We will remember them	47

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

1. Maurice Eastman – Obituary

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Maurice Eastman, an Old Bordenian, who died on 18th December 2012, aged 87, at Medway Hospital. His funeral took place at St Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone, on Friday 4th January 2013

2. OBA Website - update

The OBA website has now moved to a new host platform to give us greater resilience for the future. Over the coming days, I shall load the Website Digests from 2009, 2010 and 2011 to preserve access to the content of the previous site. The Website Digest for 2012 has already been published. If you had previously registered to receive email alerts for new posts, this will not now work. We are looking into the possibility of adding this feature to the new site, but until this is available please visit the site on a regular basis. If you have any comments on the new site, please send an email to webmaster@oldbordenians.co.uk.

David Palmer

OBA Website

3. Don Prichard - Obituary



Recently we have been informed, sadly, of the death on 9th September 2011 of Dr. Don Prichard, aged 79. He was a lifelong Member of the Association and played hockey for the Old Bordenians occasionally when he left School in 1949. Subsequently, he enjoyed a remarkable career - which is evident from the following Obituary written by Graham Allatt, reproduced with his kind permission and that of the Friends of the British Library Newsletter in which it originally appeared.

Dr Don Prichard, deputy chairman of the Friends from 2002 to 2007, was a wise and energetic member of the Council and was instrumental in professionalising the organisation of the Friends and improving relations with the Library during his tenure. After standing down from the Council he agreed to act temporarily as co-ordinator of the volunteers.

Don had a tremendous breadth of knowledge, an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes and the gift of being able to talk to anyone and everyone. Whether speaking to Library staff, volunteers on the desk or other Council members, he always had a friendly word. He also had a clear vision of the right way forward, and did a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure the Council's decisions were implemented effectively. The Friends owe much to him.

Don was born in 1932 in Gravesend. He was educated at Borden Grammar School, leaving at 16 to join Bowater as a laboratory assistant but continuing his education by studying chemistry at night school. After completing his National Service with the famous East Kent Regiment, the Buffs, he qualified as a chemical engineer at London University. In 1957 he married Beryl; they were the perfect partners for over 50 years.

He moved first to ICI at Middlesbrough (where his two sons were born) and then to Dow Chemical, where he remained for the rest of his career. At Dow, Don was initially designing and commissioning chemical plants but in 1974 he went to Madrid to run the human resources function in Spain. With his tremendous people skills, this played to his greatest strength. He became fluent in the language and developed a love for all things Spanish. After a few years he moved to Zurich to run Dow's human resources operations for Europe and in 1988 went to Hong Kong as HR director for the Far East and Australasia. He retired in 1993 and came back to London to live in the Barbican.

Don was determined to be just as active in retirement as he was during his working life. He immediately embarked on studying for an MA at Birkbeck College, London University. As if this were not challenging enough, he followed it with an MPhil in History, followed by a PhD and an MSc in the history of science.

Don and Beryl led an active social life. They found time to travel widely in Europe, on walking tours and to music festivals and art galleries. Don was particularly fond of hearing baroque music in the buildings where it would originally have been performed.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

It was through this musical passion that I met him, and it was he who introduced me to the Friends. He and Beryl befriended me during a baroque music festival in northern Spain. I happened to mention that I was looking to take on additional voluntary work: within five minutes he had recruited me as treasurer.

Of many fond memories, two in particular stand out. The first is an oft-repeated image of Don striding out over the Spanish Pyrenees, setting a cracking pace at the front of our party. This was despite his being the oldest in the group, conceding 30 years to some of the younger members.

The second is when one of our walking parties had a reunion at St Paul's Cathedral, because a member was singing choral evensong as part of a visiting choir. Don kindly arranged to conduct a tour of the triforium for all concerned, and with characteristic vigour and enthusiasm regaled us with tales of the cathedral, its architect and its construction. The very next morning he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, but there was no hint of any ailment during our visit. His bravura performance was a measure of the man.

Graham Allatt

Comment received from Frank Hales (13/02/13): So sad to hear of the passing of Mr Nicholls my English teacher at the School and Don Pritchard. I am sure I knew Don from Holy Trinity Church Choir but mainly I remember him for hockey and his motorbike. My first game for Old Bordenian thirds was whilst I was still at school. He took me on the back of his bike to Herne Bay where we lost 10 - 0. I came back in a minibus with a form along each side and not enough room for everyone so Alan Sampson lay along the laps of the players on one side of the van. My next game was away at Woodfield Hoists in Rochester where we won 10 - 0. This time I came home on a service bus.

Frank W Hales 1951 to 1957

4. OBA AGM Minutes - 5 October 2012

The Minutes of the OBA Annual General Meeting held at the School on Friday 5 October 2012

Members present: N. Hancock, K. Sears, A. Snelling, D. Palmer, D. Jarrett, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, M. Pack, C. Laming

Apologies for absence: The President H. Vafeas, P. Lusted, T. Akehurst, M. Stewart, K. Shea, P. Taylor

The secretary was asked to record the committee's best wishes to the President who was unable to be present for health reasons.

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 7 October, 2011, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The secretary reported that a memorial for John Macrae had been purchased but that it did not appear to have placed with the tree in the school garden. C. Laming to check with the school office.

There were no other matters arising.

The 2012 officers and committee were elected as follows:

President: H. Vafeas

Vice-President: P. Lusted

Hon. Secretary: C. Laming

Hon. Treasurer: N. Hancock

Membership secretary: K. Shea

Dinner Secretary: C. Laming

Website representative: D. Palmer

Website advertising: K. Shea

OBA governor: A. Snelling

Football rep: K. Shea

Hockey rep: N. Hancock

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

Accounts examiner: P. Taylor

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Tony Akehurst had sent word that he is unlikely to be able to attend future committee meetings but would be happy to remain on the committee. Members present voted unanimously in favour of him remaining so.

Constitutional changes: None

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's report: N. Hancock reported a loss of £582.21 in the period due largely to the level of donations made to the school compared with the previous year. Subscription income was down to £3,727 from £4,094 which was a possible cause for concern. The annual dinner had made a small loss, due to the provision of free meals students who had assisted at the remembrance service. The cost of postage had increased considerably in advertising the annual dinner. The General Fund stood at £5,736.79 which would allow a sizeable donation to the School. It was agreed to defer a decision about the amount, and the timing of any donation, to the February committee meeting after having sought advice from The President about a suitable school project in the meantime.

M. Pack proposed the adoption of the accounts and D. Palmer seconded. The committee thanked N. Hancock for his continued contribution as Hon. Treasurer and also P. Taylor who had examined the accounts.

Dinner Secretary's report: To be presented at the following committee meeting. The committee recorded its thanks to the retiring dinner secretariat for its hard work in organising dinners for many years.

Membership report: K. Shea would prepare a report for the committee meeting in February.

Hockey report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Football report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Website report: To be presented at the following committee meeting. The website committee, and D. Palmer in particular, were warmly thanked by those present for all their hard work.

Remembrance report: To be presented at the next committee meeting.

Committee meeting dates: Friday 1 February, 2013 at 7.30 pm

Friday 14 June, 2013 at 7.30 pm

Friday 4 October, 2013 at 7.00 pm to include the AGM

Annual dinner: Saturday 23 March, 2012

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

5. Moving Forward

Now that the Website has continued its evolution by becoming firmly attached to the school website, it seemed a good time to remind Old Boys of how our news used to be distributed by way of the Maroon.

The article on the next page, by Charles Harris, appeared in the 1968 Maroon. Charles was a printer in Sittingbourne and a keen supporter of the Old Bordenians as his article explains. Always one to offer advice on how to put the world to rights, Charles also kept the rest of the Committee on their toes with his deadlines for printing the Maroon. Without Charles and the line of excellent editors that produced the Maroon, news and information about Old Boys would just not have been produced.

Now of course we have moved forward, perhaps at our own pace, but we can distribute news instantly around the world on the website. Costs compared to printing the Maroon are minimal, so that means that a greater proportion of Old Boys' subscriptions can be passed to the school for suitable projects.

Any news media needs articles, information and news, so please support your website by putting fingers to keyboards and pressing the "Send" button.

Peter Lusted

Putting the 'Maroon' to 'Bed'

Chas. Harris (1925-28)

AFTER being connected with the production of the *Maroon* for more years than I care to remember I now find myself in the position of having to write an article for publication. The Editor was very insistent and in a moment of weakness I agreed. Being an ordinary sort of fellow I find it difficult to think of something to write about that will be of interest to readers so I will tell you a little about myself and a little about the production of *Maroon*.

I am a member of the cinder track brigade and when I first went to Borden the School Captain was S. G. Hooker, who I had known previously when we were both residents of the village of Bapelild. Dr. Stanley Hooker is now a very famous Old Bordenian. My particular form friends were Stan Whalebone and Frank Purchase, both of whom, I regret to say, are no longer with us.

After a year at school I was fortunate enough to become a member of the School first eleven football team which at that time was captained by E. G. Solman. The following season was a good one as under the captaincy of L. A. J. Loddor the team went through the season undefeated. Cricket was not such a strong point in my sporting life and I only made the second team. Athletics in this period were dominated by D. T. A. Porton in the distance events and Loddor in the sprints.

In 1928 I was offered a job in the printing industry and as at that time work was not easy to obtain with about three million unemployed, I took it. During my period at Borden the Sixth Form was composed of only a handful of students and the number that went on to university was very small. Opportunities for university education were rather limited in contrast to the present time and students in those days were grateful to have the chance of continuing their studies.

I don't begrudge present day students their opportunities but I do wish they would take advantage of them instead of trying to put the world right in stupid demonstrations that have little effect on the running of the world. If they would concentrate on taking advantage of the educational opportunities provided for them by taxpayers who in the main were denied those opportunities, they might find themselves better qualified to improve the lot of future generations even more than we have been able to improve theirs.

Enough preaching, so let us move on. In 1931 I was a founder member of the Old Bordenian Football Club and was a playing member for 21 years with the exception of the war years. After a disastrous start the team were very prominent in Junior football and I have a drawer full of medals to prove it. It is with much regret that I record the passing of Roy Cole on New Year's Day as Roy was mainly responsible for running the Club for about 25 years.

I joined the O.B. Association on leaving school, but apart from the football took little active interest until after the war. Serving with the R.A.S.C. I found myself on the staff of G.H.Q. O2E M.E.F. for about four and a half years and spent that time in Cairo. During that period I met a few Old Boys and was kept in touch with things at home by George Dawkins, the Association Secretary. George did a wonderful job for the O.B.'s then and his letters were very much appreciated.

Following the war I was elected to the Committee of the Association in 1946 and have been a member ever since. In my capacity of works overseer I had close connection with the production of the *Maroon* and when I set up as a printer on my own account in 1954 I became even more closely associated with it.

The Editor arrives at our office, usually later than he should, with a folder of copy of various shapes and sizes, some typed and some in very indifferent handwriting, together with photographs of assorted sizes and quality. We sort the pictures out and decide on sizes to enable them to be engraved as economically as possible and send them to Graham Barnes who has them reproduced free of charge. I don't think anybody realises how much the *Maroon* owes to Graham.

The text is set on a linotype machine, the type used for this issue being a point Helvetica on a 9 point body! Galley proofs are taken and read, corrections made and inserted and then the type is ready to be made up into pages. When this is done proofs in page form are submitted to the Editor and decisions are jointly taken as to their order of appearance in the finished magazine.

When the Editor is satisfied the pages are locked up in a steel chase 8 pages at a time and printed on a machine as shown in the picture. On completion of printing the sheets are folded and collated into book form, wire stitched and then trimmed on three sides to give the finished *Maroon*. So to produce the *Maroon* we have 6 machines — linotype, letterpress cylinder, folder, collator, stitcher and gullotine — to the value of about £15,000, and a staff of six involved for a fair amount of time.

Perhaps this brief account of how the *Maroon* is produced will enable members to see more clearly why it is an expensive item on the balance sheet and how their very reasonable subscription is used to keep them in touch. Any contributions to the Publication Fund?



6. Frank Nicholls - Obituary

H F E Nicholls 1917 - 2012

Borden Grammar School 1946 to 1980

The psalm which was recited at Frank Nicholls' funeral speaks of the years of our life as 'three score and ten', going on to speak of those who manage 'four score' as having to endure 'labour and sorrow'. What then can we say of one who managed not three score and ten, nor yet four score, but four score and fifteen?

Frank Nicholls was even able till the very last to avoid the psalmist's 'labour and sorrow', remaining in reasonably good health almost until the end. Surviving a major cancer operation at the time of his ninetieth birthday, even though somewhat restricted in his activities, he was able to live quietly in the home he had owned for nearly sixty years, enjoying visits from friends and relations, with his books, his radio, and latterly his television.

Frank (he never used his first name, Henley, except when signing cheques) was born during WW1. He profited from a scholarship to Beck School Tooting which led him on to King's College London where as well as taking a degree in English he gained the AKC diploma, a qualification in Divinity to gain which one had only, he recalled, to be able to list the names of the Kings of Israel.

War service with the Pioneer Corps was endured and encouraged by his correspondence with a certain Mary Evans whom he had come to know in the Kings College Christian Union of which he was Secretary before the war.

This Mary Evans, much courted by others while at Kings, including a young man who was later to become the Bishop of Carlisle (whom she only encouraged because, as she later confessed, he had a sports car), eventually became Mary Nicholls soon after the war, when Frank, after two years teaching in London, joined the staff of a small provincial Grammar School in Sittingbourne where he served until his retirement in 1980, first as an assistant master of English, and quite soon as Head of English. It was there in 1969 that I first met Frank, and we soon became good friends, later to be cemented by our involvement in the Borden-Highsted Choir where in the heady days of the 1980s we delivered full length oratorios by Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Elgar and Mendelssohn.

Frank for many years had been in charge of the annual school play; his memorable production of *The Real Inspector Hound* being the first I saw. He encouraged my first essay in play-directing in Molière's *Miser*. He later handed the play on to Gillian Grinham, and then to the late Jon Adams. His final contribution to school drama was an atmospheric production of *The Long and the Short and the Tall* which evoked his own experiences in the British Army.

Frank would have denied that he had made any real contribution to education. His philosophy was 'They know nothing about English Language or Literature; I know a little, so they had better listen to me, and they might learn something'. He held all educational theorists, especially pontificating politicians, in total disdain.

For Frank (usually known to the pupils as 'Nick') was an exacting teacher, unsympathetic to the idle. He insisted firmly on correct grammar and spelling, having little time for new ideas. He was scathing about visiting inspectors who criticised his style as pedantic and outmoded, and often said so to their face. One inspector who suggested that the class might have an initial 'discussion' about *Macbeth* was told that no serious discussion of the play could take place until the class had read the play and learnt something of its context.

He instilled in a whole generation of pupils the art of clear sentence construction, principally through the medium of Clause Analysis. He rued the day that 'progressive' examiners deleted it from the syllabus and set in stone the sloppy prose style found in today's journalists and in the speech of politicians. His greatest delight was in poetry for which his memory was formidable. Until the very end he could quote at length from Tennyson, Shelley, and most of their 19th c. contemporaries. His memory extended widely into popular verse including the patriotic songs learnt at primary school, and the choruses he had learnt in the Baptist Chapel where his father was an Elder.

Good health accompanied Frank and his wife for a decade and a half into their years of retirement, allowing them to travel all over the world: many times to Australia and New Zealand, as well as the USA, South America including Cape Horn and the Galapagos, as well as China and India. Long-distance travel eventually became too demanding, and after the death of his wife Mary in 2003 he was content to stay at home.

Frank's earlier evangelical beliefs suffered some disillusionment during and after WW2, and he would latterly express himself as an unconvinced agnostic.

His long life, well beyond the psalmist's three score and ten or four score, speaks to us of what we may call the unremarkable ordinariness of extraordinary lives, outwardly causing few waves, yet redolent of those of

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

whom the novelist George Eliot speaks at the close of Middlemarch, writing “that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs”.

Richard Carter

Head of Languages at BGS 1969 -1996

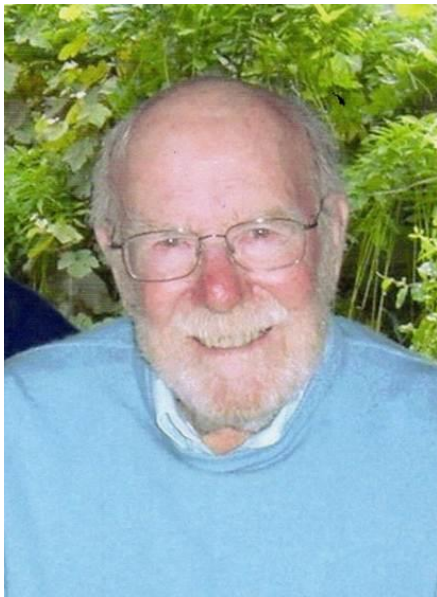
Comment received from Nicholas Vincent:

To Richard Carter's tribute to Frank Nicholls might I add the following? Like others who went through the Nicholls mill, I owe Frank an enormous debt of gratitude. He taught us a precision and a sensitivity to prose style that abides, even forty years on. His contempt for the pompous and the slapdash knew few bounds. But then nor did his rich sense of the ridiculous. He abhorred cant. In doing so, he earned not just our admiration but our trust.

