

# **OLD MORGANIANS**

**NEWSLETTER No. 11, OCTOBER 2015**

**Editor: Geoff. Marchant; NB: See bottom of page 8 for all contact details.**

**For details of our recent Dinner, please go to p8, and our next Newsletter!**

**On October 21st, 2014, Dick Raymond forwarded to me a ‘note’ which our late member Chris Lawrence had sent him on the same day. It refers to John Morgan and his school, and other schools in Bridgwater in the past and, as Dick said at that time, “it must have taken a lot of digging to find all this out!” I have searched through what has been used in the last year in our newsletters and cannot find that I have used this article already, or even referred to it, so before I lose it I have decided to use it here as a very good start for our October 2015 newsletter:**

**A Brief Note on**

**John Morgan’s School**

**and Bridgwater’s other Grammar Schools**

Dr. John Morgan was a physician and probably born in Somerset in the seventeenth century near Bishops Lydiard but lived and practiced in Bridgwater. He also became a member of the Common Council (precursor of the Town Council) and was chosen as mayor in 1720.

In August 1723 Dr. Morgan realised his health was failing and made his will which included detailed instructions for creating a new school including adequate finance. John Morgan died a little later that year.

It is not clear why John Morgan wanted to create a new school as the town already had a grammar school called King James’ School. The name is a misnomer because the school was established following a Royal Grant from Queen Elizabeth in 1561; King James simply confirmed the arrangement in 1612 but somebody on the Common Council presumed that this was the grant.

Bridgwater’s original grammar school was created in 1298 in religious buildings called The Hospital of St John (established in 1219) and run by Augustinian canons. Its location was by the site of the Eastgate on the north side of the junction of Eastover and Broadway. This school lasted until the Reformation in 1538 when the hospital, in common with most religious houses, was closed. The town realised it needed a school and, in 1541, petitioned King Henry VIII but the request fell on deaf ears.

It seems to be widely assumed that Dr. Morgan’s School commenced in 1723 but its actual creation did not happen until 1789 when a Richard Jenkins Runwa Jenkins was appointed as schoolmaster. The following year Jenkins was made master of King James. Thus it seems that the authorities were trying to merge both schools; this is somewhat curious as King James’ School was supervised by the Common Council whereas Dr. Morgan’s was controlled by a trust whose membership was clearly defined in his will.

A building called the Church House (which still exists as the Mansion House Inn) in Bridgwater High Street had served as the school for many years and presumably the boys of both schools were taught there. The schoolroom was on the first floor and reached via an external staircase from Mansion House Lane. In 1801 the town sold the Mansion House and the location of the school for the next fifteen years is, at present, uncertain. Possibly the new owner charged rent for the schoolroom, perhaps other accommodation in the town was used.

Each school was presumably in separate locations after 1809 when Mr. Jenkins resigned and a Reverend T. Gill was appointed master of Dr. Morgan's School. A man with the Dickensian-sounding name, Caleb Rockett, became master of King James'. Mr. Gill only stayed for a year and was followed by Mr. J. Lance.

By 1816, Dr. Morgan's had obtained its own school building which was a new brick-built spacious school room attached to a house for the schoolmaster. These buildings still stand in Mount Street; the master's house was altered towards the end of the nineteenth century by addition of bay windows, and extra rooms known as 'the new science building' erected at the north end of the school. Several internal classrooms had also been created by this date.

These alterations followed the implementation of the 1870 education act which dissolved the original Morgan's Trust and placed the school under the control of the newly established County Council. The schoolmaster became the headmaster and other teachers were appointed. Boys under ten years were no longer taught at Morgan's and admission was by selective examination. King James' School, which had been in some difficulties for several years, closed.

The nature of Dr. Morgan's school dramatically changed following implementation of the Victorian 1870 education act. The headmaster was responsible to a Board of Governors, the original uniform as described by Dr. Morgan disappeared and the boys wore dark suits (as judged by contemporary photographs), and the curriculum expanded to include the sciences and engineering.

With the passage of time other changes occurred, team sports were introduced together with 'houses'. External speakers visited to give 'magic lantern' lectures - a great novelty at first. Numbers of pupils steadily increased such that accommodation was inadequate by the time of the 1914-18 war. Post-war shortage of money delayed the planned replacement for many years though a proper Grammar School for girls was opened in 1921 (girls' education had previously been neglected but in the latter quarter of the nineteenth century was catered for in the Art and Technical Institute in Blake Street).

