

OLD MORGANIANS

NEWSLETTER No. 8, OCT. 2014

Editor: Geoff. Marchant; NB: See bottom of page 10 for all contact details.

For all news of the recent 2014 Old Morganians' Dinner, please see back page.

Editorial – When I sent the June Newsletter to Mike Dodden for distribution I had thought we were safely through the March to June period of 2014 without losing any more members. The previous months had seen several deaths and reports of OM's funerals. However, **Clive Kett's** death came as a shock to us all and Mike covered that in his distribution letter, and far better than I could have done. I was away at the time of Clive's funeral service but I am sure we will have an account of that from other members. I would add our sympathies and support to Clive's family, and especially here to his son Greg, who does all our website changes and who was responsible for setting it up in the first place. For details of another significant R.I.P., **John Howell**, please see p.2. Others opposite & p.9.

I had an e-mail from ex- OM secretary Dick Raymond almost as soon as the newsletter had gone out (could it even have been before, with his inner sight?!)...I had somehow removed him from our committee, in the box on page 8! I apologised most sincerely...and he's back in there in this edition, with further apologies for the omission last time. (In his inimitable style, with great humour, he had queried whether I had pre-knowledge of his future demise!! No! I certainly haven't, and we wish him a long happy retirement from secretary-ship..if not yet from the committee!!)

I was yet again honoured to have an invite from Head of Haygrove **Karen Canham**, via her PA Nicola Kelly, to attend the opening of the New Centre at Haygrove on Friday 13th June, at 8am to 9.30am. I was unable to attend, and sent my apologies, but hope we will have received an account from someone who did. Nicola, by the way, is daughter of the late Dave Bret who was in my year at DMS, so we have a great connection maintained with the school, both through her, OM Graham Pow as site manager, and Mrs Canham's interest in the OMs. Also, of course, we have OM members on the committee of Governors.

So that we do not get too far away in time from the June Newsletter, and hopefully you can still find the pictures therein without too much difficulty, I append comments received from **John Marsh, Martin Brady, and Geoff. Adams** (in that order here) re photo on p.5 there:

“Herewith mid row missing names from photo of 1st XV 1957/8:- L to R **Chris Cudlipp, Brian Sealey, Robert Brunt** (not Bruant) **Tony Parsons, Geoff Hawkins, Ray Haines.**”

“Row 2 No 3 is **Robert BRUNT** followed by **TONY Parsons**. Did you know **Pete Solbé**? - I think he went off to join what was then the Rhodesia Police and guess he was caught up in the troubles in 1960s unless he jumped ship.”
(Pete has been reported to me as having died – Ed.)

“I am sure that it is **Brian Sealy** 2nd from left, middle row of the 1st 15 rugby team. Brian was in the same class as **Chris Cudlipp, Ray Haines** and me to name but a few, (1953 intake). The last I heard of him he was a Prof at University of Surrey, Guildford. I can't remember the subject area. I am now fully retired after a life in agricultural advice and latterly rural development consultancy. G.A.”

Many thanks for all those comments – Ed.

I will finish this editorial with other very relevant snippets from our president, Bryan Lancaster, received 12.05.2014:-

I have been looking through some very old copies of "The Morganian" and have come across some interesting information.

Firstly the War Memorial. Apparently the Memorial was produced in the workshops of the Bromsgrove Guild and was finally unveiled and dedicated by Dec 1921. The unveiling ceremony was managed by the Chairman of Governors-- Preb. C. Bazell and Brigadier-General HC Firth "whose simple and sympathetic words were worthy of the occasion",

Secondly the original Old Morganians' Association. Objects of the Association were:
(a) To maintain a friendly relationship between the Old Boys and the school.

- (b) To provide opportunities for social intercourse among the Old Boys.
- (c) To promote and affiliate Athletic Clubs and other societies of the Old Boys.
- (d) To assist in the publication of "The Morganian" magazine.
- (e) To further, generally, the interests of the Old Boys and the school.