Nicholas Vincent (1975-80)

7. Geoff Beynon - Obituary

E G "Geoff" Beynon (4 October 1926 - 21 October 2012)



Sadly we have to record the death on 21st October 2012 of Ernest Geoffrey Beynon at the age of 86. He was at the School from 1937 until 1944, and was one of the Sheppey Bordenians who was evacuated to S. Wales in 1940 for two years. He was accompanied there by his younger brother, George, who has supplied the following information about Geoff's career. Graham Barnes, his contemporary at School, has amalgamated this with an appreciation delivered by the Minister at his funeral service.

When Geoff Beynon left Borden, where he had a distinguished academic record, he went to Bristol University from which he graduated with a Degree in Mathematics. While at Bristol he stayed at Wills Hall, a hall of residence, for the first two years of his degree course, and soon took up campanology, for which he developed a lifelong enthusiasm. Whenever he had the opportunity, he also rang the bells at Minster Abbey during visits to Sheerness; later, he rang regularly at Thornbury Church in Gloucestershire, and, after retiring in 1988, he was Tower Captain for some years at a Church near Welwyn Garden City.

While at Bristol, he demonstrated his commitment to trade unionism by joining the Assistant Masters' Association as a student. He maintained a longstanding connection with the University, and was active for many decades as the Treasurer, and latterly, as a Vice-President of the Wills Hall Association.

His first posting was to Thornbury Grammar School, and it was there that he met Denise, his future wife, when she joined the Staff. After marrying in 1956, they lived in Bristol, moving in 1964 to Welwyn Garden City where they lived in the same house until his death. Locally, he was involved with the Welwyn Garden City Society and The Digwell Lake Society.

In 1964, Geoff became an Assistant General Secretary of the Assistant Masters' Association, and in due course became General Secretary. During the 1980s, the AMA was required to amalgamate with the Association of Assistant Mistresses, and he became a Joint General Secretary of the combined Associations, which later became known as the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. He was AMA's longstanding representative on the Burnham Committee (a forum to negotiate salaries, involving six teacher unions and Local Education Authorities).

These activities demonstrated his strong commitment to professional standards – focussing on the responsibility of members towards the children they taught, with an emphasis on professionalism rather than militancy. They were also significant in raising the standards within the entire spectrum of working conditions for teachers - for instance, Geoff's involvement in the Working Party on Superannuation saw an advance in terms of family benefits.

In the Minister's words, “It is impossible to outline the extent of his contribution, except to say that his dedication, comprehensive knowledge, supportive advice and humour brought the trust, respect, admiration and affection of his colleagues.” Geoff was a loving, generous and very much loved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle.

8. Borden Grammar School - the early years part 1

This article has been reproduced from 2009 in advance of publishing further chapters of the history of the school.

Founding a School in the 1870s

The founding of Barrows Boys School (as it was first called) began, continued and ended in controversy, culminating in the resignation of the entire Governing Body in 1880.

An Endowed Schools Act of 1869 permitted a charity to devote its accumulated funds to the foundation of a secondary school. There were numerous charitable foundations which had money to spare, and the Barrow Charity in Borden was one of them. William Barrow, a Borden farmer, had left money and property in his will of 1707, out of which financial help was given each year to the poor of the Parish. Income tended to exceed expenditure, but in the 1860s the Court of Chancery took an interest in the Trust's affairs and reduced the number of beneficiaries – the fear was that money was being given to those not strictly in need. The Charity was instructed to accumulate income in order to promote education. The Barrow Trust suggested hospital provision as a more fitting use of accumulated income, but the Court insisted upon education.

The Trust obeyed, and in 1874 the story broke that the Barrow Trust was arranging a Scheme with the Endowed Schools Commissioners for the establishment of a school (with boarders) for boys out of funds of the Charity. There followed a sustained campaign, at public meetings and in the East Kent Gazette, against what seemed to be the diversion of funds, intended for the poor, to the education of the better-off – and of boys not from the Parish. Letters to the press, public meetings in the Parish and petitions to the Barrow Trustees, the Charity Commissioners and the Endowed Schools Commissioners failed to stop the Scheme, or even to amend it significantly. The Parish of Borden was pretty well united in opposition, but the Scheme went ahead. The Vicar of Borden the Revd. F.E. Tuke, one of the Trustees, must have been very uncomfortable. The Governors went on their way, serenely launching the School; there is no reference in their papers to the public controversy which raged.

In August 1875 the Privy Council issued a Scheme for the management and regulation of the Borden School Trust established out of the endowment of the Charity of William Barrow at Borden in the County of Kent, approved by Her Majesty in Council on the 5th day of August 1875". On 23rd August the Governors held their first meeting.

The first Governors were drawn from the Barrow Trust itself (5) together with the Chairman of the Milton Board of Guardians for the Poor Law, and 2 additional Guardians were shortly added. They got down to business immediately. Mr Edward Leigh Pemberton, M.P., was elected Chairman. Mr. Henry Bathurst, a Faversham Solicitor, was appointed Clerk at £30 a year (he was already Clerk to the Barrow Trust itself). Messrs Vallance, a local bank in Sittingbourne, were appointed bankers. A site for the School was agreed – 7 acres in Riddles Road, owned by the Barrow Trust and part of the farm occupied by Edward Homewood. And advertisements were agreed to seek an architect.

Hay and Oliver, a London firm, were chosen as architects. They in turn advertised for builders and Richard Avard of Maidstone was the lowest bidder at £7,365. Immediately a snag arose. The Scheme stipulated £6,600. The Commissioners agreed to an additional sum of £800 being made available from the Barrow Trust's funds, so that the contract could be signed and the construction begun. This left £35 available for other purposes. The Charity Commissioners themselves pointed out that the Architect's fee had to be met, a clerk of works taken on to keep an eye on the building (£3 a week), and an access to be formed. The Governors had to lay on water and gas, to fence and lay out the grounds, and to furnish and equip the School. At this stage no one asked how £35 was to cover these unavoidable expenses!

There was brick earth on the School site, and early in the 1876 the Governors discussed making bricks on the spot as an economy measure. Mr Kemsley, a brickmaker of Key Street, was drawn into the discussions. He declared that "first-class bricks" could be made. The Commissioners agreed to the project. The contract was awarded to Mr Kemsley who went ahead promptly with the brick-making operation in March 1876. Mr Hay visited the site to check on progress. There followed a flurry of activity. He condemned the bricks as "a complete failure, in fact not so good a brick as the common stocks". There was a rush to buy in local bricks so as not to impede the building work, and to sell off the inferior stocks. There was a loss of £145 on the operation.

The construction of the School building was sufficiently advanced by February 1878 for the Governors to set about appointing a headmaster. Applications were invited for a day and boarding school – boarders were considered important as adding tone to a school. The buildings were intended for 130 scholars "or thereabouts", including at least 50 boarders. The curriculum, including Maths, Latin and at least one modern foreign language,

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

was to include "Natural Sciences with special reference to Agriculture, Mensuration" (the art of finding by measurement and calculation the length, area, volume, etc, of bodies) "and Land Surveying". The salary was to be £200 with capitation payments in respect of the number of boys on roll with, in addition, payment for each boarder. The house provided was to be free of rates and rent. Altogether an attractive package.

There were two interesting conditions. Applicants were expressly warned not to approach any of the Governors individually. Very early on, soon after the Governing Body was constituted, the Revd. Henry Hilton of Milstead had produced a letter from the Headmaster of Clifton College, Bristol, urging the Governors to appoint a headmaster at the outset, who would tell them how to plan the School. He went on to explain that had just the man and would make him available immediately, but rather spoiled the effect by mentioning naively that the man was in any case having to give up his post at Clifton and had nowhere to go. Mr Leigh Pemberton resisted the suggestion, and nothing more was said, but it may have given rise to this condition.

The second condition applied to ordained applicants. At that time, schoolmasters were often Church of England clergymen, and the Governors recognised that they might well appoint one. They feared that an ordained headmaster might combine the headship with a post as vicar or curate of a nearby parish. They therefore forbade the headmaster from accepting a care of souls while still headmaster. (When I came to Borden, this condition still featured in the copy of the School's Articles of Government which my predecessor presented to me)

There were 66 applicants for the headship. Along with their applications, they sent in testimonials, open statements supplied by those who knew them in which their qualities were set out. (Oddly enough to us today, confidential references were not used). Printing must have been cheap : an applicant from Hereford sent a printed book of testimonials supplied by everyone of note in the City, including the Governor of Hereford Gaol.

A Committee of Governors reduced the 66 to 6, and the whole Governing Body selected the final 3. These were called for interview, and the Revd. William Henry Bond, a Cambridge graduate in his twenties, was successful. It was not a unanimous decision, and one of the other two was from Clifton College. Bond had taught for only a few years at St. Bees School, near Cornforth. The Governors' Minutes record only the decision, and give no clue as to the reason for his success.

Two of the original Governors stand out. Pre-eminent was Mr. Edward Leigh Pemberton of Torry Hill, landowner, barrister and Member of Parliament. He was invariably elected Chairman. Even when he left the Board and missed several meetings, he was immediately elected Chairman when he resumed attendance and all continued as though nothing had happened. The Revd. Henry Hilton, Vicar of Milstead, had educational connections and sometimes dared to oppose Mr. Leigh Pemberton . When the Clerk provided a statement of accounts in November 1879 for submission to the Charity Commissioners, Hilton opposed them, and confessed that he had sent his own version which differed from that of the Clerk. Since the other Governors accepted the figures compiled by the Clerk, Hilton resigned and could not be persuaded to return. He did not, therefore, take part in the final showdown with the Charity Commissioners.

The unsung hero of the founding of the School was Henry Bathurst, the Faversham Solicitor who served as Clerk. He operated at the centre of all the activity involved in setting up the School. He wrote hundreds of letters – to the Charity Commissioners, to Governors, to Architects and Builders. When the Commissioners were slow to reply, he wrote reminders and even travelled to London, alone or with one or two Governors, to gain answers in person. He had other work to do – he was also Clerk to the Barrow Trust, he helped to re-establish Faversham Grammar School, and he had private clients. He was well into his seventies and sometimes too ill to attend his office.

In the very early stages, he was punctilious in obtaining written consent from the Commissioners for all the Governors did. Later on, especially when staff from the Charity Commissioners suggested work, he relied on oral approval. A second fault was to keep detailed accounts of expenditure as the work progressed. Month after month, he paid the bills, especially when the Builder produced an Architects' Certificate for a stage payment. At regular intervals the Commissioners were asked to release money to the School account, and they did.

The School opened in October 1878 with 23 pupils of whom 9 were from Borden. But the buildings were not complete, and the Governors envisaged more – a cottage and stable. Nor were the bills all paid. Early in 1879 the Governors applied for more money to be released, and received a refusal together with a charge they were guilty of "grave irregularities". Their efforts thus far were as nothing compared with their struggle against the Charity Commissioners.

Bryan Short

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

9. Jonathan Brownridge - Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jonathan Brownridge on 22nd October 2012 at the age of just 56. Jon was at the School from 1967 until 1974 before going on to study Physics at Imperial College having been inspired to do so by John Macrae, and their shared passion for physics ensured that they remained firm friends.

Jon was an enthusiastic member of the OBA and attended many of the Dinners up until 2011. He kept in touch with a group of his contemporaries and many of those were among the almost 200 strong congregation at his funeral which was held on 1st November 2012.

10. Borden Grammar School - the early years part 2

This article continues Bryan Short's history of the School.

Grave Irregularities

Mr. Bond proceeded with his work at the School. Staff were recruited. Advertisements placed in newspapers throughout the County brought in pupils, and the School roll rose. Clause 51 of the Scheme required the Head Master to provide the Governors with a written report on the School's progress. Mr Bond produced his first report, covering the year October 1878 to October 1879.

He set out the attendance as follows:

	Day Boys	Boarders	Total
4th Quarter 1878	28	0	28
1st Quarter 1879	33	7	40
2nd Quarter 1879	35	9	44
3rd Quarter 1879	28	13	41

Seven boys had left to enter business and three had become pupil teachers.

The average age on admission was 11½, and "their knowledge is slight and the majority of them are entirely ignorant of the customs of a Public School." But they were making good progress. He had regrets and anxieties. Some boys were misbehaving out of school, and bringing discredit upon the whole School. Some parents were keeping their boys at home without explanation. And the Builders had left a lot of dirt behind. (Some aspects of school life remain constant). Five boys were recommended for prizes.

Whilst the life of the School unfolded, the life of the Governing Body exploded. In the Spring of 1879, the Charity Commissioners accused the Governors of "grave irregularities", arising from expenditure on School buildings, furniture and fittings. On 20th March the Governors met in the Town Hall, Sittingbourne.

Although he had helped call the Special Meeting, Mr. Pemberton was not able to attend. He had, however, drafted a reply to the Commissioners, which was read by those present. Mr. Hilton had also drafted a proposed reply. The Meeting (unanimously) opted for the Hilton draft, which was sent. The two letters are not available, but whereas Mr. Hilton's was conciliatory, aiming at an amicable settlement, Mr. Pemberton's was pugnacious: he had no intention of giving way to threats.

Another Special Meeting (again without Mr. Pemberton) considered a letter to his fellows from the Chairman. It was a long letter (they always were) and his message was that the Governors, as gentlemen, had to defend their self-respect and have the charge of "grave irregularities" withdrawn. Mr Pemberton resigned from the Board.

In the hope of an amicable settlement, the remaining Governors sent details of their expenditure to the Charity Commissioners. They also asked for the release of funds held by them for the School Trust. No money came, but Mr. Skirrow, Inspector of Charities, visited the School. The encounter seemed friendly enough. He even suggested the purchase of drawers for the Boarders' cubicles. He made a report to the Commissioners which seems to have been friendly.

Creditors were pressing for payment of their bills, and the Governors were asking for their money held by the Commissioners. In July 1879 the Commissioners refused to receive a delegation of Governors, having received a report from their Inspector of Charities. The Governors maintained contact with the Commission by post, revealing that their total debt was £2,886; if the money was not released, they must resign.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

At the very end of July, the Commissioners after all received two Governors. In August the Commissioners returned to the theme of unauthorised expenditure and announced that the matter was to be referred to the Attorney General, so a court would settle the issue - "a suggestion which it was understood was made by the deputation at the interview." (This of course they both denied). The Governors reacted promptly. They borrowed money from the Sittingbourne Bank, Messrs Vallance and Payne, and paid the outstanding debts. R. Avar, the Maidstone builder, received £1,300.

In October 1879 Mr. Leigh Pemberton attended a Governors' Meeting. He was elected Chairman for the ensuing year without any known reference to his earlier resignation. There had previously been discussion about the Clerk: Mr. Bathurst was Clerk both to the Barrow Trust and to the School Trust. He had seemed weak in the keeping of the School Trust accounts, and the Governors felt that a Clerk should be appointed who was independent of the Barrow Trust. On 22nd October, Mr. Bathurst resigned, to be succeeded by Mr. W.J. Harris of Sittingbourne.

The pace of activity quickened. In November Mr. Bond asked what arrangements they proposed after the Christmas holiday – in other words, would the School re-open? Mr. Harris had drawn up a detailed set of accounts, but no-one yet knew whether the Charity Commissioners would release money to allow the School to continue. Mr. Bond had to await a decision.

On behalf of the Governors, Mr. Pemberton wrote to the Commissioners, acknowledging that money had been spent without the written consent of the Commissioners, but only on essentials without which the School could not function – furniture, fittings and approach roads. Moreover officials visiting the School had seen what was happening without raising a query, and had even made suggestions for improvement. The Chairman proposed sending yet another statement of account, prepared by the new Clerk, Mr W. J. Harris, to the Commissioners. Mr. Hilton revealed that he had sent his own version to the Commissioners which differed from Mr. Harris's statement. When the Governors insisted on Mr. Harris's version, Mr. Hilton resigned from the Board.

Then came worse news. The Commissioners suggested that the annual grant to the School from the Barrow Trust was intended to be invested, not treated as income to be spent, and the investment thus created was to supply interest for the School Trust to use on the maintenance of the School. This reading of the Scheme threatened the financial viability of the School. Mr. Pemberton engaged a Solicitor, Mr. Lake of Lincoln's Inn, to handle the case. It was now December; were the boys to return after Christmas? Hefty letters passed to and fro – fortunately, post arrived the next day. Mr. J. Clabon, Solicitor to the Charity Commissioners, now became involved, writing to hope that Mr. Pemberton would not close the School. In the absence even of temporary financial help, the Governors on 12th December agreed to give the Head Master six months' notice – but hoped to be able to withdraw it.