By 1938, when the new school in the Durleigh Road was opened, Dr. Morgan's School already had a new uniform: a red blazer with dark blue badges showing a pestle and mortar bearing the initials JM on the breast pocket and a red cap having a similar badge. The school had a large playing field with a full-size rugby pitch plus a slightly smaller pitch, a cricket square plus a pavilion on the edge of the field. The buildings contained a large assembly hall complete with a stage and stage-lighting, a projector room housing a 35mm film projector; and a large well-equipped gymnasium.

The Second World War resulted in several staff being called to the colours and several female teachers were recruited to replace them. The Air Training Squadron was formed which comprised several of the remaining male staff plus many of the older boys. A London school, the Poplar School of Engineering and Navigation, was evacuated to Bridgwater and some of its pupils housed at Morgan's. Various air raid precautions were implemented such as building blast walls to protect windows along the main corridor and some rooms.

Shortly after the war the headmaster retired and his successor kept the established arrangements as far as teaching and sports were concerned. He also encouraged expansion of the school societies which were largely run by pupils with a master available for advice if needed. Links with the Girls' Grammar School were established because some senior girls wanted to study physics but their school lacked suitable facilities to do this. By 1950 inter-school Saturday night dances were taking place once or twice per term, and there were joint Christmas parties.

At this time numbers of boys entering the sixth form considerably increased as did numbers seeking University admission. This expansion progressively continued up to the school's closure in 1973; it was largely fuelled by the gradually increasing availability of grants for further education together with expansion of university places plus creation of new universities.

During the 1950s the school built its own swimming pool as the town's facilities were becoming unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons. Pupil numbers were increasing such that the existing buildings were increasingly proving inadequate despite provision of some extra accommodation.

By 1970 it became increasingly clear that comprehensive education was going to arrive though when it did, in 1973, the education authorities had ill-prepared the necessary arrangements such that pupils and staff were commuting between different schools during the day for some lessons. However, by this time Morgan's ceased to exist and the school in the Durleigh buildings re-named Haygrove.

Unfortunately many of the artefacts associated with Dr. Morgan's school disappeared though recently the large painting purchased from Halswell House in 1948 was discovered in a cupboard in the gymnasium! The present location of the silverware donated over many years as sports day prizes is apparently unknown. The cast-iron pestle and mortar which served as a gong at school morning assemblies seems to have vanished without trace. Rumour had it that it was John Morgan's pestle and mortar! It was probably made at the instigation of a former head master and cast at a local foundry.

It is sad that Bridgwater has so far not seen to commemorate John Morgan. At least the Old Morganians are hoping to place a plaque on the Mount Street building – subject to planning permission! J.C. Lawrence March 2014

*NB. The plaque at Mount Street was unveiled on Dinner Day 2014 (20<sup>th</sup> Sept.) so both John Morgan and the old school have at last been commemorated! Many thanks to Chris for this historical article. -Ed.*

**To add to the above account, I have noticed that in December 2013 I found the following when I Googled for 'Mount Street School, Bridgwater, Somerset, UK':**

There was a school in the town by 1298 when its rector undertook to send seven of his poor pupils to receive daily pittances at St. John's hospital, where a further 13 schoolchildren lived on the foundation. (fn. 84) A master of schools was mentioned in the town in 1379 (fn. 85) and the hospital's inappropriate rectories of Morwenstow (Cornw.) and Wembdon were charged together with the support of 13 boys in 1535. (fn. 86) The inhabitants' request for a free grammar school in 1548 (fn. 87) was an attempt to secure an endowment for the existing school, probably held by 1553 in a school house belonging to the corporation. (fn. 88) The grant to the corporation, first of tithes in 1561 and later of the rectory, provided an endowment for what became the free grammar school. (fn. 89) In 1819 the school had no pupils, but a school in Mount Street, established under Dr. John Morgan's will dated 1723 and originally designed as a grammar school, was by then teaching elementary subjects. In 1816 it had been increased in size by the addition of a schoolroom for 300 boys. (fn. 90) It became a secondary school in 1871 and from 1888 received the endowment of the former grammar school, which had closed in 1869. Under a Scheme of 1910 it became an aided secondary school and in 1930, becoming a maintained school, moved to new buildings in Durleigh Road. (fn. 91) It was replaced in 1973 by Haygrove comprehensive school. (fn. 92)

From: 'Bridgwater: Education', A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 6: Andersfield, Cannington, and North Petherton Hundreds (Bridgwater and neighbouring parishes) (1992), pp. 238-241. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18650> Date accessed: 02 December 2013.