Our aims seem similar. Substitute Haygrove for the school and our "round robin" (news)letter for the school magazine and we are not far off.

This information came from information that Mal Davies was looking at. His wife Barbara passed it on to me.
Hope you find this interesting. Bryan.

So "Many Thanks" to Bryan, Barbara, and our late Mal Davies for all that – Ed.

R.I.P. John Howell, DMS 1932 – 1938.

In late June I received the following copies of e-mails from our treasurer, Mike Dodden, the first being notification of John's death from his daughter Jane:- "Dear Mike, I am writing with the sad news that my father, John Howell has died at the age of 92. He was not coping so well and we finally managed to persuade him to move to a care home in Marlow, ten minutes from us. He settled in well and enjoyed being more part of our family, even seeing his latest great-grandchild at two days old.

He was doing so well but his new doctor cut back on his water tablets, leading to his legs swelling, and removed a tablet for benign prostate enlargement that he had taken for thirty years. This led to complete urinary retention and kidney failure. He finally died of pneumonia. Whilst I am grateful for his long and productive life, it was hard to see him suffer needlessly although the end was peaceful.

He so enjoyed his two reunions about three or four years ago. Thank you again for showing him round the schools. Please pass on our thanks for the people at the Castle of Comfort who also helped him. He was still telling someone about Dr. Morgan's just before he died and had such fond memories - although perhaps not of the bright-red blazers which made them targets on the way home until they thought of wearing them inside-out. He enjoyed reading the newsletters which brought back happy memories. Best wishes, Jane."

"Dear Jane, I am so sorry to hear of your father's passing. He was certainly our oldest member and I believe he was the only member to have attended the school when it was sited at Mount Street. We were very fortunate that he was able to come down to two of our dinners a few years ago. I know that he and those who sat with him thoroughly enjoyed exchanging tales of the old school. It was a privilege and a pleasure to have met him on the afternoon of his first visit and to tour around both the Mount Street and Durlough Road sites. Thank you for bringing him down. It is nice to hear that he was sharing memories of the school right up to the time that he died. Would you and your family please accept the condolences of all of our committee and members. I will certainly pass on your thanks to The Castle of Comfort. Kind regards, Mike Dodden."

*Your editor was on the same table as John, I think on **both** those recent visits to our dinner, and would certainly re-iterate all that Mike said. He was a real gentleman, great company, and full of reminiscences. May he rest in peace.*

Continuing Contact with Haygrove School.

At our OM Committee meeting at the Tudor on 17th February this year, I was asked if I would contact the Head Teacher at Haygrove School (our old Dr. Morgan's), Karen Canham, and find out whether someone there would be willing to give us an update on how successfully the new International Building, opened in November '13, was in adding to the school's curriculum. I then had an invite to Haygrove for another opening ceremony, that of the refurbished teaching centre on 13th June at 8am! Again I was unable to attend and, though Bill King was hopeful of attending, circumstances prevailed at the last minute that he could not go either. I have apologised to other committee members that I was on holiday and had not realised I was expected to let them know so that at least one of them could represent OM's. However, in my subsequent contacts with Mrs Canham's PA, I have been supplied with press releases for both opening ceremonies **and** an update on the International building's success, with photos. I have given them our sincere thanks and hope this level of contact will help both us and them. So for those reports see pages 3 and 4.

Also, at the committee meeting on 16th June, there was mention that one member had expressed the view that the 'new' school was not interested in the doings of the 'old' school. I think the evidence shown above of the wish to

keep us in the pipeline for their details, and the welcomes that my wife and I and committee and all other OM members have had at Haygrove, shows just the opposite, and long may it remain so! Certainly Mrs Canham goes out of her way to keep in touch, and as her PA is daughter of a late DMS Old Boy, we are also well represented there! So here we go with the first press release supplied by Haygrove:

International Friendship Centre, Haygrove School

A delegation from Shanghai made their way to Bridgwater in Somerset last November to officially open a new International Friendship Centre at Haygrove School. The school, which teaches just over 1000 students aged 11 – 16, has, in recent years, established an exciting link with the Yew Wah International Education Foundation in China which is evolving each year and enabling Haygrove's students and staff to gain a unique experience of Chinese culture and values.