The Barrow Trust for 1879 had £350 surplus, as well as the £550 normally granted to the School, and in a letter dated 15th December 1879 indicated that they were willing for the Governors to use this money to avoid closing the School. A copy of this letter was supplied to Mr. Bond, with an assurance that the Governors expected to carry on the School until well into 1880: the boys should return to School after Christmas.

The immediate crisis was over: now for a long-term settlement. Mr. Lake, the Governors' Solicitor, assured them that their case was strong: the large sum held by the Commissioners for the School Trust could be used to pay off the loans raised by the Governing Body, and he would make direct contact with the Solicitor to the Commissioners, Mr. Clabon. (Mr. Clabon risked confusing the situation further by advancing a third view of the financial clause of the Borden School Trust. The Trust was to receive £550 a year from the Barrow Trust for School running costs, and also any remaining surplus of the Barrow Trust to form an investment trust to produce income for the School. But this was not pursued.)

There was no court action against the Governors. In May 1880 the Commissioners paid some £2,500 to the Governors with which they repaid the loan raised from the Bank. In June the Governors rounded off matters by resigning. They met in the Town Hall, Sittingbourne, on 30th June 1880 and directed the Clerk to sign the following letter on their behalf and to publish it in the local press:

Sittingbourne, 30th June 1880

Sir,

Borden School Trust

The Governors of Borden School direct me to inform you that they beg resign their offices. To yourself and such of the Commissioners as have any acquaintance with the facts of the case, the reasons which induce them to take this step must be obvious. But it is due to themselves that the public should know upon what grounds they resign a trust which they voluntarily undertook, so they propose to state in as short a form as possible what these reasons are, and to publish this letter in local newspapers.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

They omit, as minor points, all mention of the great delays which have attended their applications to and correspondence with your office, and which have already been the subject of discussion. Their complaint is that gentlemen who had undertaken a duty involving much responsibility and great sacrifices of time and trouble, without of course receiving the slightest benefit or advantage to themselves, have been treated by the Commissioners as defaulting trustees and accused of committing grave irregularities ; that the Commissioners in their dealings with the Governors have repudiated their own acts, and those of their officials ; that they have done all in their power to throw a very heavy responsibility upon the Governors personally and that in such attempt they have succeeded only in throwing a perfectly unnecessary charge upon the funds of the charity.

The scheme under which Borden School was established is dated the fifth of May 1875 and accommodation for 50 Boarders and 150 Day Scholars and a master's home were thereby directed to be provided. The Governors in the month of February 1876 obtained the sanction of the Commissioners to a site for the School "subject to the provision of proper approaches." A plan of the proposed site was submitted to them and it was then pointed out that it would be desirable, if not necessary, that two small pieces of land should be purchased in order to straighten the road, and it was with reference to this that the approval of their board was given "subject to the formation of proper approaches" and a form of application for leave to purchase such pieces of land was supplied from the Commissioners' office to the Governors' Clerk.

The cost of these pieces of land was about £170 exclusive of the cost of conveyance. The amount to be expended by the School was fixed by the Commissioners at £7,400. The Contractor's estimate for building was £7,365 and was submitted to and approved by the Commissioners who before the Contract was sent to them had themselves pointed out that in addition to the cost of the building "the cost of forming and fencing the site, architects' commission, Clerk of the Works salary, furniture and other incidental expenses would have to be provided for. The architects' commission of £5 per cent on the outlay was also specially sanctioned by the Commissioners. In addition to these items of expenditure the Governors with the sanction of the Commissioners undertook the making of Bricks on the spot to be supplied to the Contractor; and although it was supposed at the time that this would be a benefit to the charity, it ultimately turned out that on this account a loss of £145 was incurred. The Governors also incurred certain expenses in advertising the School, for Architects' plans, Contractor's estimates and for a head master. All of these items were absolutely necessary, and some of them were expressly directed by the scheme. Other expenses were also incurred for gas and water communication which were not specially sanctioned by the Commissioners or directed by the Scheme but which were equally necessary. In order to save time and expense the Governors ordered partly from the Contractor and partly from other persons furniture, baths and other articles which were more conveniently provided and fitted during the erection of the building than they could be after its completion. From time to time the Commissioners paid to the Governors out of the funds set apart for that purpose some money on account of the school and such sums were applied by the Governors as they were received in discharge partly of the Contractor's and Architects' charges and partly of those for the furniture and fittings. In the month of January 1879 the sums so received amounted to £7,200.

On the 3rd February 1879 after an interview between some of the Governors and one of the Commissioners which had taken place on the 30th January and at which the position of the Charity was fully discussed a further sum of £1,675 was after some discussion on the part of the Commissioners paid by them to the Governors making altogether £8,875. In the course of that interview and subsequently the accounts so far as they had been received by the Governors were submitted to the Commissioners and no objection was made to any head of expenditure or any item under any head except with reference to the proposed erection of a cottage and stable which was consequently abandoned by the Governors. All the Governors who were present at the interview left it under the impression that Lord Clinton, the Commissioner who attended it, was quite satisfied with what they had done, and were quite unprepared for the attitude which the Commissioners assumed immediately afterwards. On the 3rd February the Commissioners wrote a letter informing the Governors in effect that they had been guilty of grave irregularity in expending anything beyond the sum of £7,400 without the previous sanction of the Commissioners and that though under the circumstances they had sent the £1,675 the Governors would be personally liable for any unauthorised expenditure which they might incur, and that in regard to any future expenditure the Commissioners would be prepared to consider applications on the subject when a detailed statement of what was required should be sent to them. The Governors upon this tendered their resignations. They felt that to be accused of committing grave irregularity and to be threatened with personal liability in simply doing that which was absolutely necessary in order to carry out the directions of the Commissioners was to be placed in a position to which no gentleman could submit.

They pointed out that every head of expenditure had virtually been recognised and sanctioned by the Commissioners and that although each item had not been previously submitted to the Commissioners yet they had not imagined it necessary to ask the Commissioners' sanction to the purchase of every piece of furniture or

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

other article to complete the School, that each head of expenditure and the items under each head so far as they had been received by the Governors had been placed before Lord Clinton who had led the Governors to believe that no objection was made to any of them. In consequence of a letter from the Commissioners dated 12th March explaining their view of the circumstances under which the charge of grave irregularity had been made the Governors withdrew their resignations. At this time there was still due in respect of the Contractor's account, furnishing and other heads of expenditure which had been previously submitted to the Commissioners the sum of £2,200, and there was a balance of funds in the hands of the Commissioners out of which the previous payments had been made amply sufficient to discharge that sum. No additional head of expenditure beyond those previously submitted to the Commissioners and virtually sanctioned by them had been incurred.

In the month of March and for many months subsequently repeated applications were made to the Commissioners for payment of this sum; detailed accounts were sent, and the Commissioners were over and over again asked to specify what item if any in the accounts they objected to, or what kind of expenditure had not been virtually sanctioned by them. The Governors admitted that in strictness they ought to have consulted the Commissioners before ordering the furniture and other articles but stated that everything ordered was necessary and that at all events they were entitled to have pointed out to them what was objected to. The Commissioners refused to advance any money whatsoever or to point out anything they objected to.

In the month of May 1879 Mr Skirrow, the Inspector of Charities, paid a visit to the School and had an interview with the Governors. The complaint had been made by him and the Governor s all supposed that he was perfectly satisfied with all that had been done. In the meantime the Contractor and others who had supplied furniture and other articles for the School were clamorous for their money. Several actions were threatened and one actually commenced against the Governors, and they, rather than bring discredit on the School, which had been opened in the month of July 1879, borrowed the money (about £2,000) necessary to discharge the claims from their private bankers, and gave their own personal guarantees for its repayment with interest. The Commissioners were informed of the threatened proceedings before such payment was made. On 15th July 1879 the Governors, instead of receiving any money, were informed that the Commissioners were considering whether legal proceedings should not be taken against them. The Governors, having already advanced £2,000, were naturally much surprised at this information and repeatedly asked upon what point such proceedings were threatened and what complaint was made against them, but could never succeed in obtaining any reply. They asked that if Mr. Skirrow's Report had anything to do with such threats they might be informed of such report. This was refused; and up to the present time the Governors are entirely ignorant of the contents. On 24th November 1879 the Governors were informed that the case of the Trust had been certified to Her Majesty's Attorney General and that any further question of expenditure must be postponed until it was ascertained what was the result of any proceedings which might be instituted by him. The Governors again attempted to find out what part of their conduct was objected to, and on what ground proceedings were to be taken; they proposed an interview between some of their body and the Commissioners and reminded them that in an ordinary case of one individual having a case against another it was usual that the person complained of should be informed of the nature of the complaint. The Commissioners, however, declined the proposed interview or to give any information on the subject.

On 23rd December 1879 the Solicitor to the Attorney General informed the Governors that the Commissioners refused to consent to a larger expenditure out of the capitalised fund for providing school buildings including approaches, fittings and furniture than £8,875 and asked if the Governors were prepared themselves to pay the expenditure which had been incurred beyond that sum, or if not out of what funds they proposed to discharge them. The Governors replied that they had no intention of paying such expenditure out their own pockets, although they had temporarily advanced £2,000 for that purpose, and pointed out that there was a balance of the funds which had been already been partially applied for the purpose of the School sufficient to discharge the liabilities. From that time until 1st April 1880 the Governors received no communication from the Commissioners or the Attorney General as the progress of the proceedings. It was generally known in the neighbourhood that the School was in difficulties, that it was doubtful if would be carried on, and consequently parents abstained from sending boys to it.

On 1st April the Governors were informed by the Attorney General's Solicitor and by the Commissioners that the whole of the balance of the funds out of which the previous payments had been made (after certain deductions not necessary to be mentioned for the present purpose) would be handed over the them in full discharge of all claims connected with the erection and furnishing of the School, if the Governors would consent to the payment there out of the costs of the Attorney General, or that if the Governors did not accept that offer, they were at liberty to go to the Court (no court was specified) and that the Commissioners would agree to the payment of whatever the Court thought them entitled to, but that the Governors would have to pay the costs of such proceedings. The Governors had no difficulty in accepting the first of these alternatives and on 8th May

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

1880 the whole of the funds in question, after donating £87 for the costs of the Attorney General, were handed over to them by the Commissioners, but without any expression of regret for the inconvenience and annoyance that the Governors had been put to or any explanation of any sort.

The Governors omitted, as a distinct matter, the fact that owing to the complicated nature of the Scheme the Governors had from the first great difficulty in construing it, and that in one view of it (which the Governors entertained) the capital of the charity would have been much larger than it was under the other view. To their great surprise the Commissioners asserted that a communication made to the Inspector of Charities in reference to a matter he was specially directed to make a report upon, was not a communication to them, and that they repudiated any notice given to him on the subject. The letter of the 12th of September 1879 addressed to the Secretary was not repudiated but remained unanswered until 26th November 1879 when for the first time the Governors were informed that their view of the Scheme was not in accordance with the view of the Commissioners.

From the above statements it will be seen that after inducing the Governors to believe that the Commissioners had sanctioned all necessary expenditure for purchasing the pieces of land for the formation of a site, proper approaches to such site, furniture for a master's house, and for a school capable of accommodating 50 Boarders and 150 Day Scholars, the architects' percentage, the salary of the Clerk of the Works, the risk of a brickmaking operation and other incidental expenses, the Commissioners in the first instance expected the Governors to pay all these charges out of a sum of £35, namely the difference between £7,400, which in their letter of 12th March 1879 the Commissioners say is all that is properly applicable for the School accommodation, and the £7,365 authorised by them to be paid to the Contractor for the building alone. That with much reluctance the Commissioners afterwards paid £1,675 on account of these expenses making with previous payments a total of £8,875. That although the Commissioners were well aware that a further sum of £2,000 had been actually expended on the School by the Governors out of their own pockets, they not only for months refused to make any repayment to them but actually endeavoured to obtain the sanction of the Attorney General to the commencement of legal proceedings, at the same time refusing to specify any ground of complaint against the Governors, or to mention any item of expense incurred by them to which the Commissioners objected. That after a delay of more than a year, acting under the advice of the Attorney General, the Commissioners paid what the Governors had originally asked for, but not until they had saddled the Trust Fund with the legal expenses of the Attorney General and of themselves, and with the interest on the money which they had been obliged to borrow, and had by this delay seriously affected the working of the School.

It is clear that the Commissioners were either wrong in withholding the payment of this sum when it was asked for, or were wrong in paying it when they did. No reason has been given for either course. It is not for the Governors to lecture the Commissioners on their method of doing business, but the Governors had supposed that it was the duty of Commissioners to treat Trustees as gentlemen, to inform them openly if they had grounds of complaint, to judge for themselves on all matters connected with the management of each trust, and if it should be necessary for them to act on the report of others, to inform the persons interested of the nature of such report and ask for explanations.

The Governors had supposed that it was the Commissioners' duty to advise Trustees on matters connected with their Trust, and to inform them at once if their views were wrong, and not to allow them to act for months under false impressions. They had also supposed that the Commissioners would have performed these duties, but they had not supposed it possible that an important public department would attempt to repudiate the acts of its own officials or would attempt to make trustees personally and pecuniarily liable for acts which the Commissioners, if not solely, were at all events equally responsible with the Governors. The Governors find themselves wrong in all their suppositions, and they therefore decline any longer to act in a position which renders them liable to such risks and imputations as they have been subjected to in the course of their dealings with your Board.

Signed by order of the Governor of the Borden School Trust

W.J. Harris, Clerk.

The Governors were local worthies, public spirited, working for the general good. They were unpaid and regarded themselves as gentlemen. The officials of the Charity Commissioners were paid employees, who should show due deference to the gentlemen founding a school for the benefit of their locality. In fact relations seem to have been good until Lord Clinton and Mr. Skirrow became involved. Hard-hitting and lengthy letters were then exchanged.

Mr. E. Leigh Pemberton was particularly conscious of his gentlemanly status. The conflict with Lord Clinton prompts surprise that the Commissioners dealt so roughly with the Governors, and especially with their

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Chairman, Mr. Pemberton. The resignation letter was sent to the Commissioners by the Clerk, but it bears the stamp of having been composed by Mr. Leigh Pemberton.

Benjamin Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield) headed a Conservative Government. Mr. Pemberton was not only a landowner and barrister but also a back-bench Conservative Member of Parliament. Lord Clinton was willing to threaten legal action, but none happened. The Attorney General, a political appointment, perhaps made sure of that.

Bryan Short

11.OBA Reunion Dinner 2013 - photos

Below are selected photos from the OBA Annual Reunion Dinner held on Saturday 23rd March 2013.



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



12. Dinner 2013

Chris Laming reports:-

A move to the UK Paper clubhouse for the OBA annual dinner appeared to prove a popular choice with attendees, many of whom complimented the Association on the choice of venue and the quality of food and service.

In spite of the inclement weather there were only a few cancellations making a total of 82 diners on the night, the numbers boosted by a large delegation of leavers from 1988 who were celebrating their 25th anniversary of parting company with the school. More than 30 members also enjoyed a tour of the school hosted by caretaker Tim Hewitt who attended the dinner as the Association's guest. This year's speaker was practising GP Dr Nigel Dickson (68 – 75) who gave an entertaining and passionate talk about the formation of the NHS and his part in the health care system over the past 30 years including the time he managed to upset the politician Edwina Currie after he had criticised the Thatcher government for withdrawing nit nurses and how he struggled to cope with the demand for his services during a serious flu epidemic in the 80s when patients were dying before he could get to them.

In response, Peter Lusted, the vice-president of the OBA, thanked Nigel and also thanked members of the OBA committee for the roles they play in running the Association. In particular he thanked Keith Shea for his involvement with the football section over 37 years and then presented Keith with an engraved tankard to mark the occasion.

Harold Vafeas, the head teacher of Borden Grammar School and president of the Association, was sadly unable to be present due to ill health but he sent the following report which was read out to those present:

Dear Old Bordenians

I do hope that you are enjoying the evening and are in the midst of catching up with good friends and old acquaintances. I am sorry I cannot be with you on this occasion, but chemotherapy treatment makes it difficult to be out late on a cold evening.

This year I have worked at school alternate weeks during treatment that began last summer and will now continue into the autumn and probably beyond. There is little likelihood that I will be able to return to school full time in September and therefore I have informed governors that I will retire at the end of the school year. Staff, parents and pupils are aware of this.