*So we have started this newsletter with much detail of our old school and others before, and perhaps alongside it. At the risk of boring those not interested in the history of DMS, I find I also have the following from our webmaster Greg Kett. As it is all appropriate to the history of the school, I will use it here, with many thanks to Greg for his time in searching it out after I had mentioned an 'old site' which I could remember seeing some years ago. Greg found the site address and I have appended here what I found as an index of contents on that site. As you will see it is a site installed by DMS Old Boy Jon Bigwood. Enter the site yourself to see all these gems of information on the old school! -Ed.*

“Hi Geoff, I believe this is the old site: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/foilot/dm/dmindex.htm>

If you can't find any login details, you could still view each picture and then Right Click -> "Save Image" (or similar option, depending on your computer/browser) - It would be a one-by-one process but it's certainly possible, there aren't too many there.

Cheers, Greg Kett Managing Director Ravenswood Media Ltd.

### **“Dr Morgan's Grammar School Homepage**

Dr Morgan was a physician who lived in the early days of the eighteenth century in the town of Bridgwater, Somerset, England. In his Will he entrusted in the people of Bridgwater to set up a charity school to educate the local boys. It must not be forgotten that the Dr Morgan's foundation absorbed the old King James the First Grammar School and that we may at once push back the birth of this school by another hundred years.

Dr Morgan's survived for exactly 250 years. It finally closed (and was replaced by Haygrove Comprehensive School) in 1973. The buildings, which made up the school from 1937 onwards, are still in use although many more have been added since.

**The following items provide a very small insight to the school.**

Extracts from Dr John Morgan's Will from 1723\*

A description of the 'new' buildings in July 1937\*

A description of the School when it was based at Mount Street\*

The School Prospectus and Rules from 1971.

Lists of pupils and masters from the school in the late 60's/early 70's

An Email from Dave Coles who was at Dr Morgan's in the late 60's

A complete text only copy of The Morganian from February 1970 (136k)

The school play (Twelfth Night) in 1960.

David Coates (English teacher from 1960's)

### **Reminiscing**

School photos - 1969 (200KB) 1972 (400KB)

Pictures.....

First year rugby team 1972/73,

Under 12 1967-68,

Under 13 1968,

Under 13 1969.

Visit to Saltrum, Plymouth

Under 14's vs Brymore

Under 14's from the Bridgwater Mercury 1973

Pupils from around 1960

Under 14 Rugby team 1957-5

Football Club 1915-16

new.gif (111 bytes)Under 12 Rugby Team 1960/61

## **Extracts from the Morganian**

April 1922 : Front : Page 1 : Page 2 : Page 3

July 1922 : Front : Page 1 : Page 2 : Page 3

December 1922 : Front : Page 1 : Page 2

March 1923 : Front : Page 1 : Page 2 : Page 3

Thanks to Helen Nisseron for these. Note these are large scans and can take a while to download on a slow connection.