The ceremony was attended by local MP, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger who emphasised the importance of international links to the local Bridgwater economy and the value of the work being done at Haygrove School, to encourage young people to understand and respect other cultures. Guest speaker Dr Mary Hayden, Head of Department of Education at the University of Bath, reminded the audience that, "International education and the promotion of intercultural understanding are no longer the preserve of the globally mobile, but are crucial to us all." Speaking of the special relationship between the two education partners, Dr Morrison, Head of International Education Services at the Yew Wah International Education Foundation (YWIEF) told the audience it was 'highly fortuitous' that they had established links with Haygrove School, which he described as a 'perfect match for our Yew Wah students'.

Haygrove School is known for its high academic standards and last year the school celebrated their highest-ever GCSE results with 77% of students securing 5 or more GCSE's, including English and Maths, at grade C or above. Extra-curricular provision is also highly-regarded and standards of behaviour are considered to be exceptional. Mrs Canham, who has been the school's Headteacher for the last 6 years, believes that the school's reputation rests on its strong commitment to the timeless values of respect and courtesy, which undoubtedly appeals to their Chinese partners. She says, "Haygrove is a happy community of staff and students who feel valued in their work, committed to learning and proud of their achievements. It has been a great pleasure working with our Chinese colleagues to develop the International Friendship Centre and there can be little doubt that this new space will make a huge difference to all our young people."

The International Friendship Centre is a new teaching and learning facility built in partnership with YWIEF, who are one of the largest providers of international education in China. Each half term, Haygrove School welcomes a group of Yew Wah students through its doors, to experience an 'English education', and it has been a long-held ambition of the partnership to build a bespoke facility to benefit both the visiting Chinese students and their Bridgwater peers. The number of Yew Wah students coming to the school is growing each year with over 150 expected to step through the school's doors this academic year.

The school recruits its own students to act as volunteer 'Haygrove buddies' who befriend the visiting Chinese youngsters whilst they are on the school site and help them settle into school life. The scheme has proved hugely popular and the number of Year 9 and Year 10 students wanting to get involved increases with each Chinese visit. The Chinese students attend some regular Haygrove School lessons with their buddies so that they can experience Western-style teaching, but, in addition, the teaching team at Haygrove work closely together to provide a cross-curricular programme of activities that enables Haygrove students to work alongside their Chinese peers on special projects to build and enhance cross-cultural understanding. The school also plan and deliver after school and weekend activities that complement the curriculum-based programme. In addition to this packed itinerary, the Chinese students have a busy schedule of trips and visits organized by the YWIEF staff team and spend time relaxing and reflecting on their experiences at their Yew-Wah owned accommodation in the nearby village of Chedzoy.

Mrs Kirsty Collinge, Director of International Studies at Haygrove, believes that focussing on developing a shared curriculum is an essential part of the school's intention to broaden students' horizons and provide first hand experiences of working collaboratively with other young people from across the globe. Mrs Collinge says, 'We have been delighted at how our students have responded to working together with our Chinese visitors. It is clear that there is a strong desire for all the students to understand what experiences they share as well as how their lives differ.'