When I started as Headteacher in September 2004 I was dimly aware that one of the perks and privileges of the post was being President of the Association. This was very much brought to life by the first committee meeting I attended. Once I got my bearings it was great fun. The clear interest in the school, as well as the Association itself, and the never ending stream of witticisms meant there was never a dull moment. Inevitably, over a series of committee meetings there have to be some dull moments. It would be impossible to maintain the characteristic high octane discussions and dazzling humour absolutely all the time! On occasion, so I understand, even some of my staff meetings can have dull moments, particularly linked so I am told to my belief in the importance of analysing statistics.

During the past year A level results have been good, second best to our 2011 record year, GCSE quite good but could have been better. This in particular has made

us re-examine teaching, assessment and progress during the first 3 years boys spend at the school.

We have had a renaissance in musical theatre during the past year. Last summer, about 40 young people from Sittingbourne presented a performance of 'Les Miserables' at Borden. They had rehearsed regularly throughout the summer at the school. They were led by four young men who have been excellent students at Borden and are going on to courses in Music and the Performing Arts. Over a third of those who took part were Borden students. Three packed houses enjoyed high class performances. The school provided the facilities and moral support, the students did the rest. This was a terrific example of student initiative, of the wealth of creative talent within our community, and, of the school providing the context for them to realise their talents. In December Mrs Stanley our Head of Drama directed highly acclaimed performances of 'The Nativity'. Next month many of those who took part in 'Les Mis' and 'The Nativity' will be performing in an Easter holiday production of 'Sweeney Todd.'

On the sporting front I will mention two interesting if not mainstream achievements. Firstly, some of our Year 11 boys (5thformers), encouraged by Mr O'Neil, took up handball from scratch in the autumn and will be representing Kent at the national finals next month, having successfully taken Kent through the South East regional finals. All of the boys concerned play football, hockey, rugby or cricket to a high standard and are natural

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

ball players. Our squash team, coached by Mr Whiting, entered the national U18 squash competition. They won their group, taking them into a knockout round of 32 schools. They won matches against The Reed School and Harrow that took them into the quarter finals. They were drawn against Wycliffe, the school that has won the competition 5 times in recent years. They lost the match but were commended by the coach of what is undoubtedly the strongest squash playing school in England.

There is a great deal that can be said about sport and other cultural activities at the school. I would encourage you to explore the school website from time to time to view photos, the prospectus and other information that will keep you in touch with what the school is like today.

I would like to finish by thanking the Committee and all members of the Association for the tremendous support given to current pupils in the school through time and financial grants. All this support is greatly appreciated.

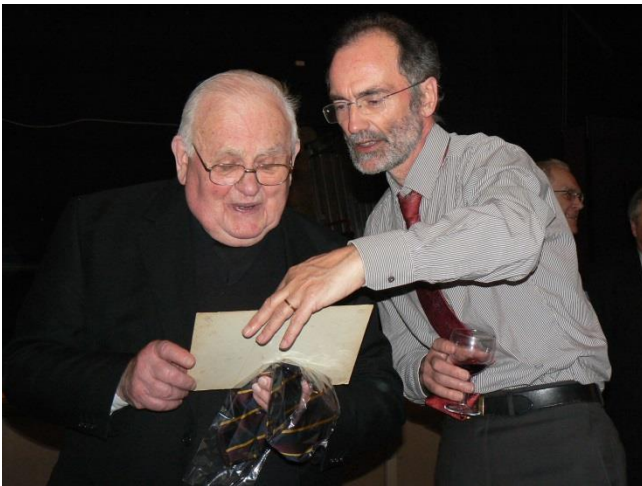
My best wishes to you all.

Harold Vafeas

Headteacher

13. OBA Dinner 2013 - more photos and "1963 intake" memorabilia

Stephen Lynas has supplied us with a couple of photos from the Annual Dinner, held on 23 March, together with a school photo of the Form 5A in 1967. Amazingly, Stephen has also been able to supply all the names on the school photo!



In the picture on the left, the Revd Stanley Evans and Richard Yelland (1963-70) are looking at the 5th form photo from 1967 (reproduced below). Stanley taught English for a short time and Richard is showing him the 5 people on the photo who were present.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



BGS Form 5A – 1967

Back Row (L-R)

Nick 'Fish' Eales – father had chemists shop at Halfway, Sheerness; Chris Mackett (father had chemists shop in Sittingbourne High Street. Career in Probation service; Stephen 'Hairy' Lynas; Adrian 'Tash' Tasker – lived at Woodstock, went to work for IBM/Burroughs, I believe; Graham Leech – civil engineering career, now in Stalybridge; Stephen 'Primo' Farnworth – joined the school from Lancashire, still in Sittingbourne; Andy McKie; M Wildish; Steve Pegg.

Middle row (L-R)

Johnny Crowder; Les Dangerfield; Maurice 'Dido' Dye; Graham Harris; Alan Foster; Anthony 'Tone' Denton; Pete 'Puss' Gwillim – lived in Teynham; Pete 'Spunky' Spall; Pete 'Sarnie' Andrews – so called because he, unusually for those days brought a packed lunch to school; and to distinguish him from Jan Andrews.

Front row (L-R)

Andrew Dickson – now in Canada; Dave 'Prof' Newman; Dave Hodges – from Bapchild; Peter 'Totlet' Wheatley – son of Tot Wheatley, the maths teacher; Graham Brignall; R Baker; John 'Jan' Andrews; John Penny; Richard 'Woggles' Yelland.

The Form Master was the wonderful Roy 'Prune' Hill

Stephen Lynas

14. John Ford - Obituary

We are sad to report the passing away of John Ford on April 22nd, peacefully at Medway Hospital, after a long illness.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

John was at Borden from 1962 to 1970 and was a regular at the annual OBA Dinner. He had been both Chairman of the OBA in years gone by and an organiser of the Dinner as well.

His contemporaries at school will remember his acting and musical abilities and his powerful voice put to good use in the Debating Society where he became Vice President. His acting roles over the years in the School Play included the Lord Chancellor in Iolanthe, Algernon Moncrieff in The Importance of Being Earnest, the Emperor in Brass Butterfly, Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd in Ruddigore and the Younger Spencer in Edward II. John returned to tread the boards in 1971 as a leading light in putting on a hugely successful Old Bordenian Revue at the School."

John spent his life in Education and as well as being a church warden, was the choirmaster and Director of Music at Saint Peter and Paul Parish Church, Borden, where he was also actively involved in leading retreats and in spiritual direction.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Christine, and sons, Richard and Alan.

Comment received from Martyn Calder:

Sad news.

The way I remember John is as someone who was always brave enough to be an individual, slightly eccentric even, as a teenager (and no doubt beyond!). Of all of our year he seemed to be the one most interested in the performing arts, and I do remember him standing at the back of a London theatre we were visiting (can't remember the play) shouting hugely loud encores.

Iolanthe and Ruddigore were of course joint Gilbert & Sullivan productions with the Girls Grammar, rather than Borden school plays (though I recall we also had girls in The Importance of Being Earnest). I remember the G&S productions well as I was in them (along with Ian Baron, John Clements, and Tony Young from our year, if I remember correctly). John (Ford) was always one of Borden's best voices.

Martyn Calder

Comment received from Tony Young:

Further to Martyn's comments about John (and yes all of those mentioned were in the G&S, John 'Filmer' Clements still has the programmes for the four that we did - Mikado, Iolanthe, Ruddigore and Pirates) - I believe John Ford was in an earlier one - the Gondoliers. He was, as Martyn says, eccentric - which pretty well summed him up. I remember a fairly rotund, jolly character - who loved being able to call the G&S performers out of class for rehearsals at the Girls School - beats Latin any day!!!

Tony Young 1962-69

15. Reminiscences of a pupil of the 1940s

We recently received the following email from Reg Hunn, a pupil at Borden from 1944 - 1950, triggered by the obituary of Frank Nicholls, providing an insight into life at the school and beyond 60 years ago.

In an idle moment today whilst at a loose end, and for an inexplicable reason, I decided to look up the school on the web.

On studying the site I noted with sadness the passing of Frank Nicholls a while back.

He taught me English soon after his arrival at the school. As the author of the obituary rightly points out he was not tolerant of any mucking about and his love of poetry was very apparent as evidenced by the number of poems we had to either memorise, analyse or compose.

Although I forgave him years ago, the reason he has always been a pillar of my memories of my years at the school was the fact that he published in the school magazine, circa 1947 one of the poems I had submitted for a homework project [Editor's note: I was unable to locate a copy of this magazine - nearest I have is September 1948!). Being locked into train carriages to and from the island for an hour a day the ribbing I received from all the macho pupils hell bent only on a life chasing and clouting balls about was with me for what seemed like a lifetime. On the credit side and despite everything he did leave me with a lifelong delight of poetry.

The second and largest pillar would be George Dawkins whom I must credit with a major part of any success I have achieved in my life. He was the first to realise my leanings towards lateral thinking and not, as others had diagnosed, 'trouble making'. He not only took me from near class bottom in Physics to top but engendered in me a love of physics and investigation which has stayed with me throughout my life. As a result I spent my life on

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

development work related to high voltage cable dielectrics, became firstly a chartered engineer and thereafter managing director of a company in South Africa producing such products. The cherry on the top was the award of a Fellowship to the Institute of Engineering Technology. The amazing thing was that whilst George was renowned for giving the most painful clips to the ear known to mankind at that time, he set me on the path without any such incident. He was a truly amazing teacher.

The third pillar was Reg Goff who tuned my ability to appreciate art. When I retired twenty years ago because of that appreciation I took up playing with watercolours and now have a few wildlife related subjects scattered around the world.

My sincere thanks to all three pillars for their much valued contribution to my later years.

Regards

Reg Hunn [1944-1950]

When the Website Administrator sought his consent to publish his email, Reg followed up with additional information about life at the school and beyond:

As all my early school years were war years unique rules applied. For instance if you arrived at school early you had the pick of the shrapnel that laid about. As a result lateness was virtually nil. Discipline was more physical too. In the late 40s career opportunities and choices were also relatively few. When the war finished there was little organised for youngsters so we had to start our own youth clubs and organise our own functions. This coupled with a severe shortage of funds and general opportunities meant we had to stand relatively alone on our own two feet from a very early age. I don't believe the same environment exists for either students or school leavers today. That is not to say I think either camp has it easier but I do think it means there are major environmental difference to consider but if you believe anything can be gained by publishing thoughts of a really old toppie such as I then go for it. At least Frank Nicholls will not now be horrified by my poor English!!

Comment received from Philip Drury:

Reg Hunn's letter was interesting and amusing proving once again the far reaching influence of teachers. Like me he had a sneaking regard for the old curmudgeon Nick. Nick would be amused to know that he disapproved Shakespeare - "the good (that men do) is oft interred in their bones"

16.BGS - 3 Peaks Challenge raising money for Cancer Research UK

Old Bordenians will be interested in the forthcoming challenge being undertaken by pupils and staff. They are trying to raise as much money as possible for a charity which is very close to our hearts since we received the news about Harold Vafeas's (Headmaster) illness last summer. If you are able to support this in any way they would be very grateful.

The Head of Physical Education at the school writes:

As you may be aware we are aiming to complete the 3 peaks challenge between the 4-5th May this year. 17 of us will be aiming to reach the summits of the 3 highest peaks in England Wales and Scotland in the timeframe of 24 hours to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK.

I had chosen to organise this event to raise money for this charity after we had recieved the news that rocked the whole of the Staff body last year.

I am wondering if it is possible for you to help us with this challenge by spreading the word about what we are doing and by donating what you can towards our total.

We are currently at a total of £1010 and aim to raise over £2000 for this cause. We have a "just giving" page set up at the moment and the link for this is: <https://www.justgiving.com/Borden-Staff-3-peaks>

I have attached a copy of the information pack that I have put together to outline the challenge further and to outline what we are planning to achieve.

We really hope that you are able to support us in our challenge to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research.

Kind Regards

Marcus O'Neill

Head of Physical Education

Borden Grammar School

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Later news: further to the above story. the intrepid three peaks challenge team arrived safely back in school on Monday afternoon, 6th May, having endured awful weather conditions but achieving their goal.

We will be putting photos of their exploits on the school website gallery (accessed from the main home page via the 'news' then 'gallery' tabs) but are very proud to announce that the total sum raised so far is over £5,000 and climbing. The school have asked us to make this information available to OBA members and to include a huge thank you for the support the team received. We are happy to do so.

17. Chris Willson - Obituary

It is with regret that we have to report that Christopher Neil (Chris) Willson passed away suddenly at home on May 10 2013, aged 56. Chris left Borden in 1975 after taking his 'A' levels and went on to study at Oxford University.

18. OBA Football Club - Report 2012-13

The 5 a side league season finished on 9th May and culminated in the closest finish in the league for many seasons. 2nd to 5th were separated by just 6 points with the league winners having their lead cut from 15 points 4 weeks earlier to just 6 by the final whistle of the final game.

Going into the last night we were in third place and if we won both of our final games against the two teams above us we would have ended the season as runners up. But we didn't.

We lost 1 - 2 to the second place side (we were denied a blatant penalty...)and then drew 1-1 with the eventual champions meaning that we ended the season in 4th place, just 2 points from runners up spot.

We did however gain revenge two weeks later on 'Finals Night'. There were 4 cup finals played, two are cup competitions and the other two are consolation shield matches and we somehow won through the knockout stages and found ourselves in two of the finals!

The first was one of the shield finals. We lost that 1-3 and didn't really deserve to win but we still won the Runners-Up trophies which was our first trophy for years. We sat out the next two finals then in the last match of the season, which was the final of the Knockout Cup (the most prestigious of all as far as the Sittingbourne 5 a Side League is concerned). AND WE ONLY WENT AND WON IT!

We beat the team that pipped us to runners up spot in the league (the blatant penalty blah blah) by a thumping 2 goals to their hopelessly inadequate 1.

'Old Bordenians, Knockout Cup Winners 2012-2013' the stadium announcer screamed; or he may have done had there been an announcer and a stadium.

Our second trophy in 30 minutes.

This was largely achieved with the same squad that have plumbed the depths over the last few seasons but with the addition of a new keeper, and in the latter part of the season, Cliff Cork's son.

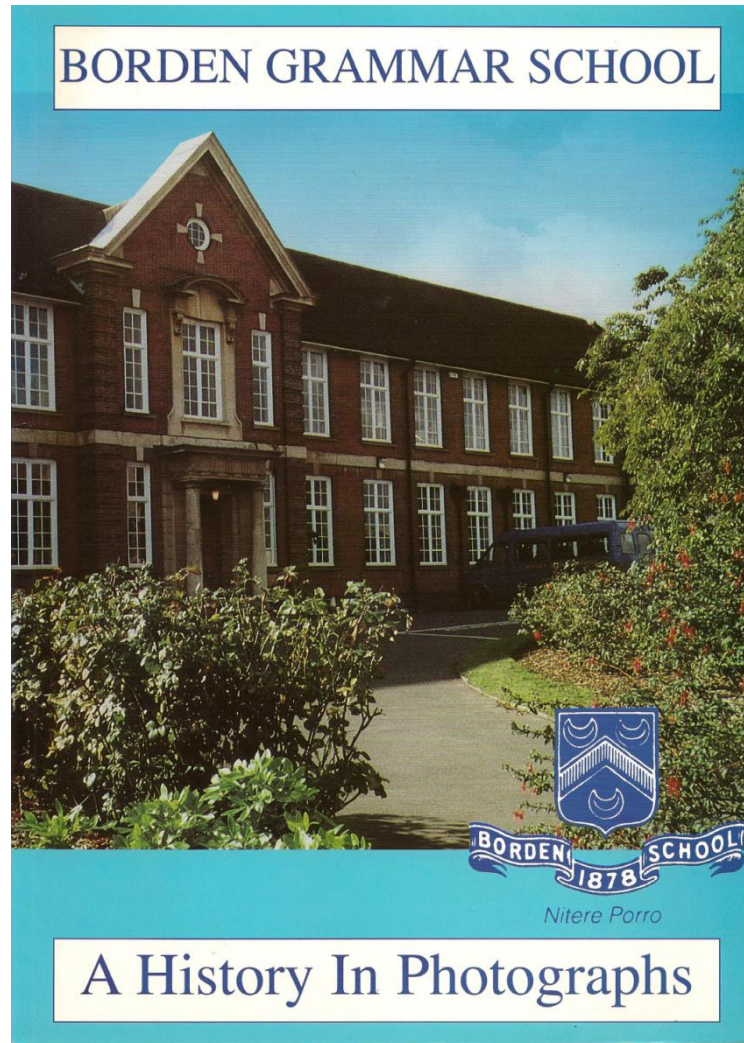
For years we have cried out for some younger legs but for some reason Cliff didn't think to mention that he had a son, a son who, it turned out was quite capable of scoring all 6 goals for us in a thumping 6-2 victory. And to top that, he has a second son, an Old Bordenian who played for one game at the end of the league season and is just as good as his brother. And both want to play next season. Fill yer boots.