## **Other websites of interest**

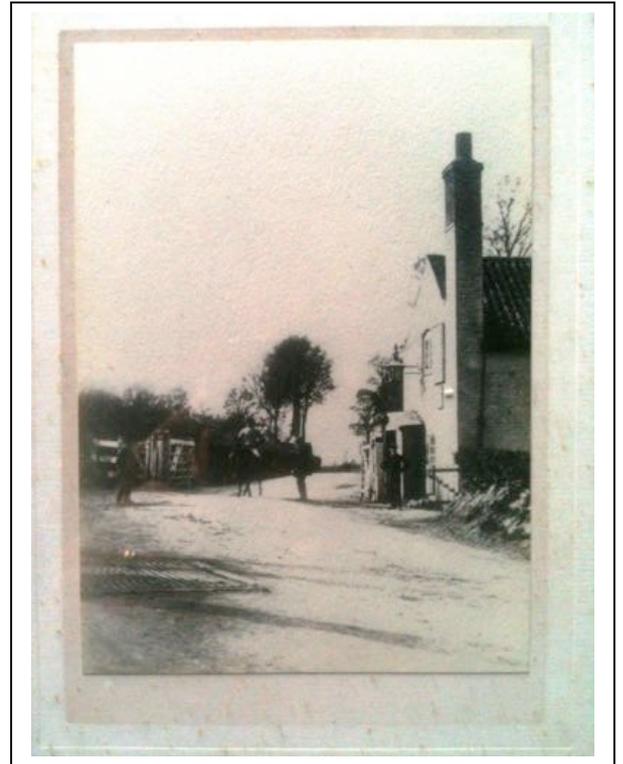
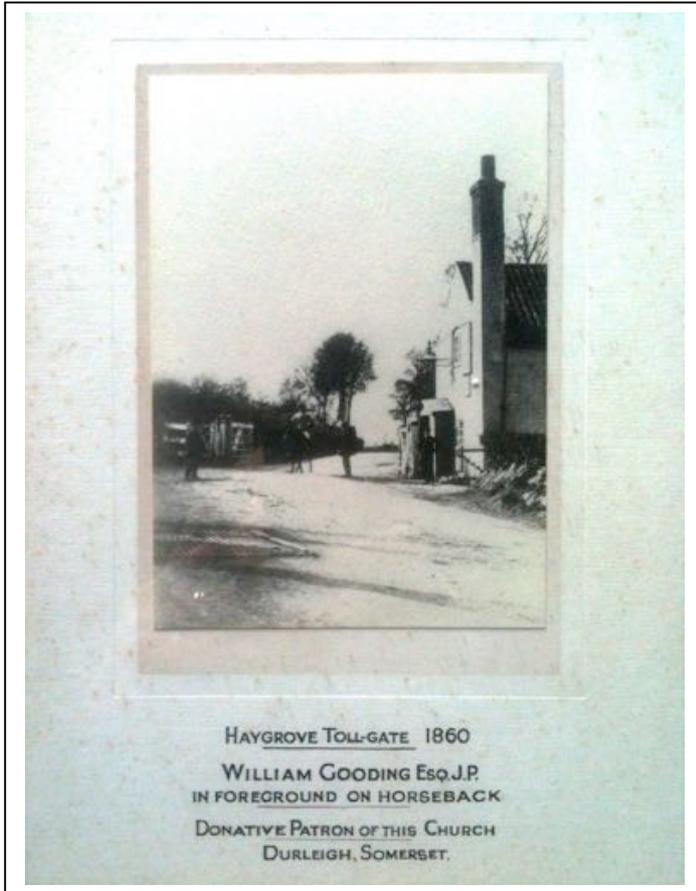
Bridgwater Grammar Schools

\* These items are taken from the last issue of the School Magazine, The Morganian, July 1973.

I'm interested in putting more Morgan's information on this site. If you have any old photos that can be scanned in, or any other gems then let me (Jon Bigwood) know."

*Unfortunately I do not now seem to have any contact details for Jon, though I am sure we have corresponded in the past, but what a fantastic store his website is for DMS information. – Ed.*

Now, as we have had all historical details up to here, I will proceed with a (very) historical picture (two versions) which I remembered seeing in my youth in the South West end of Durleigh Church. I have never seen this picture reproduced elsewhere and it shows a bit of Durleigh Road very near to the old school there, but way before the school arrived. I am indebted to Rev. Will Lane for scanning the original and sending the two versions to me so that both the inscription and the picture could be seen to best advantage. You first see it in this OM Newsletter but then, after October 2015, I plan to send copies to the Blake Museum. "Squibb's History of Bridgwater" mentions turnpikes and J.F. and J.C. Lawrence's "A History of Bridgwater" mentions toll roads, but not at this location. In Squibb's book, in 'A Bridgwater Diary' he says that in 1811 Durleigh Road did not then exist. Also in 1821 a Turnpike Act was passed and that in 1822 all roads leading into the town were repaired. (Additionally he mentions that in 1840 DMS was at the Mount in Bridgwater, in 1899 Rev C.E. Lucette left DMS to become Head of Chard Grammar School and was succeeded by Mr. William Catlow of St. Albyn's School, Dulwich; in 1911 a Morganian's Association was formed, and in 1924 Rev. W. E. Catlow retired after 24 years as head of DMS.) I have read recently in the online Victoria History of Bridgwater that the Gooding's lived at Durleigh Elms on Spaxton Road just after the turning down left to Durleigh Church (Goose Pit Hill, with the junction with Spaxton Road and Durleigh Road then being known as "Three Crosses" – that's a new one for me, but note "Four Forks" still exists nearer Spaxton. There are numerous Gooding graves in Durleigh churchyard, and memorials against the South side of Durleigh Church tower, now badly eroded but very easily read in the 1940s and 1950s, so that would tend to confirm Durleigh Elms as their residence in the parish. Many lads formerly at DMS talk in error of 'Durleigh Hill' going from the Fairfield towards the 'new school' on Durleigh Road but this is actually Haygrove Hill, and I assume the toll house was at the top, very close to Glynn Rees's house in our days at school. The true 'Durleigh Hill' is alongside Durleigh Church, and with a recent (1960's?) extension along the road to North Petherton, which according to old books and maps was really part of Rhode Lane. That is where I was born and brought up! As I have said above, I have never come across the following picture(s) in any book or document, or even on pictures of Durleigh Village online, so I believe them to be unique – but would be very grateful if anyone can tell me otherwise! I am trying to preserve them for posterity as the original could so easily be lost in an over-zealous turn-out. Having said all that though, we have to go onto the next page to show the photos.....