The school is recognised as a centre of excellence for Modern Foreign Languages and was awarded Specialist Schools status for Modern Foreign Languages under the last Governments Specialist Schools programme which has now ceased. The school remains committed to international education and a comprehensive language curriculum, which includes French, German and Spanish and now, Mandarin, which was introduced at the start of this academic year via a partnership with The Castle School in nearby Taunton, with whom they shared a Mandarin teacher, Miss Xiao, making these two pioneering schools amongst the first in Somerset to offer Mandarin as part of the curriculum for all Year 7 students. At Haygrove there is also an after-school club for Year 9 students and this small group will become Haygrove's first GCSE Mandarin cohort. Mandarin is often thought to be one of the most difficult languages to learn, but a dedicated team of determined Haygrove students mastered enough of this tricky language in a single term to participate in the first West of England Mandarin Challenge held in Bristol. At the Challenge event, in recognition of this unique local partnership, Cllr Faruk Choudhury, The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Bristol presented Miss Xiao with an special award for 'the greatest contribution to developing understanding of Chinese language and culture'.

Discussions are currently going on to see how Mandarin teaching could be embedded more widely, including introducing it as a GCSE option, and Mrs Collinge is already exploring options for further cross-curricular links with her teaching colleagues. But perhaps the most exciting development, for the Haygrove students at least, is the chance to travel to Shanghai later this year to spend time at the Yew Wah School in Shanghai – an experience of a lifetime for the Somerset youngsters!

Editor's note - I regret I do not have space for any photos here, but they can be seen on www.haygrove.somerset.sch.uk/news 20th Nov. 2013 'Links with China', & 'View gallery' under the three pictures shown there.

Treharne Centre opens at Haygrove School, 13th June 2014.

Report and photo supplied for our use by Haygrove School; photo acknowledgement to Steve, Mercury Photographer, with many thanks.



Year 9 student Samantha Treharne was especially proud to cut the ceremonial ribbon alongside Mr Peter Downing, Chair of Sedgemoor District Council, as he officially opened Haygrove School's latest recently refurbished teaching centre. Why? Because the eight classrooms have been named after her grandfather,

Mal Treharne, who was Haygrove School's Chair of Governor for many years. Mr Treharne sadly passed away in January 2009, but his wife, Judy and her family were delighted to hear that the school wanted to name the smart new classrooms after her husband to commemorate the contribution he made to the life of the school. Judy Treharne said, "Mal always had a very clear vision of the benefit a much needed new Haygrove School would bring to Bridgwater – a vision that is still relevant today. But he would have been extremely pleased to have seen the modernisation of these classrooms, achieved through the school's determination and hard work."

School governors, staff and students joined the Treharne family to celebrate the naming of the Treharne Centre that is home to the school's English and Maths departments. The new classrooms follow-on from the new teaching blocks for Humanities, Art and Design and Food Technology and a new school library that opened last September. The next phase of the school's on-going facilities improvement plan is due to begin this summer when the existing 'porta-cabin' music classrooms will be replaced by a brand new music teaching centre that will include classrooms, practice rooms and a performance centre.

Head teacher, Mrs Karen Canham said, "It is a very exciting time to be at Haygrove. We are an ambitious school with a vision that includes excellent facilities as well as top-class results for all our students. It is a great pleasure to be able to remember those who have made a difference to the school in the past as we forge ahead into an exciting future."

OM members can see from the dedication of the building, (which I did not know in advance) why some of our committee members who knew Mal would have loved to be present. (Ed.)

Now for a bit of humour, or is it possibly true...??? The following was sent in in Sept. 2013 by member Richard Hampson, and "Thank you" for that Richard...

Subject: How the internet began

In ancient Israel , it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dorothy.

Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, my dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel , or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE). That is how it all began. And that's the truth....

Sorry about the "neighboring" but that's how it came, quite "sic" and American, I thought!! (Ed.)

Correspondence: I forgot the following handwritten letter when I did the bell addendum (my apologies!) but I'm pretty sure that I included **Bernard's** comments re **Ray's** tribute to **Mal**.

From **Bernard Storer** (Morgan's staff from 1957 until Haygrove, then Haygrove until 1984.)