This is likely to mean that my boots will not necessarily be hung up despite the acquisition of the splendid tankard that was presented to me at the Dinner.

Common sense says retire now, but an evening emptying the tankard several times says that I am jusht ash good ash the resht .

Keith Shea (OBA Football representative)

19. For Sale: "Borden Grammar School – A History in Photographs"



During a recent visit to the school archives, we uncovered a number of new copies of "Borden Grammar School – A History in Photographs".

This 90+ page book was compiled by Kelvin Hughes, a former pupil and teacher at Borden to coincide with the retirement of Bryan Short, the longest serving headmaster of the school, in 1998. It is a fascinating pictorial history of the school covering the whole of the twentieth century! A couple of examples of its contents are shown below.



OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013



The cover price of the book is £9.99, but we have agreed to sell these copies at the knockdown price of only £5, including postage and packing (to the UK), with all profits going to the school. Copies can be sent abroad, but there will be an additional charge to cover the overseas posting.

If you wish to purchase a copy, please send a cheque for £5, made payable to Old Bordenian Association, to: Barry Gilbert, 7 Doves Croft, Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8LQ. Enquiries regarding overseas postage costs should be sent via email to baranegilbert2@tiscali.co.uk. Note – for readers of the Website Digest, copies of the book are still available from Barry.

20. Board of Education School Inspection report - 1914

This is not a typing error!! A recent search through the School Archives has unearthed a very old School Inspection Report dated October 1914 and it is reproduced in full on the website. Unfortunately, the age and quality of the report make it unsuitable for publication in this Digest.

There is reference to an earlier Report in 1910 which was described as the second full inspection but we have not found either of them; however, we have discovered two other old Inspection reports from 1923 and 1937 and these will be featured on the website in due course.

In this 1914 Report, it is a point to note that while there were only 75 pupils and 6 staff, there were 13 Governors. Also it is very interesting to see the "Class of Life" breakdown on page 3.

The School finances were in a bad state of affairs and thus the expansion of the School was very restricted. You will see the "l" symbol which was a forerunner to the present day £ sign. Payments to Staff were under pressure and expenditure of equipment is minimal. It is sad to note the comment that it would be in the interests of promising pupils to transfer them to another school for their last year.

The comments on the subjects taught are very interesting. In Geography, there were no books dealing with Geography in the Library, and that a globe and a few wall maps had been purchased since the last inspection. Perhaps surprisingly, French was taught throughout the School. In regard to Physical Exercises it is interesting to note that there were only 2 twenty minute periods per week in quite poor conditions. Please do not be too concerned about the comment that the Master responsible should be sent on a holiday course for "Swedish Exercises" – at that time, various types of physical exercise methods were popular, see this link: (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Systems).

All this being done just a few months after Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914.

Alan Snelling

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

21. Borden Grammar School - the early years part 3 and 4

This article continues Bryan Short's history of the School.

The Receivership

In August 1880 the Master of the Rolls heard a case in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice brought by the Attorney General. The defendants were Edward Leigh Pemberton and the other Governors of Borden School. Officers of the Charity Commission had been prompted by the Headmaster, who wanted to know the future of the School. The Attorney General brought the action to establish what the School's future should be.

The Court's decision was to appoint John Moxon Clabon (of the Charity Commission) the Receiver of the School. He was to supervise School accounts, investing for future use any surplus funds. Mr. Clabon was to undertake this work unpaid – he was, of course, the salaried Solicitor of the Charity Commission. Although a senior public official, he was to guarantee £1,700 as a safeguard against the misappropriation of any of the funds.

The Receivership lasted nearly 10 years, until a revised Scheme produced a new Governing Body in 1889.

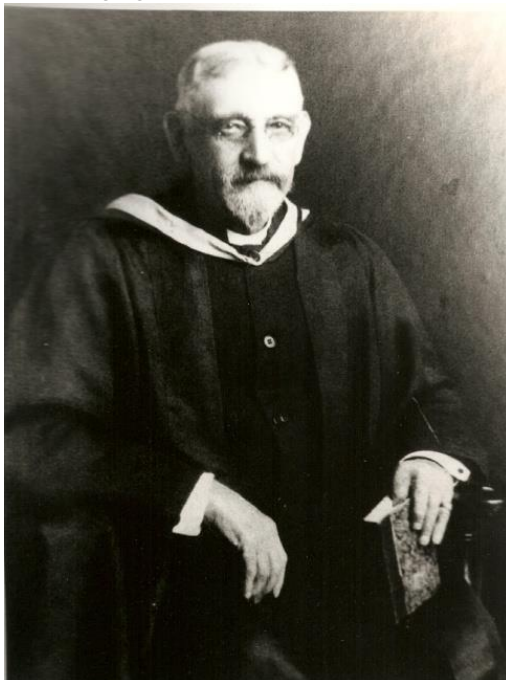
Life for the Headmaster was agreeable, with a Receiver instead of a Governing Body. As Mr. Clabon pointed out, any decisions needed could be obtained promptly by post (letters between Borden and Westminster arrived the next day): much more convenient than waiting for the next scheduled meeting of the Governing Body.

The progress of the boys was monitored by annual examinations conducted by visiting examiners, who were selected by the Headmaster but reported to the Receiver.

Mr. Clabon visited once a year to preside at the annual prizegiving. He had known the School during its formation as an Officer of the Charity Commission, and seems to have been very well disposed towards it.

At one prizegiving, typical of them all, the Headmaster read the report of the examiner, who that year had been the Revd. E.E.W. Kirkby, M.A., late scholar and chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr Kirkby was extremely complimentary. So fulsome was his praise that he prompted Mr. Clabon to launch upon an impassioned call to those present not to hesitate to send their boys to the School, and to praise the work of Mr. Bond and Mr. Maltby. He seems to have been carried away, and preached a sermon. A journalist recorded his words.

“And now, boys, I must exercise the privilege I possess for a few short moments in saying a word of counsel. On the verge of three score years and ten, I cannot hope to come amongst you for many times more, if ever. You may think I am preaching to you – but why may I not do so, if the text is good and the sermon short? I desire to say a few words on the subject of honour. “Honour before Honours” is the motto (so said Mrs Ewing in one of her most charming books) which came from an ancestor who lost the favour of the king for refusing to do something against his conscience for which he would have been rewarded. The motto seems trite at first, but will



Rev'd William Henry Bond M.A. (Cantab)

bear deep examination. Honour before Honours. Whence come Honours? Who rewards the victorious general, the wise statesman, the historian, the poet, the painter? Who makes the duke and the baronet? Answer – man. Honours come from man. The first lesson in our last Sunday's service tells us that riches and honour come from God. And what is honour? When a boy is known as a fellow of his word, that is honour. When he does as he would be done by, that is honour. When he speaks the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that is honour. When he helps protect the weak little boy from the bully – I hope you have no such boy in the School – that is honour. The verse in Micah well describes honour - “To do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly before God.” The parents of that great man of this century, Lowder (who preached in the alleys of East London, and, visiting daily and hourly in the wretched homes of the poor, was called their father), well describes honour - “They possessed nobility of character sanctified by grace.” The way of life – it is the way to death – to Heaven – to hell. The old man ventures, as his last word, to ask his dear young friends to keep to the path of honour as their way of life.”

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Mr Bond's School

1 The Rev'd William Henry Bond

Mr. Bond was 27 on appointment in 1878. He stayed for 15 years. For the first 2 years, he answered to a governing body. There followed 8 years of receivership, and 5 years with a reconstituted governing body. Whatever the governance of the School throughout these years, his problems remained unchanged. He had to recruit and retain teaching staff, he had to recruit and retain pupils, and he had to balance the accounts. For several years, he also had to complete the School and its grounds. The building was ready, but was only partly furnished. The 7 acres of land also had to be fenced and laid out for games. And from quite an early stage, he had also to engage in maintenance of the building which does not seem to have been very well built. Throughout he was one of two (later 3) full-time teaching staff.

2 The Teaching Staff

The School opened in 1878 with only 23 pupils. In 1880, the Headmaster recruited a full-time Assistant Master, F.B. Lott, a graduate of Christ Church, Oxford. However, he only stayed for one term, leaving to become one of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools. And this was the pattern for most of Mr. Bond's headship: numerous assistant masters who left after a short stay. C.E. Maltby lasted 6 years, but he was an exception.

Mr. Bond and his assistant were the only full-time staff, but they were assisted by 3 part-time visiting staff who took singing, drawing and "drill". This staffing pattern continued until 1883, when a second full-time Assistant Master was appointed. The visiting drawing teacher, however, was soon dispensed with, and 2 part-time staff were retained for singing and drill.

The school roll stuck stubbornly at about 50, so the second full-time appointment represented a risky financial move. However, with boarders to supervise, it was no doubt useful to have two resident staff to assist the Headmaster.

Salary differentials were large. The visiting part-timers might be paid £7 per term (singing) to £2. 10s (drill). The first assistant master was paid £40 per term, and the second assistant master £26. 13s. 4d. - but both received full board. However, the Headmaster received some £12 per term per master in respect of lodging.

Mr. Bond did well. His basic salary was supplemented by head money dependent upon the number and age of the boys, and whether they were day boys or boarders. His annual salary fluctuated, but on average amounted to over £500. He also occupied the ample school house at the east end of the school building, free of rent and rates.

3 Mr Bond's Household

The 1881 Census records Mr. Bond and his wife, and their recently-born daughter. The first Assistant Master was resident, together with resident domestic staff: 1 cook, 1 nurse and 3 housemaids (There was also a 'schoolman', employed as handyman and cleaner, but he was evidently non-resident). Some 20 boarders are named, although there is some doubt as to whether several of those listed were indeed permanently resident.

The 1891 Census shows Mr. and Mrs. Bond now have two daughters. Two Assistant Masters are now resident. The domestic staff are recorded as 1 governess ; 1 matron ; 3 housemaids ; a laundry maid ; and a kitchen maid. Nineteen boys are named as boarders, though, again, several of those listed may not have been permanently resident.

4 Recruitment of Pupils

Advertisements were placed in newspapers and on railway stations. In addition to the local area – Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey – newspapers carried advertisements east and west along the north Kent coastline, and south to Maidstone. National publications were also used, and the following, for example, were used in 1889:-

East Kent Gazette

Sheerness Times

Chatham and Rochester News

Thanet Advertiser

Dover and County Chronicle

Maidstone and Kentish Journal

Kentish Express

Morning Post

Daily News

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Standard

Educational List

Church Bells

Some of these publications carried advertisements at least three times a year. The following table shows how successful recruitment was:-

Admissions to the school 1878 - 1893						
Year	Spring		Summer		Autumn	
	Total	Day Boys Boarders	Total	Day Boys Boarders	Total	Day Boys Boarders
1878					23	23
						-
1879	18	11	6	4	6	2
		7		2		4
1880	3	1	2	2	9	3
		2		-		6
1881	4	2	5	2	8	4
		2		3		4
1882	4	-	11	9	5	4
		4		2		1
1883	8	7	4	4	5	2
		1		-		3
1884	2	2	6	3	-	-
		-		3		-
1885	4	2	3	3	4	1
		2		-		3
1886	3	1	11	8	3	3
		2		3		-
1887	4	2	15	10	4	4
		2		5		-
1888	4	4	8	8	4	3
		-		-		1
1889	1	1	11	9	5	4
		-		2		1
1890	2	1	10	7	5	3
		1		3		2
1891	3	-	6	4	1	1
		3		2		1
1892	3	-	7	6	3	2
		3		1		1
1893	6	4	7	6	-	-
		2		1		-

The number of admissions must have been a disappointment, and also a handicap, because the School could not grow to an efficient size. Moreover, so many of the boys admitted did not stay for long. Of the 23 who started in 1878, 8 – more than a third – had gone at the end of the first year, 3 after only one term. And this was the pattern throughout Mr. Bond's time.

According to the Scheme under which the School operated, the age range was 8 to 18. Boys were admitted each term, but at any age from 8. There was no group entry or departure. Teaching groups changed on a termly basis. Since teaching staff also changed rapidly, the School would have had the character of a transit camp.

The Scheme prescribes the fees to be charged: tuition fees (varying with age) were between £4 and £8 a year, boarding fees "shall not exceed the rate of £30 a year for each boy". Exhibitions were available, covering all or half the tuition fees payable. These were to be awarded strictly on merit, not on the grounds of financial need. They could be awarded on entrance examination results or following the annual examination results conducted by the visiting Examiner. They were limited in number, and were dependent upon the School's ability to afford them. Those in the village of Borden who had protested in the 1870s that funds of the Barrow Trust were being used to provide a school for the better-off were correct: sons of farmers could enter the School, but not normally the sons of farm labourers.

Geographically, the boys were drawn overwhelmingly from Sittingbourne and the surrounding villages: 190 out of the 273 admitted during the 15 years (1878-1893) of Mr. Bond's headship.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

During this period only 18 boys entered the School from the whole of the Isle of Sheppey – the same number as those from London. This comes as some surprise since Sheppey had a considerable relatively-prosperous parent-base employed in the Naval Dockyard, the Army and Navy contingents on the Island, and Customs and Excise.

The extensive advertising in Kent and nationally produced meagre responses. Over the 15 year period, 5 from Maidstone, 5 from Dover, 5 from Rainham and 5 from Rochester. One or two from each of Faversham, Canterbury, Chatham, Gravesend, Hythe, Dymchurch and other towns.

188 of the 273 boys were day boys; the remaining 85 were boarders. The extensive boarding accommodation was heavily underused. Parental choice determined that some very local boys boarded – there were boarders from Borden and Sittingbourne. Transport difficulties compelled boys living in, for example, Eastchurch, Hartlip and Rodmersham to board.

Two names deserve special mention – a family and a street. The Locke family of Hartlip sent 10 boys to the School, and High Street Sittingbourne sent 29.

5 The Destination Of Leavers

The School's records are extensive but incomplete. In fact, those relating to the boys are peppered with omissions. In some places, whole chunks of information are missing. For example, no age of admission is recorded in respect of 24 boys, and no leaving destination is given for 67. This means that no accurate analysis can be made. However, the information available permits a broad indication to be given of where the boys went.

No fewer than 99 (of the 273 admitted by Bond) are recorded as having entered "business" – a very wide category, no doubt including many who entered the family shop. Eleven became Pupil Teachers in elementary schools. Sixteen simply moved away when their families left the area. A number (at least 5) went abroad. Several went on to medical or veterinary studies. Four left for medical reasons. Three went into the army and three to the merchant navy. One became a dockyard apprentice at Sheerness.

The Scheme provided for most of the School to be monitored by a visiting examiner holding an annual examination of the pupils. However, no fewer than 66 boys were entered for public examinations. Most of these took the Cambridge Local Examinations. Others took the examinations of a surprisingly wide range of bodies:

- Army Preliminary Examination
- Army Cadetship Examination
- College of Preceptors
- Dockyard Examination
- Pharmaceutical Examination
- Royal College of Surgeons

One category of leavers deserves special mention: boys who entered the School between 8 and 12 years of age, and left to go to other schools. Some went to public schools, some to well-established grammar schools. The public schools included Dulwich College, King's School Canterbury, Lancing College and Tonbridge School. The grammar schools included Chatham House Ramsgate and Maidstone. The number was not very large – 31 in total are recorded, but there may have been more among the 67 for whom no destination is shown. The total was however significant – more than 10% of those entering the School.

Some parents were evidently using the School as a preparatory school – better than an elementary school but not good enough for secondary schooling. In effect, Bond was running two schools – a preparatory school and a secondary school – with a total roll of only about 50 boys!

6 Visiting Examiners

The Borden School Trust Scheme of 1875 both established and regulated the School. It ordered that the boys should be examined once in every year by an Examiner or Examiners appointed for that purpose by the Governors and paid by them, but otherwise unconnected with the School.

The first report was dated August 2nd 1882, and the examiner was the Revd. W.A. Cox, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. He called the School Barrow School, Borden – one of at least three names by which the School was known; two others were Borden School and Borden Grammar School. He examined the boys in Scripture, English subjects, Latin, French and Mathematics. The older boys had written papers (specially printed for the occasion), the younger boys were examined orally.

No boys are mentioned by name in the report, but a list of those deserving special mention is added, and so is a prize list (headed Borden School) from which it appears that some 40% of those on the roll were awarded prizes. The report is restrained, with no serious criticism and no extreme praise. Geographical terms should be

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

more accurately spelt, and historical dates should be more accurate. Even the best papers are only described as "credible". Algebra comes out best: "very high marks were obtained by the boys in this subject."

There is a glaring omission from the list of subjects examined. The Scheme had included in the subjects to be taught "Natural Science, with special reference to Agriculture". Presumably science was not mentioned because it was not being taught.

The examiner for 1883 was the Revd. W.A. Cleave.M.A., LI.D., late Fellow and Tutor of Jesus College Cambridge and late Headmaster of Victoria College Jersey. The subjects examined were the same as in 1882.