"Dear Geoff, I've just finished reading the Morgs Mag (*Oct. '13 I think, Ed.*) & here are one or two thoughts/ideas/ramblings which might throw some light on things. First though, please congratulate Ray on his article about Mal. It was very well put together and said all that the rest of us would liked to have said. It may be a cliché but I will certainly miss Mal.

Next on "the bells". Incidentally, does your generation remember Charles Laughton as Quasimodo and his "The Bells, the bells"!!! Back to the DMS bell. I've spoken to Ron Tucker and together we've tried to remember the routine at the beginning of the school day. As we remember it – the staff gathered in the old staffroom whilst the pupils were either in their form rooms or snatching a quick cigarette behind the pavilion. Then a bell would be rung – we think it was the one above Sam Napper's room. This was the signal for everyone to get to the form rooms for morning registration. Following this, pupils lined up in the corridors and the staff went into the Crush Hall. Then either the Head Prefect or the Master-on-Duty (note the capitals) marched the boys into the hall. When they were settled, the duty master rang the mortar & pestle bell & the Head & staff came into the hall & started the assembly.

For normal 'end of lessons' bell, the one used was the electric bell in Mrs Steven's office.

So, if Ron & I remember correctly, the the bell was used only once a day. We both assume it came up to Morgan's from the old site at Mount Street. My own guess is that it started off there or it was "borrowed" from an old fire engine – it's certainly the right size. So as far as the bell is concerned it's a case of memories & ideas but no hard facts.

In contrast, answering another query, it is a fact that Haygrove did not have a VIth form. All VIth year activities went to Bridgwater College.

Another fact about Bryn Clarke. Apart from a collection of 'A' grades he was a member of the National Youth Orchestra. He played the bassoon. I don't remember the year, but on one occasion when my wife & I were in London, we went to hear him (& the rest of the orchestra) play at a concert in front of Prince Charles.

Back to ramblings. When young Morris referred to me talking about 'my boys', I was, of course, referring to the bright, sensible & intelligent ones who did Bio. Who said I'm biased! Anyway, this made me think about other groups, & so I wondered "What happened to "Chinese Pople"? Did he ever use his Chinese? (*Perhaps he now teaches at the Int. Friendship Centre!?* See p.3 – Ed.) Richard Ansdell who ?taught? him Chinese – in fact they learnt it together, told me that he hoped to take a holiday in China but, unfortunately, he died before he had the chance.

As a final note, I've just signed a contract with the publishers – my latest book will be coming out in late Spring next year. (2014) It's a guide to identifying Somerset's wild flowers but designed, not for my gifted biologists, but for anyone who wants to know what the plants are called but doesn't want to have to wade through technical botanical terminology.

Hope this throws some light, even if a dim one, on some of the queries. Sorry about the handwriting but I don't do e-mails &, as the evidence of this letter, I do have arthritis in my fingers. All the best, Bernard Storer."

Well how appropriate we should have this now as Bernard was listed to be MC at our 2014 dinner. I do apologise though that some of it did not get into the 'Bell Addendum', but a trickle of information does help me to keep twigging memories and, who knows, one day we may have a lead on where that bell actually did come from. One wife of a late school governor did ask my cousin about what information we had on the bell. This came as a complete surprise to me, and having given them a copy to read to her, as she cannot easily see to read, I'm just hoping some extra details may come back! A very big thank you to Bernard and Ron for sharing all those details – Ed.

Well after Bernard and Ron's memories, what better time to start on Ray Haine's memories (Look out Bernard and Ron, whatever is coming up?!)

CONTRIBUTION BY RAY HAINES (D.M.S. 1953-1960)

Original given to editor in Feb 2013 (and the editor takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by Ray!)
Part 1.

My previous three contributions were all in Association newsletters prior to the amalgamation, and all quite brief. The first of these (2005) was about my transfer from primary school to D.M.S. The second was a potted history of me (1960-2008) prompted by other contributors who had done that. The third also in 2008, concerned my first traumatic day at the school, which I entitled "Do you remember in the hope that this may prompt others to write about their experiences they remembered, and indeed have shared in some cases.

Since the age of five in 1947 the following sixty years of life, until my retirement in 2007, were involved with education in one form or another. 1947 –1953 Primary school; 1953-1960 Grammar school; 1960-1963 Teacher Training; 1963-1995 Teacher (mainly as Head of P.E. in an Upper School); 1995-2007 Deputy Director in outdoor education. The reason I state this is because all of this has afforded me the (sometimes doubtful) privilege of being involved both as recipient and deliverer within the education system.

Certainly the changes which have occurred in schools have been immense. Things had changed a little in the three years between my leaving school and starting teaching. Since then the ongoing changes have been such that the old D.M.S. was vastly different from what pupils (now called students!) experience today. In my own humble opinion not all of those changes have been for the better. Without doubt many of the school day experiences could never happen in a school today. Maybe this is why it is worth us recording some of those anecdotes and experiences whilst we are still here to do so.

DO YOU REMEMBER

NOTE: To some of what follows I can give an approximate year; To some they may span several years; others due to the nature of the anecdote will have no date. If I am wrong on any then I apologise, but I can assure you that the things I was party to, experienced or witnessed are true.

1953 – DAY 1 – Traumatic – hated it – also took home incorrect text book for Percy Gillard's homework thus failed to complete it!

53-54? - Before the swimming pool was built there was a line of small trees, quite bendy, stretching from roughly the swimming pool down towards the north boundary. I recall witnessing, though never personally experiencing, boys being tied hands and feet to a bough with ties and/or scarves by older boys. The older boys would then proceed to bend the supple branch to which the unfortunate victim was attached. Now under considerable tension the primed 'bow' would be released – not a pleasant experience for the victim. It's amazing that there were no dislocation or other injuries.

'53 – My English teacher in the 1st year was a man called Bridgen. My recollection is of a slim, probably fairly young man, with a moustache. I think he was nicknamed 'Hatchetface'. To put it mildly he was a very harsh man and with no sense of humour whatsoever. He was adept at the ruler across the knuckles routine and the clip across the ear. My desk was about half way back on the row next to the north corridor against the French doors. In this particular lesson a boy in front of me made what 'Hatchetface' thought was an inappropriate comment. 'Harchetface' stormed down the aisle and proceeded to take a swipe at me – and it was a clenched fist! I managed to duck, he missed and put his fist through the French window, shattering the glass. He suffered what turned out to be a quite badly cut hand. In ducking his blow did bang my head on the desktop but only suffered a minor graze on my forehead. End of story – not quite. 'Hatchetface' left the classroom and a prefect came in to supervise the class for the remainder of the lesson. The best bit for me was witnessing 'Hatchetface' in the following few lessons sporting a heavily bandaged left hand. Justice was done! I don't recall seeing him after that year so I can presume he moved on elsewhere. (*Somewhere in S.Africa as director of Education I was told – Editor*)

'54 – Sticking with the English theme my next English teacher was Mr Griffiths ('Grimey' by nickname) – what a contrast. An older man and a real gentle man. He loved poetry and loved reading it to us. I particularly remember 'Reynard the Fox' and 'The Ancient Mariner' I don't remember him in my later years at D.M.S. I think he may have retired. NOTE I now know he did retire and sadly died two years later.

To be continued as and when space permits.

Bernard Storer's latest Book. Ex DMS Staff Member **Bernard Storer** notified me recently that his new book "Somerset Wild Flowers – A Guide To Their Identification" has been printed and is published by Halsgrove Press at £9.99. It is in book shops now. He has had numerous interviews and several articles have been written about it. – Not bad for an 89 year old! Well done Bernard!

Further Obituaries I regret to record two more deaths of members – those of **John Gardner** (DMS 1951 – 58) who became a member only last year, and **W. Alf Garner** (DMS 1941 – 46). R.I.P.