The tone of the report is decidedly enthusiastic, and boys deserving particular praise are named. Arithmetic papers were "excellent"; "all the boys sent in good answers" in Scripture, some of them "exceptionally good"; in English, History and Geography, 4 boys "obtained nearly full marks, but almost all did creditably". A familiar note was struck in French: "as is usually the case in English schools, the pronunciation might be improved" - his time in Jersey would have left him familiar with good French accents. The Prize List attached to the Report names nearly 40% of the boys as prizewinners.

The Revd. Dr. Cleave was re-appointed examiner for 1884. He identifies boys by name for enthusiastic praise, especially in Scripture, Latin and Mathematics. He uses terms like "excellent", and notes that French pronunciation had improved. His concluding remark is that "Speaking generally, I was much pleased with the boys", and even more prizes were awarded - 29 for about 50 boys.

A new examiner was appointed for 1885 – it was important to avoid the formation of a cosy relationship between Headmaster and Examiner. Another Cambridge academic undertook the work. The Revd. E.E.W. Kirkby, M.A., late Scholar and Chaplain of Trinity College. The School accounts show that the first examiner was paid £12. 5s. by way of fee and expenses. No other payments appear in the accounts. It is unlikely that subsequent examiners were unpaid; it is likely that they were paid similar amounts, but by the Receiver, not the Headmaster, to separate the examiners from the School. All these examiners were men of some standing, and it is striking that they undertook this work for just over £12.

Mr. Kirkby's report was different from those of his predecessors. No boys or subjects are mentioned, simply a general statement: "I think it necessary only to say in general that the performances of the boys were excellent, that they were singularly 'even' throughout the School, the classes being remarkably free from the usual tale of inferior boys, and that through a long experience of examination work, I have never examined a School which gave greater evidence of thoroughness, or one in which the results of good, conscientious teaching were conspicuous throughout." He described himself as Public Examiner in the University. Twenty-five prizes were distributed amongst 44 boys examined.

The examiner appointed for 1886 was a keen local resident, the Revd. James Horan, Vicar of Bapchild. He described himself as a French and German Honoursman of London University. Like his predecessors, he covered the whole range of subjects without assistance, written papers for the older boys, oral testing for the younger. The sheer range of knowledge required seems rather remarkable to those familiar with modern teaching and examining. His detailed comments suggest an accomplished man.

The examination covered Divinity, 2 Samuel and 1 Kings from the Old Testament, Luke's Gospel from the New; English History; Geography, Scotland and Ireland; Latin, Book XI of Virgil's Aeneid, Book VI of Caesar's Gallic War, together with grammar; French; Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry.

The report makes general comments together with detailed highlighting of individual boys. The tone is kindly. Boys are only named to be praised. Where criticisms are made, they tend to be balanced with praise: he detests cramming from a history text book, but immediately praises the high standard of general knowledge of history for which there had been no special preparation. French pronunciation seems not to have been good, but "I consider it to be quite as pure as is ordinarily required out of France."

Mathematics deserves special mention. The comments are littered with terms such as "faultless", "almost reached the maximum of the marks given", "work of such high character".

He concludes the report as follows: "On the whole, Sir, I beg to state that the result of the Examination confirms me in the high opinion of Borden School which residence in the neighbourhood has enabled me to form."

The Vicar of Bapchild, the Revd. James Horan, was appointed to continue as Examiner in 1887. Again, he undertook the work singlehanded. The range of subjects was even wider than in 1886. Scripture included 1 and 2 Kings from the Old Testament and St. Matthew's Gospel from the New Testament. English subjects consisted of English History and Geography, but to these were added a Shakespeare play (A Midsummer Night's Dream) and English Grammar. The Latin was reduced from the previous year – Book V of Caesar's Gallic War, but no Latin poet, together with some grammar. German now entered the curriculum at the expense of a Latin poet. French

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

continued to feature in the curriculum. Mathematics loomed large – Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry (still called Euclid). Another addition was the theory of Music. Again, no science seems to have been taught, despite the requirement of the Scheme.

The report was lengthy and detailed. Mr. Horan shows himself ready to mention weaknesses – in Geography many papers “barely reached mediocrity” - but he found much to praise in handwriting and punctuation had greatly improved since 1886. One paper on *Midsummer Night's Dream* he described as a “beautiful paper: the essay part of which might appropriately appear in the local journal; just as it stands.”

Mathematics again comes out well. In Geometry, “timidity” handicaps some of the candidates, but Arithmetic and Algebra are still good.

“I will conclude my Report with an apology for its length and an assurance that it has been my honest endeavour to do justice throughout, and neither more than less, to what I believe to be a truly excellent School.” The Prize List shows 32 prizes to have been distributed amongst 50 boys (one of them absent).

Mr. Horan was re-appointed to examine in 1888 for a (record) third year, but only to cover Latin and French. The policy of employing an examiner to cover the whole curriculum came to an end and a team of examiners took his place. The Vicar of Upchurch, the Revd. H.J. Cooper, examined Scripture (Jeremiah, Ezra and Nehemiah from the Old Testament, St. Mark from the New Testament). Mr. W.H. Drake of Faversham examined Music. His choice may seem odd, because he had been the part-time Music Master since 1881, and could not be regarded as an independent judge of pupil progress. Mr. William Waterhouse dealt with English History, English Grammar and Geography. He had been a Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and was Head Master of Newport Grammar School, Essex. The examiner of Mathematics was the Revd. Canon John Bond, late Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and Rector of Auderley. Nothing is said of his (possible) relationship with the Head Master.

The reports offer detailed praise of the pupils who did well, and name them. There is criticism of those who did poorly, though they are not named. The class lists for each subject identify clearly enough the less successful. The subject comments suggest a top group who distinguished themselves in most subjects followed by a fairly lengthy tail.

German had been introduced and examined in the previous year, but disappears from the curriculum for 1888. Science, again, is not mentioned, and presumably is still not taught in breach of the requirement of the Scheme setting up the School.

Prizes continued to be awarded on a generous scale: 26 in a School of 53 boys.

7 The School Accounts

When the High Court appointed Mr. Clabon as the Receiver (see part 3 of the school history), he was made responsible for the School funds and had to agree to indemnify the School against the theft or misuse of income to the extent of £1,700. This requirement illustrates the Victorian attitude towards the use of public money. In previous centuries government ministers and civil servants had been free to use public funds for private gain. But this is the age of W.E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer for ten years and four times prime minister, whose views were so strict that he was never at ease with governments raising income tax because he felt that this raised so much money so easily that it corrupted ministers into spending money too readily and unwisely.

Mr. Clabon produced 3 accounts – and almost certainly a fourth, which has not survived in the School records:

1. 1880 – May 1882
2. June 1882 – May 1884
3. June 1884 – February 1887

And at least one more, covering March 1887 until the termination of the receivership in 1888.

Income

The left hand column, recording income, was always brief. There were only two sources of income: fees received from the parents of pupils, and grants from the Barrow Trust. The Barrow Trust grants covered 60% or more of the School's expenditure. Without this money the School would have had to increase fee income, find another source of income (or both) or close.

To begin with, the Barrow Trust income held up, but before the end of the Receivership the Trust was unable to sustain its support, as these figures reveal:

Barrow Trust Grants 1880-1886

1880 22 Oct £275

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

1881	20 April £275
	25 Oct £500
1882	22 April £300
	30 Oct £400
1883	20 April £500
	30 Oct £300
1884	24 Apr £300
1885	18 April £300
	24 Oct £350
1886	24 April £100
	29 Oct £200

Expenditure

The right hand column, recording expenditure, contains dozens of items, and extends for pages in each of the three accounts rendered by the Receiver. The largest sums list teaching salaries. Together they account for most of the School's costs. Differentials were considerable: the Head Master's salary was inflated by fees charged for board and lodging in respect of resident full-time assistant teaching staff, and of course he lived free of rent, fuel and rates in the extensive school house. Gas supplied to the school house cost not much less than that supplied to the remainder of the school premises.

The staff costs for the term ending July 1885 were as follows:

Head Master £162 – 13s – 4d

1st Assistant £40 (plus free board and lodging)

2nd Assistant £26 – 13s – 9d (plus free board and lodging)

Singing Master (part-time) £7

Drill Master (part-time) £2 – 10s

In addition there was a "school man", caretaker and odd job man, paid about £1 a week. (The domestic staff were employed and paid for by the Head Master).

Many of the entries relate to routine costs of running the School. There were regular bills for gas, coke and coal; water; insurance premiums; two lots of tithes, Rectorial and Vicarial, for the support of Church of England clergy; piano tuning; regular advertising for new pupils, in local, county and national newspapers; the purchase of school prizes; the printing of examination papers.

Other costs show that the School had been incomplete at its opening in 1878. The buildings were intended for a school of 150 boys including some 50 boarders. However, the premises were only partly furnished. Throughout the Receivership items of furniture were being purchased, especially for the boarding side: chests of drawers, bedsteads and linen, cubicle furniture, rugs, glass and china, and also gymnastic equipment.

The original site of seven and a half acres provided ample space for the school buildings and games. The accounts demonstrate how much remained to be done to complete the work. Access roads and paths were still being constructed in 1883: £27 – 9s was paid in one bill alone. Two fields were provided with wire fencing at a cost of £16 – 7s – 6d.

Somewhat alarming is the amount spent on maintenance and repairs. Month after month, throughout the Receivership tradesmen are attending the School to undertake repairs: builders, plumbers, joiners, ironmongers, upholsterers, gas fitters. There was work to the boiler and in the kitchen. Gas repairs. Not only emptying the cesspit, but the provision (in 1882) of a new cesspit. The large sum of £34 – 4s – 10d was spent on the drains in 1884, and the job was big enough to require the employment of a surveyor. In 1882, only 4 years after the opening, the school buildings required "colouring and painting". The sum involved, £22 – 5s – 8d, suggested that most of the rooms were attended to.

The frequency and high costs of repairs and maintenance come as a surprise, since few people used the building. About 50 pupils, six teaching staff (3 full-time and 3 part-time), and perhaps 4 domestic staff – a total of about 60. During the 1920s discussions took place with a view to moving to new buildings in Sittingbourne. Several reasons for the move were mentioned. One was easier access for pupils than the out-of-town premises in Riddles Road. Another was the high cost of maintaining the original premises. Evidently the situation had not

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

changed since the 1880s. . The builder, Richard Avard of Maidstone, had submitted the lowest tender and was awarded the contract. The cheapest did not perhaps prove to be the best.

He is buried in the churchyard at Boughton Monchelsea, just off the path between the church gate and the church door. His chest tomb is that of a prosperous man.

8 Deteriorating finances

The details of 3 accounts submitted by the Receiver survive. They are as follows:

1880 – 1882 surplus of £134

June 1882 – May 1884 surplus of £306

June 1884 – February 1887 deficit of £293

The deficit of 1887 would have been twice as great but for the surplus carried forward from 1884. There would have been a final account before the termination of the Receivership in 1888, but no record seems to have survived. The School depended upon Barrow Trust grants, and these were running out.

9 Governors Return

On Monday 7th October 1889, in the Justice Room at the Police Court, Sittingbourne, a meeting of the Governors of the Borden School Trust was held. The original Scheme of 1875 had been amended in July 1889, reconstituting a governing body to run the School.

The Charity Commission had gone to the High Court to establish the Receivership only as an alternative to closing the School. They had always wanted local governors to run the School. The negotiations re-establishing control by local men are not known. The new Governors, however, immediately gave the credit to Frederick Locke, Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, who sadly died within 2 years of the reconstitution of the Governing Body. The Locke family of Hartlip had from the earliest days of the School been staunch supporters, and sent at least 10 boys as pupils.

At their first meeting the six Governors exercised their duties in a business-like way. They needed a clerk, and appointed Mr. William James Harris from the firm of Sittingbourne solicitors who had held the post almost from the beginning. His salary was £15 a year. The Revd. Robert Payne Smith was elected Chairman. Martins Bank, Sittingbourne, were appointed bankers to the School Trust. The Clerk was directed to obtain from the late Receiver the papers relating to the School and from the Charity Commission any funds belonging to the School. The Revd. James Horan, Vicar of Bapchild, was asked to act as Examiner for the annual School Examination.

The Official Trustee appears to have held £306 intended for the School, and the Governors requested £180 of this sum. Though no admission of urgency or crisis is made, the Governors seemed to need funds to meet outstanding liabilities. In November 1889, the Governors received from the Commissioners the form of authority to access £180, and immediately signed and despatched it. In December the Commissioners reported that the money was on its way to the Solicitors' account with Martins Bank, Sittingbourne. Their account was further reinforced with £200 from the Barrow Trust.

The School accounts suggest that only unavoidable payments were being made: for items such as fuel, water, tithes, rates – but, above all, for staff costs – and these went overwhelmingly to the Head Master.

But another cost loomed. The accounts continued to include payments in respect of repairs to the School premises. And in December 1889 the Governors “Resolved that Mr. W.L. Grant be instructed to examine and report upon the present state and condition of the School buildings and premises.” Ominously, the report that he produced is not recorded in the surviving School papers. However, a copy was supplied to the Charity Commissioners and it clearly worried them: thereafter they were more alarmed than ever about the School's fundamental viability.

Financial difficulties increased. Despite grants from the Barrow Trust (£200 reported in December 1889 and £300 in April 1890), the Governors were running out of funds to pay their bills. They supplied a statement of income and expenditure to the Commissioners, and requested the sale of more invested endowment to meet their obligations.

The Commissioners, in a letter of August 1890, asked if the Governors could continue the School without further recourse to endowment funds for current expenditure. The Governors (in October 1890) claimed that they could, provided the Barrow Trust was able to pay £500 a year.

After the Commissioners had released some £69 to cover outstanding debts, and the necessary cheques had been issued, all seemed well until October 1891. At a Governors' Meeting on the 8th October, a letter from the Clerk of the Barrow Charity was read out : “owing to the depressed state of agriculture and the difficulty of finding tenants, the Trustees had been obliged to make large reductions in the rents of some of their property, in

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

one case of £250 a year, and there was reason to anticipate further reductions ; and these must affect the amount the Trustees would be able to pay the Governors out of the unapplied income of the Charity.”

10 The Ruin of British Agriculture

Down to 1880, British agriculture led the world: the best breeds, the most scientific cropping, the highest yields. Britain had also the highest agricultural wages in Europe. Then came a sudden and overwhelming invasion of North American prairie wheat. The three causes were quite beyond the control of British farmers. Firstly, United States railways grew from 52,000 miles in 1870 to 94,000 in 1880, and freight costs were low. Secondly, there was a vast expansion of steamer transport. The cost per ton from Chicago to Liverpool fell from £3 – 7s in 1873 to £1 – 4s in 1884. Thirdly, agricultural machinery. Two men were needed to reap the crops, but American farmers could not hire workers – pretty much anyone on the land could have his own farm. But from 1873 there became available a one-man reaping machine with an attached self-binder. North American wheat became the cheapest.

From 1875 to 1879 ruinous harvests hit British farmers, but this was temporary. The technical changes were permanent. In 1877 British corn sold at 56s – 9d a quarter; by 1886 it had fallen to 31s a quarter. By 1885 the British area under wheat had fallen by a million acres – nearly 30%. From 1880 to 1889 British dependence on foreign wheat had reached 65%. Rural rents fell and men had to leave the land. All of Europe west of Russia used tariffs to protect their agriculture, except for the two most heavily industrialised countries – Britain and Belgium. No wonder the Barrow Trust, drawing its income from agricultural Kent, could no longer finance the School.

11 Local School or Public School

On receipt of the letter from the Barrow Trust, the Governors contacted the Charity Commissioners: they doubted their ability to carry on the School for another year, and to avoid delay asked that an officer of the Commissioners visit to discuss matters.

There developed a conflict as to the future of the School. The original Scheme had envisaged boarders as well as day boys : the School would recruit boys from the immediate area, but also further afield in Kent and even beyond. The original Governors had appointed a Church of England clergyman to be the first Head Master, and he had spoken of a 'Public School', revealing his own hopes for the School. The buildings anticipated that about one third of the boys would be boarders, and advertisements throughout the 1880s sought to recruit boys from well beyond the immediate area.

In December 1891 Mr. Murray, an Assistant Charity Commissioner, met the Governors. In January 1892 the Secretary of the Charity Commission wrote to the Clerk to the Governors as follows:

Sir,

Referring to your letter of 12th October last and the subsequent correspondence, I am directed to inform you that the Charity Commissioners have now had under consideration their Assistant Commissioner's report of his conference with the Governors on the 14th ultimo. It is clear that in the present depressed condition of the property of Barrows Charity, the School cannot be carried on at the present rate of expenditure. Indeed it appears from the accounts for 1890 that the income would hardly suffice even if the full £500 a year were still available from that source. The Commissioners further gather that the whole of the income henceforth expected from endowment is required for necessary current expenses in connection with the School buildings, and that accordingly there is no endowment available for payment to the Head Master or for the maintenance of Leaving Exhibitions under Clause 56 of the Scheme. It follows if at the preparation of the Scheme so serious a reduction in income as has now occurred could have been anticipated, either the provision of the Head Master's fixed stipend would have been omitted, or a considerably lower scale would have been adopted. It is gathered that in the view of the Governors the tuition fee cannot with advantage be raised, and that there is no immediate prospect of an increase in the number of scholars. The conclusion thus seems to be inevitable, that if the School is to be maintained substantially according to the Scheme, some modifications including the repeal of the provision of a fixed stipend (Clause 37) and the removal of the obligation to maintain Exhibitions under Clause 36 ought to be introduced. The question of continuance in office of the present Head Master at emoluments commensurate with the means of the Foundation is one for the consideration of the Governors and the Head Master himself. It is clear that the amount applicable in payment of the teaching staff cannot properly exceed the amount of income remaining after satisfying imperative prior charges. It may be that if the present Head Master were replaced by a layman with somewhat lower qualifications, but competent to give education within the range contemplated by the Scheme at a lower fee, the School would commend itself more widely in the immediate neighbourhood with a resulting increase in the number of scholars and possible improvement of finances. But the Governors can best form a judgement as to the prospects of success in this direction. The only remaining alternative appears to be that the Commissioners should by a suspensory Scheme empower the Governors to

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

allow the Head Master for a given period to take over the School premises at a nominal rent and carry on the School as a private adventure in general accordance with the Scheme as regards fees and course of instruction, the Governors undertaking the repair of buildings, and further applying out of the income of endowment a certain amount in maintaining Exhibitions named in Clause 52 of the Scheme. I have to request that you will bring this letter before the Governors and in due course communicate to me their views upon the several alternative courses now indicated.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant

J.E. White

The Governors snapped into action. They gave the Head Master six months' notice of the termination of his engagement and dismissed one of the two full-time assistant masters at the end of the following term. The Clerk was instructed to report their action to the Commissioners – and to request the remaining funds held in the School's name be paid to them.

The Commissioners replied with unusual speed. Would the Governors replace Mr. Bond with a (cheaper) lay master when his six months' notice expired, and would it be a good idea for an Assistant Commissioner to hold a public meeting locally to rally more interest in the School?

The Governors were not caught out. They evidently wanted to retain their ordained Head Master. He agreed to continue at the School when his notice ran out “receiving for his services such emoluments as the funds of the School permit.” They declined the offer of a public meeting, no doubt aware that the Commissioners were set on rousing local opinion to make the School a “less ambitious” school as the Commissioners urged.

12 “That the School be closed at the earliest legal opportunity”

The Commissioners released the remaining funds standing to the credit of the School (some £50), but issued a sharp warning: if the Governors could not pay their way, they must close the School.

The Governors divided. Two of them proposed the motion quoted above. The remaining 4 voted against. So near did the School come to closure in April 1893.

More drama was played out in August 1893. The Chairman of the Governors, the Revd.R Payne Smith, resigned. In a rather bitter letter, he regretted that the Governors had had to work with inadequate endowment - he seemed to blame the original Scheme. This overlooked the prosperity of agriculture in the 1870s when, in common with charities elsewhere, income had exceeded local needs and there had developed national pressure from government to widen charitable activity to embrace education. The ruin of agriculture had not been envisaged in 1875, and the Barrow Trust were certainly not to blame for the fall in income that prevented them from paying the full £500 a year to the School.

13 Departure of Mr. Bond in 1893

At the same 1893 Meeting of the Governors, the resignation of Mr. Bond was announced. He had been appointed Head Master of Churcher's College, Petersfield (in North Hampshire). He was allowed to leave immediately, and the remaining full-time assistant master was left to run the School until Christmas. Meanwhile, the Governors had to see how they could continue the School after Christmas 1893. The parents were informed of the situation.

The Commissioners were duly informed, and reminded that the final funds, which they had agreed to release, had not yet arrived. The Governors were unable to pay bills and creditors were pressing for their money.

Mr. Bond never achieved at Borden the public school he had hoped for. The extensive boarding accommodation had remained largely unoccupied. Recruitment of pupils, despite advertising locally and nationally, had been low. And those who joined the School did not stay very long. There were extremes. At least 2 stayed for 10 years, but 10 continued for one term and another 14 for two terms. The average length of stay of the 235 whose records are complete (out of 273 who actually attended) was less than three years – 2.68 to be precise. By the time of his departure the numbers on the roll had moved up slightly, from a normal 50 to nearer 60. This was not enough to permit the organisation of an efficient school. Latin was taught, but not Greek, and without a full Classics course for some at least of the pupils, a school was hardly likely to qualify as a public school. Moreover those teaching Classics were expected to be paid much more than those teaching other subjects, and the School's income never looked like stretching to that.

Oddly enough, during the 1870s, there had been correspondence between the Barrow Trust and the authorities at Petersfield, who wrote to explain that they were founding a school and could the Borden Trustees offer any advice. Mr. Bond found what he wanted in Hampshire. Churcher's College became a successful public school, which it remains to this day. Mr. Bond retired in the 1920s, lauded from all sides as a successful Head Master.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

22. Why join the Old Bordenian Association?

I think I should start by making it clear that what follows is not necessarily the official view of the Association but the thoughts of just one very, very Old Boy.

In trying to answer the question, my first instinct was to draw up a list of the benefits that any Old Bordenian can get from Membership of the Association, but in some ways to do this is to miss the point. I found myself returning to that old President John F. Kennedy exhortation : "Ask not what your Country can do for you. Ask instead what you can do for your Country". The fact is that the tangible advantages are somewhat vague or insubstantial, and at the end of the day the Association exists as much for the benefit of the School as for its Members.

It may be too simplistic to say that the OBA is a kind of Borden Grammar School Fan Club, but for many of us that's exactly what it is. However much we liked or disliked the School while we there, my guess is that all, with the exception of just a few hard cases, have reasons to be grateful – for the quality of the total educational experience which we received, for the overall care and guidance of the Staff, for the friendships we made and the general way in which the School prepared us for what was to come. Pay-back time begins when we join the Association.

The importance of the OBA is recognised in the very constitution of the School's Governing Body. As you know, we are entitled to elect one Foundation Governor who broadly speaking reflects the views of former pupils in shaping the way the School is run now and in the future, and that seems quite important to me. Without the Old Bordenian Association, this would be impossible.

The Association's contribution, however, is much more tangible than this. The great majority of our annual subscription income goes towards satisfying School needs which are outside the scope of the School's own hard-pressed expenditure budget. Over the years, items funded by the Association have included things like a new franking machine, additional furniture for the Sixth Form Common Room, laboratory and IT equipment, contributions to capital expenditure projects, the creation of new Memorial Boards to remember those who died on active service, the maintenance of the turret clock – the list is really very long indeed. Without these, the School would be a great deal poorer in the widest sense of the word.

Members do enjoy less altruistic benefits, of course, including the chance to attend the Annual Dinners in Sittingbourne and Sheppey, to join the Football and Hockey Clubs, and access to the Website. This has taken the place of the annual magazine, The Maroon, as a vehicle for keeping Members in touch with each other and with news of what Old Bordenians have been doing or what they are thinking, as well as interesting archive material such as old exam papers, Bryan Short's history of the early years of the School, and so on.

Doesn't seem bad value for ten quid a year, does it? Go on – give it a go! For details of how to join, write to the Membership Secretary, Keith Shea, at 46 Water Lane, Ospringe, Faversham, Kent ME13 8TX

Graham Barnes

23. OBA Annual General Meeting Minutes - 4 October 2013

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the School on Friday 4 October, 2013

Members present: N. Hancock, K. Sears, A. Snelling, D. Palmer, D. Jarrett, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, C. Laming

Apologies for absence: P. Lusted, T. Akehurst, M. Stewart, K. Shea, P. Taylor, M. Pack

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5 October, 2012, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

The committee was introduced to the new head teacher, Jonathan Hopkins, following the retirement of the former head teacher and OBA president Harold Vafeas. Mr Hopkins agreed to stand as the new president.

The secretary was asked to contact Harold with the news that the committee had conferred on him Honorary Life Membership of the Association at an earlier meeting and that he should have been informed of this at his retirement party in the summer. (The secretary subsequently did this via the school office).

The committee also conferred Honorary Life Membership on former headmaster Bryan Short and the secretary was asked to write to him with the news. (The secretary checked the records and discovered that the honour had already been bestowed at the time of Mr Short's retirement in 1998.)

There were no other matters arising.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

The 2013 officers and committee were elected as follows:

President: J. Hopkins

Vice-President: P. Lusted

Hon. Secretary: C. Laming

Hon. Treasurer: N. Hancock

Membership secretary: K. Shea

Dinner Secretary: C. Laming

Website representative: D. Palmer

Website advertising: K. Shea

OBA governor: A. Wilson

Football rep: K. Shea

Hockey rep: N. Hancock

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

Accounts examiner: P. Taylor

Tony Akehurst had sent word via Neil Hancock that he is unlikely to be able to attend future committee meetings. Members present voted unanimously in favour of him remaining a committee member.

Alan Snelling formally resigned as OBA governor and was thanked warmly for his service over the past 12 years. The committee was told that as no serving committee member was willing to take over the position, Alan Wilson, a serving governor and member of the OBA, was willing to stand and that this move had been agreed with the chair of governors. Alan Wilson would not attend OBA committee meetings but would receive copies of the Association minutes such that a communication channel would be open. The committee voted in favour of this change and the clerk of governors was subsequently notified by the secretary.

Alan Snelling proposed that the new president might like to consider appointing a deputy to attend committee meetings on his behalf. He nominated a serving member of staff who is also an OB. The president would consider the matter outside the meeting.

Constitutional changes: None

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's report: The Association made a surplus of £2,071.23 compared with a loss of £582 the previous year. Subscriptions at £3,582.50 were £150 down on 2012 which the treasurer described as a worrying trend. The committee agreed to rein in any ad hoc donations due to pressure of finances. However, the dinner had made a small profit and this, along with the sale of ties and a donation, led to a total income of £3,688.80 for the year ended 31 July, 2013 and a gave balance sheet total of £7,808.02.

After a discussion with the new president, the committee voted in favour of providing a £5,000 donation to the school minibus fund and a further £1,000 for use by the head teacher to assist pupils in need of financial support for school trips etc.

B. Gilbert proposed the adoption of the accounts and S. Caveney seconded. The committee thanked N. Hancock for his continued contribution as Hon. Treasurer and also P. Taylor who would examine the accounts.

It was further agreed that the Association would provide a school prize, proposed by N. Hancock and seconded by A. Snelling. The prize would reflect achievement in the field of I.T. studies.

Dinner Secretary's report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Membership report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Hockey report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Football report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Website report: To be presented at the following committee meeting.

Remembrance report: To be presented at the next committee meeting

Committee meeting dates:

Friday 31 January, 2014 at 7.30 pm

Friday 13 June, 2014 at 7.30 pm

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Friday 3 October, 2014 at 7.00 pm to include the AGM

Annual dinner: Saturday 22 March, 2014

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

24. OBA Committee Meeting Minutes - 4 October 2013

The minutes of a committee meeting held at the School on Friday 4 October, 2013

Members present: President J. Hopkins, N. Hancock, K. Sears, A. Snelling, D. Palmer, D. Jarrett, S. Caveney, G. Barnes, B. Gilbert, C. Laming

Apologies for absence: P. Lusted, T. Akehurst, M. Stewart, K. Shea, P. Taylor. M. Pack

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 14 June, 2013, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's report: As per the AGM report as follows: The Association made a surplus of £2,071.23 compared with a loss of £582 the previous year. Subscriptions at £3,582.50 were £150 down on 2012 which the treasurer described as a worrying trend. The committee agreed to rein in any ad hoc donations due to pressure on finances. However, the dinner had made a small profit and this, along with the sale of ties and a small donation, led to a total income of £3,688.80 for the year ended 31 July, 2013 and a gave balance sheet total of £7,808.02.

B. Gilbert proposed the adoption of the accounts and S. Caveney seconded. The committee thanked N. Hancock for his continued contribution as Hon. Treasurer and also P. Taylor who would examine the accounts.

After a discussion with the new president, the committee voted in favour of providing a £5,000 donation to the school minibus fund and a further £1,000 for use by the head teacher to assist pupils in need of financial support for school trips etc.

It was further agreed that the Association would provide a school prize, proposed by N. Hancock and seconded by A. Snelling. The prize would reflect achievement in the field of I.T. studies.

Dinner Secretary's report: Arrangements are in hand for the 2014 annual dinner which would take place on Saturday 22 March at UK Paper Clubhouse. The ticket price would probably be increased from £20 to £22. The committee was in general agreement that the OBA would save money by not mailing out a dinner invitation this year but would instead contact past dinner attendees via email. Alan Snelling volunteered to head a small sub group comprising P. Lusted, K. Shea and D. Palmer to coordinate an electronic mailing list.

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

The Sheppey Dinner would take place on Saturday 16 November, 2013.

Membership report: Keith Shea's report was read to the meeting: I have been working away for the last 6 months and so have had little time for OBA membership duties however I can offer a brief synopsis.

In the 2013 bank statements 340 members have paid £10, 59 have paid £5.00, 14 have paid £1.50 (although some of those paying £1.50 have also paid the £10) and one, there's always one, has paid £1.00.

This means that around 410 members have continued to pay their standing orders this year out of an expected 424. 67 members pay by cheque or cash and so far I have received just one £10 note from one member who lives in Dublin. He did the same last year too.

As previously discussed it is worth sending out 66 reminders as 2nd class postage would be around £33, or cheaper if franked, with a maximum return possible of £660.00 although realistically it will probably realise say half of that.

I haven't had a chance to write to the 2013 school leavers to let them know about their free 4 year membership but I hope to have more time soon when my stint working away finishes in about 4 weeks time. I will then arrange to meet with Alan Snelling, who has kindly agreed to assist with aspects of the membership secretary duties, and update the data base with e-mail addresses, subscriptions, new leavers, reminders to 2009 leavers etc in an attempt to reduce the postage bill when we send out the dinner invitations.

The secretary was asked to contact the head of sixth form and ask him to circulate to leavers a website article by Graham Barnes setting out the reasons for joining the OBA.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

Hockey report: Neil Hancock gave a brief update on the activities of OBHC. The Ladies' 1st XI had secured a three year sponsorship deal and the club was going from strength to strength. The men's 1st XI had its best results for 25 years, losing narrowly to Sevenoaks in the Kent Cup final. Their low point came in the play off of the Kent/Sussex Division 1 league when they had played poorly and therefore stayed in the same league for this season. The club has a new website and recently spent £16,500 plus VAT on replacing the sand on the all weather surface, thus extending its life by three to five years. A new carpet will cost £150,000. A plaque recording the names of those who had helped finance the synthetic pitch is now on display in the pavilion. The ladies had started their new season ahead of the men and had won two of their first three games.

Football report: Keith Shea's report was read to the meeting: The Sittingbourne 5 a side league season is now 3 weeks old and as ever it's a bit of a slow start for the Old Bordenians team with 5 defeats and 1 win. However, the win was achieved in the second game last night and was a stonking 6-0 one. That will no doubt set our season going and we'll move forward from here and overturn the head start that we have given to the rest of the league.

Cliff Cork is running the team this year and there is a move to lower the average age of the team by around 30 years by simply introducing his two sons and semi retiring Peter Thomson and me.

For those that do not know we ended last season strongly and narrowly missed out on the runners up spot in the League before going all the way and winning (no misprint) the main cup completion. Here's to a repeat this season.

Website report: The website has had a number of problems over the summer holiday period. The effect was that the oldbordenians.co.uk address didn't direct site visitors to the website, although the oldbordenians.com address was OK. Any emails sent to the webmaster or admin email addresses were also not received. At the start of the new school term in early September, I met Steven Dale (the school's ICT technician) to address the problems, but because of his workload in maintaining the school's IT and Communications systems, the issues have only just been resolved. We have to accept that his first priority must be to maintain the school's systems and our issues have to wait for any spare time. It should be noted that the actual site itself has always been available and I had been able to access it, but it did need a little perseverance and knowledge of the 2 site addresses. In my opinion, as soon as the changes that have been made to the school's network have bedded down, there should be no reason why the issues that we have encountered should recur. I will work with Steven to ensure that we are alerted to any potential impact on the site due to essential maintenance of the school's

Title	Hits
BGS - 3 Peaks Challenge raising money for Cancer Research UK (Alias: bgs-3-peaks-challenge-raising-money-for-cancer-research-uk)	518
Contact Us (Alias: contact-us)	363
Membership (Alias: membership)	343
Borden Grammar School - the early years part 1 (Alias: founding-a-school-in-the-1870s-part-1)	332
Borden Grammar School - the early years part 2 (Alias: borden-grammar-school-the-early-years-part-2)	325
Frank Nicholls - Obituary (Alias: frank-nicholls-obituary)	298
Board of Education School Inspection report - 1914 (Alias: board-of-education-school-inspection-report-1914)	271
Don Prichard - Obituary (Alias: don-prichard-obituary)	270
OBA Dinner 2013 - more photos and "1963 intake" memorabilia (Alias: oba-dinner-2013-more-photos-and-1963-intake-memorabilia)	260
Useful Links (Alias: useful-links)	244
John Ford - Obituary (Alias: john-ford-obituary)	237
Remembrance (Alias: remembrance)	226

system to ensure the availability of the website is kept to a reasonable level. The Website Committee will look to collect email addresses of regular site visitors to inform them of any future lengthy system downtime.