Unveiling of The Bridgwater and District Civic Society Blue Plaque at the Old Mount Street School at 3pm on the afternoon of our Dinner Day.

Our ex-secretary, Dick Raymond, has kindly supplied me with this copy of the account which he had on show at the Dinner (together with photographs by committee member Robin Brown.)

BLUE PLAQUE UNVEILING

THE BRIDGWATER & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY, IN ASSOCIATION WITH OLD MORGANIANS, UNVEILED A COMMEMORATIVE BLUE PLAQUE AT THE FORMER SITE OF DR. MORGAN'S SCHOOL AT MOUNT STREET, BRIDGWATER ON THE 20TH SEPTEMBER 2014.

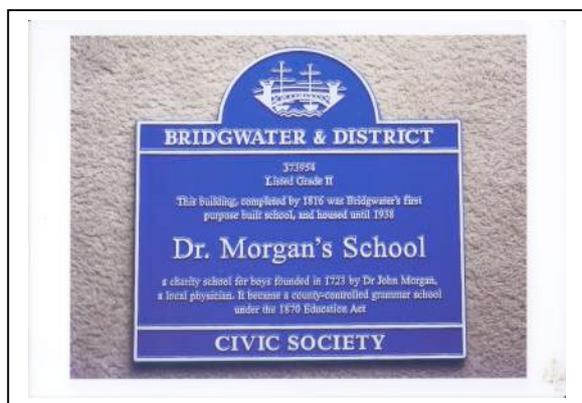
HAROLD PALMER WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL AT THAT SITE CARRIED OUT THE UNVEILING AFTER BEING INTRODUCED BY DEREK GIBSON THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRIDGWATER CIVIC SOCIETY.

PRIOR TO THE UNVEILING JOHN ALLEN, HIMSELF AN OLD MORGANIAN, TALKED OF THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING ADDING TO THE DETAILS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN BY CHRIS LAWRENCE, ANOTHER OLD MORGANIAN.

THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF OLD MORGANIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC SOCIETY.

OLD MORGANIANS FINANCED THE MAKING AND FIXING OF THE PLAQUE .

We can also note that MP Ian Liddell-Grainger also attended the unveiling and that a lady photographer for the Bridgwater Mercury and another photographer, paper unknown, took pictures including one of the whole group of Old Morganians from the steps at the back of Morgan House.



The Plaque.

(Photo Courtesy of Dick Raymond.)



The four speakers at the plaque: L to R, Chris Lawrence, Harold Palmer, John Allen, Derek Gibson.

(Photo: Editor)

Presentation of the Lord Biffen Award 2014.

The following is a PRESS RELEASE from Jenny Pearce at Bridgwater College (with some slight additions & explanations by OM committee member and past secretary, Dick Raymond), dated 10 September 2014.

Former International Baccalaureate student wins Lord Biffen Prize

Former International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) student, Fran Smith, has won the Lord Biffen prize which was presented by Bryan Lancaster, President of the Old Morganians. In addition to the shield, Fran received a selection of books of her choice to help with her future studies.

The prize, which was set up by the Old Morganians in memory of the late Lord Biffen who was a Conservative cabinet minister was awarded to Fran for being the highest achieving History, Politics or Economics student at Bridgwater College.

Fran, 18, from Weston-super-Mare, was the winner as she achieved a seven in IB History and a place to study History at Oxford University. Overall Fran gained 37 IB points, far above the national average of 29.9 points, and whilst battling health challenges.

Fran said, "I am tremendously honoured to have been presented the Lord Biffen Prize; I believe it to be a great indicator of how, although our backgrounds can influence us, it doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, anything is achievable! Being accepted into Oxford still feels a little like a dream. I am very excited and cannot wait to continue and learn more about the subject that I love. I have been incredibly lucky to have teachers, friends and family who have inspired me day after day to try and be the best than I can be and I am thrilled that I can begin to honour and thank them through both these events!"