Despite the problems above, we have continued to post articles at regular intervals. Bryan Short had provided two more instalments of his 'Early Years of the School' research, which Graham Barnes had typed up and sent to me. For those that have read the last instalment, this was not an inconsiderable task!

The picture on the left shows the most popular pages since the new site was launched, together with their respective hits.

I'd like to reiterate the considerable financial benefits of the move to the school site, with the total cost of the website to the Association reduced to less than £20 a year for the website addresses.

At its last meeting, the website committee discussed other issues that had been raised by the full committee that are linked to their area of work. A recent meeting suggested that the OBA sponsor an annual prize for the

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

school's prize-giving. We think that it would be appropriate to award a prize related to Information Technology. This would be 'funded' by the savings being made by the Association due to the school hosting the website.

It would be helpful if all committee members would consider producing something of interest to post on the website. In particular, I think it would be useful to write a new piece on the benefits of the Association and what we have achieved in the last few years to try to attract new members. Volunteer(s) sought!!

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.

Remembrance report: Arrangements are in hand for this year's service of remembrance at BGS on Saturday 9 November 2013

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

25. Old Bordenian Sports Clubs - update

Old Bordenians have active Football and Hockey clubs. This article highlights the recent progress of both these clubs.

The Football club report their results and club activity on an ad-hoc basis through both this website and at the thrice yearly OBA Committee meetings. Keith Shea, the OBA Football rep, reported the following to the OBA Committee on 4 October:

The Sittingbourne 5 a side league season is now 3 weeks old and as ever it's a bit of a slow start for the Old Bordenians team with 5 defeats and 1 win. However, the win was achieved in the second game last night (3/10/13) and was a stonking 6-0 one. That will no doubt set our season going and we'll move forward from here and overturn the head start that we have given to the rest of the league. Cliff Cork is running the team this year and there is a move to lower the average age of the team by around 30 years by simply introducing his two sons and semi retiring Peter Thomson and me. For those that do not know, we ended last season strongly and narrowly missed out on the runners up spot in the League before going all the way and winning (no misprint) the main cup competition. Here's to a repeat this season.

The Old Bordenian Hockey Club (OBHC) have their home at the school with a purpose built pitch and clubhouse. With 20+ qualified coaches in the ever-growing coaching set up, the club run 6 Men's teams, 2 Ladies teams and 2 Junior teams (an Under 16 and Under 14 team). The club also has a "Minis" section for 5-11 year olds on Sunday mornings. There are over 50 boys and girls in the overall Junior section with the club working within the England Hockey Single System. On behalf of Kent Hockey Association, OBHC hosts and manages the Swale Junior Development Centre and one of the Kent Junior Academy Centres, which are assessment centres for county, national and international hockey.

The Mens 1st XI have progressed through the 1st round of the England Hockey Trophy, beating Worthing 5-1 at Worthing and the Ladies' 1st X1 is currently unbeaten.

OBHC have recently launched a new website, which provides details of all club activities, including sponsorship deals available, social activities and results, fixtures and reports of all the games played by the teams. To keep up to date with activity of the Hockey Club, why not visit their website at <http://www.obhc.co.uk/>?

David Palmer

26. 2014 OBA Annual Reunion Dinner

The OBA Annual Dinner will take place at UK Paper Clubhouse, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, on Saturday 22 March 2014 at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

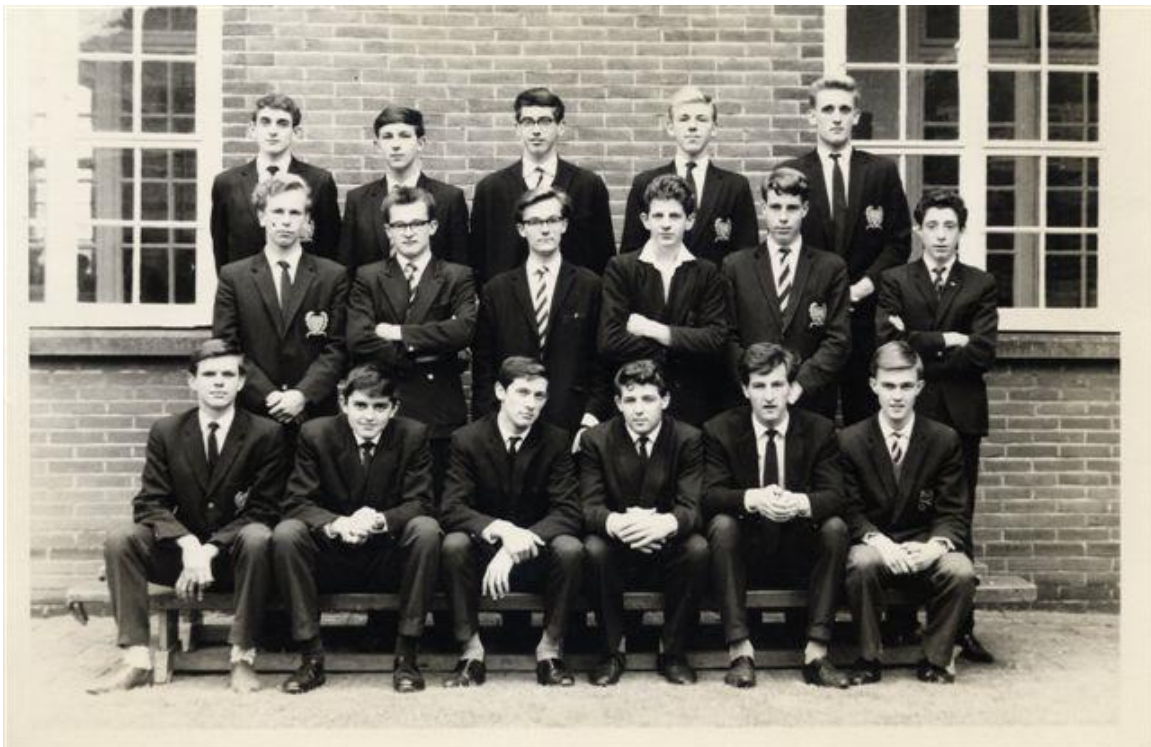
The three course dinner is priced at £22.50. Contact the secretary, Chris Laming, to book your place (email chrislaming56@gmail.com or write to him at 5 Roonagh Court, Sittingbourne ME10 1QS). This year we shall be introducing Jonathan Hopkins, our new president and head teacher at Borden and our guest speaker will be Leslie Olive, a BGS music teacher from the '70s.

Chris Laming

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

27. Old Bordenians: 1957-1964 cohort

I (Andrew "Bill" Bailey) have kept in touch with quite a few OB's who left school in 1964 and, with the approach of the 50th anniversary of our release into an unsuspecting world, have lately made a concerted effort to round up as many of my former colleagues.



It has been an interesting exercise, a world wide search, with "old boys" being found in Grand Cayman, Greece, a mining town in the heart of Australia, Malawi, even as far as Norfolk and Devon. Some of the most elusive seem to have been those who have remained in North East Kent!

Inevitably someone (Roger Lerpiniere) suggested we should have a reunion. It will be an informal gathering, probably a buffet, and we have venue booked (the place I knew as Bowater's Club) in Sittingbourne for Friday 6th June 2014. So the search for former classmates has been redoubled. We have also arranged for a tour of the school after hours on that day.

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

The core group we are looking for were nominally from the 1957 to 1964 cohort but we have widened the scope to include others whose time at Borden or Highsted Girls Grammar overlapped with that period. Anybody curious to find out "what happened to...." .

The photos show some of those who made it to the 6th Science and Arts groups and might jolt a few memories. Our contacts are Bill Bailey on billandcherrill@gmail.com and Colin Wiles on c.wiles523@btinternet.com". We would love to hear from you, whether or not you are re-union minded.

Bill Bailey

28. We will remember them....

The annual Old Bordenian Remembrance gathering took place at the School at 11a.m. on Saturday 9th November 2013. In the past, it has been held in the School vestibule beneath the Honours Boards which record the names of Old Boys who died on active service in both World Wars and other conflicts. However, this year – because of the numbers attending – it took place in the Old Hall, appropriately beneath the plaque which records the Association's gift of the turret clock in memory of WWII casualties.

A further change was due to the absence through ill health of Denis Jarrett, one of the progenitors of this annual event, and of Bryan Short who formerly conducted the service of remembrance. Bryan Short's place was taken by the Reverend Stanley Evans. Others who took part this year were Graham Barnes, Chris Laming, Marc Stewart, Ken Sears, who laid the wreath after a one-minute silence, Tim Westby, the current School Captain, and Sixth Former Lois Wakefield.

It was a simple but moving service, attended among others by relatives of Terry Barry, Harry Hartridge, George King and James Wildish, Old Bordenians who were casualties of the 1939-45 War. It was an opportunity for us collectively to acknowledge the sacrifice which each of these 99 Old Bordenians made, and to pay tribute to them.

Afterwards, Marc Stewart read out the biography of Terry Barry which he has compiled – to give us a flavour of what these biographies contain and how they help to give depth and breadth to the names on the Memorial Boards.

Marc has provided a summary of this biography:

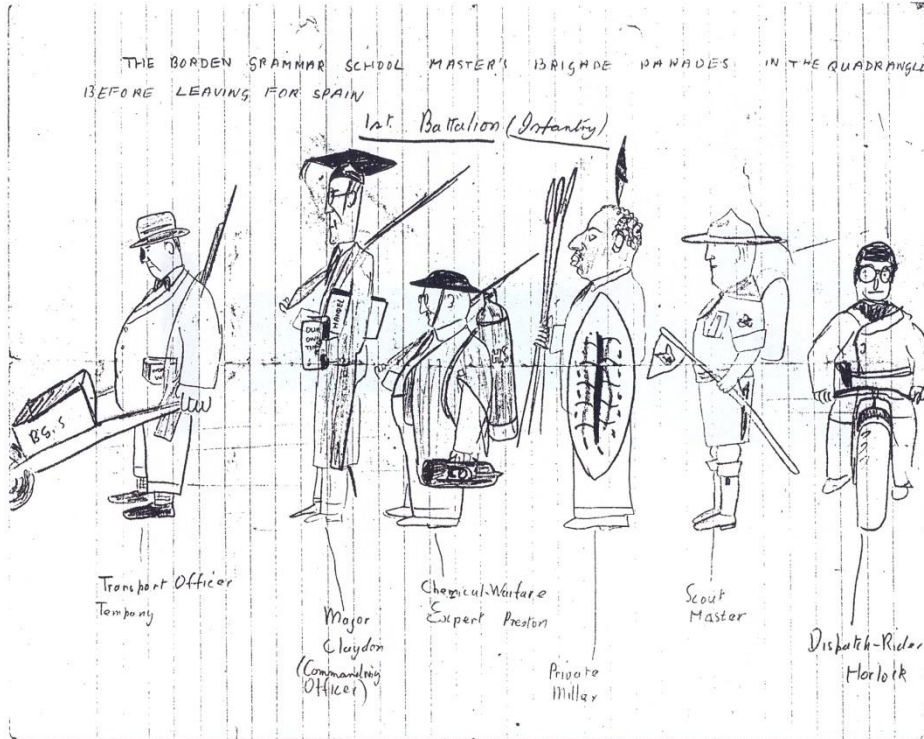


Terence Barry was born on 6 June 1921, the second son of Patrick Barry, an admiralty clerk, and his wife, Margaret, both of whom originally hailed from County Cork, Ireland. Initially educated at St. Edward's Roman Catholic School, Sheerness, Terence won a scholarship to Borden Grammar School in September 1932. He proved to be an outstanding scholar, securing a Higher School Certificate – equivalent to today's A Levels – in no fewer than four subjects, a feat for which his name was inscribed on the Honours Boards in the Old Hall. Outside of his academic studies, he was appointed a prefect and vice-captain of Swale House. He left to read Modern History at Merton College, Oxford, but his university career was soon interrupted by the exigencies of the Second World War: while still a student, he served in the University's Senior Training Corps and then enlisted into a territorial battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. Awarded second class honours in the first part of his degree, Terence was selected for officer training emerging five months later with a second-lieutenancy in 1st London Irish Rifles (Royal Ulster Regiment). The battalion subsequently received orders to prepare for overseas service and, while on embarkation leave, Terence took the opportunity to visit his

former teachers at Borden Grammar School. This was an event that one young schoolboy, Desmond Keohane, could vividly remember some fifty years later: in a letter to The Maroon, he recalled how "Terry Barry, a prefect in our first term at Borden, came into our English lesson with Mr Tempany in Room 3, resplendent in his officer's uniform, with a magnificent green plume in his beret." Terence and his comrades were posted to Iraq, and remained here until ordered to proceed to Egypt in June 1943. Only one month later, however, the battalion embarked for Sicily, seeing action here for the first time. Following the invasion of the Italian mainland in September 1943, Terence and his comrades embarked for Salerno and then pushed north toward the so-called "Gustav Line", a formidable enemy position that ran from one side of the Italian Peninsula to the other, blocking the Allies' advance to Rome. The outer bastion of this position was a mountain known as Monte Camino, rising some 3,000 feet above the surrounding valleys and which had to be captured before the Allies could even

OBA WEBSITE DIGEST 2013

contemplate launching an assault on the Gustav Line itself. Following the failure of a previous attempt to secure the mountain, the task fell to 1st London Irish Rifles and their comrades in 56th London Division. The assault began on 3 December 1943 and, after eight days' bitter fighting, Monte Camino was unexpectedly abandoned by the enemy. Some eighty men from 1st London Irish Rifles lost their lives in the attack, one of whom was Terence, killed by enemy mortar fire while leading a patrol on 5 December 1943, aged only twenty-two. Posthumously mentioned in despatches for his gallant conduct, news of Terence's death eventually reached Borden Grammar School and Kenneth Sears, a sixteen-year-old schoolboy at the time, clearly remembers the shock with which this information was received by the school community. Terence was initially buried in Mieli, a small village at the foot of Monte Camino, before being interred in Cassino War Cemetery; his name is also commemorated on the war memorials of Borden Grammar School, Merton College, Oxford, the London Irish Rifles (located in Connaught House, London), and Sittingbourne (located on Central Avenue).



So far he has completed over 70 of these works – around 100,000 words, plus many pictures – and although it has been said before, we really do owe a huge debt to Marc for his scholarship and dedication.

Terry Barry's family brought with them several interesting and poignant items of memorabilia, including this wonderful cartoon which he drew, showing with remarkable accuracy the Head and five members of Staff

attired for war!

Graham Barnes

Comment received from Greg Barry:

I attended the service in the Old Hall which brought back memories of standing in countless school assemblies and looking at my uncle's name on the honours boards at the back of the stage. I was joined by six of my siblings as well as some of their partners and children; unfortunately my eldest brother Terry another old boy (1965-67) could not join us. The sixteen strong Barry family group included Dave Payne another old boy who was at BGS at the same time as me. Our father James (Jim) another old boy (1924-30) who sadly died in 2001 would have been very proud to hear Marc's tribute to his younger brother. Terry and Jim's younger sister Ellen is still alive and is very supportive of Marc's project and has helped by providing additional information for the biography. The service conducted by Stanley Evans and the input by Marc were as always presented in a sensitive and professional manner and all of the family were impressed by the dedication that Mark has displayed in this very important piece of work to record the story of those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

We were moved to hear Ken Sears relate how he was in assembly at BGS when the death of our uncle was announced and the impact that this had on the pupils on learning that a prefect they had known had been killed in action. It brought home the realities of war to those boys.

Our family will continue to support Marc's research and we look forward to attending next year's service to hear Marc's next presentation and I encourage other old boys to attend the service and bring their families to ensure that the memories of those former pupils continues to be recognised and to support Marc's important and unique research. It is an opportunity to discover a personal insight to the stories of the lives and untimely deaths of the young men who were pupils at BGS. We will remember them.

Greg Barry (1971-1978)