Martyn Aldridge, Programme Manager for the IBDP said, "Fran did not take GCSE history and it was a twist of fate that placed her on the IB History course. She soon became fully inspired by the subject and mastered the art of academic history writing, notably with her research on Cromwell's murderous reputation in Ireland. Fran's achievement is made all the more amazing in the light of the health challenges that she has faced throughout her GCSE and IB years. She found out that she had gained her place in Oxford while preparing for anaesthetic in advance of spinal surgery this summer."



The 2014 Old Morganians' Dinner.

The Tudor Restaurant yet again served us exceedingly well on Saturday September 20th with a good choice of starters and sweets, and a roast beef main course with lashings of gravy, Yorkshire puddings, roast potatoes and a large selection of vegetables. A vegetarian option was, and always is, available. 72 had booked but 68 attended. Our President, Bryan Lancaster, started proceedings on, as he said, a sombre note, with a minute's silence remembering the seven members who had passed away during the past year. He introduced MC Bernard Storer (see also p.6 & top of Page 8) and later in the evening Bernard was presented with a "Murmuration" picture to mark his many years on the staff at DMS and also as a member of Old Morganians. Bernard introduced our speaker, John Davies, Old Morganian and Old Millfieldian, and John entertained us with a very witty speech drawing on his associations with, and very doubtful reminiscences of, several of the members present! Other material was based on 'thoughts on growing old'! He was warmly applauded. Toasts were proposed and taken to 'The Queen' and to 'The School'. Our president also appealed for a replacement newsletter editor as I had said that I felt it was time for a younger member to take over and perhaps re-model the newsletters as by March 2015 I shall have produced 30 issues in the present vein. Offers please to Bryan or Roger Richards our secretary, or any committee member! The evening finished with chat and viewing of photos and articles – many thanks to those committee members who had attended the plaque unveiling in the afternoon and managed to print off pictures and an account to put on display that same evening – a true 'labour of love'!! Photos of both events will be on our website in the near future, with especial thanks to member Chris Cudlipp for those he took.



Speaker John Davies addresses the OM's.



MC Bernard Storer receives his picture from Bryan.

More pictures will be available on the website soon. SO! We are out of space even on this our first 10 page newsletter and it just remains for me to remind you all of the next dinner date, 19th September 2015. Hope to see you there!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OLD MORGANIANS Website Address is www.drmorgans.com and it has been totally updated by its producer, Greg Kett, son of DMS Old Boy, the late Clive Kett. Greg runs Ravenswood Media Ltd.

Old Morganians President: Bryan Lancaster.

Old Morganians Committee: Treasurer Mike Dodden 01278 423890 **mob: 07540052982** e-mail: mdodden@aol.com ; Secretary: **Roger Richards**, 3 The Crescent, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 9FT. 01249 716263 rognsue@hotmail.co.uk Minutes Sec: Tony Wilkins. Chairman: Bill King 01278 456405; Dick Raymond 01278 686509, Colin Brown; Ray Haines; Brian Scott; Ralph Sealey; Paul Williams.

NB: Contact Mike Dodden if you require a 2015 membership/dinner application form.

Material For Newsletter. Please write, phone, or e-mail, to Geoff Marchant, 37 Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset, BS49 4HR. Tel: 01934 834550 E-mail: Please send to yattonmarchants2010@hotmail.co.uk Photos can be sent to this e-mail address but bear in mind that we still produce a black & white newsletter for a large number of our members who either have no e-mail address, or whose e-mail addresses are out of date on our information listing. Therefore, **please do not send large colour photos, or black & white ones of extremely high resolution, say in excess of 300kB.** Thanks for all contributions to the newsletter – **do please keep them coming.** I especially need career / life history articles and reminiscences of the old school days. Geoff. Marchant, Newsletter Editor