The Haygrove Toll House, circa 1860, Pictures courtesy of Rev. Will Lane, Holy Trinity Church, Bridgwater, and Durleigh Church, 2015, scanned from ancient photograph in “The Little Chapel in the Woods”, Durleigh.

**Now as promised in the June 2015 Newsletter I re-produce Rod Bishop’s account of a wonderful meeting–up in Australia:**

Hi Geoff,

I thought the following may make an interesting article for the OMG Newsletter.

In 1956 Clive Pay was at Dr Morgan's Grammar School and in February of that year immigrated with his family to Adelaide, Australia. Clive's father Ronald was a radiographer at the Bridgwater General Hospital and was successful in obtaining a similar position in Adelaide.

Clive's parents lived in the same road as my parents and just three doors down from another Old Moganian, John Davies and his late brother Trevor, a good friend of mine and Clive's. The neighbours were out in force as they waved goodbye to the Pay family on their venture to the other side of the world. It was sad to see them go and Joan Pay was a good friend of my sister Maureen and was bridesmaid at her wedding. My brother Peter a friend of Clive's brother Ian.

My sister, brother and I often wondered what happened to the Pay family and on a visit to my home in Frome in 2013 my sister asked if I knew anything about the Pays as since 2002 Diane and I spend six months of each year at our home in Margaret River in Western Australia.

Within three weeks of my sisters visiting Frome from her home in Spain and asking in particular about her old friend Joan Pay, who should turn up at the 2013 Old Moganian Dinner, it was Clive Pay. It was

great to meet up with Clive again, I mentioned that my sister was asking about Joan I told him about my Australian home and that my only daughter is now an Australian citizen. Clive said that if ever in Adelaide let's meet up.

Diane and I recently visited Adelaide and Clive and his wife Rosemary made us very welcome and took us around Adelaide, to his home in the Adelaide Hills and to meet his sister Joan whom I had not seen for 59 years.

We relived the past with happy and some sad stories about family and friends in Bridgwater. It was also good to learn how the Pay family progressed over the 59 years since their departure to Australia from Bridgwater in 1956. My sister was delighted to learn about Joan.

It just goes to prove that being an Old Morganian can open up many happy memories.

It was a lovely visit Geoff and all being well we will be back in Somerset for the summer and hope to see you at the Tudor later in the year.

Find attached a few photos of Clive, Rosemary, Diane and myself. Also a photo of Clive and his sister Joan who I hadn't seen since 1956.

Kind regards Rod Bishop 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Rod Bishop (rodanddibishop@gmail.com)



L to R: Clive Pay, his sister Joan.



L to R: Clive Pay, Rosemary, Diane, Rod Bishop.

**Now before I report on the latest OM Dinner, I must include some more recent sickness and deaths of OMs and members news:-** Our secretary, **Roger Richards** e-mailed me as follows on 28.05.15 : "I had a call this morning from Peter Kidman concerning his uncle **Michael Payne** who has been a member until recently and who was an **assistant master at Dr Morgans (1967-73)**. Michael had a fall in March and after 2 months hospitalisation has now decided to move into Sydenham House in Bridgwater. **He would welcome any visitors.** Peter now has Power of Attorney over Michael's affairs so if anyone wants to write to Michael please contact me and I will give you Peter's address. I will get Peter to send Michael's subs to me as Michael would like to receive the Newsletter and stay in touch with OMs." Followed by "I forgot to mention - Michael's nephew also asked if you could include the news below about Michael in the next Newsletter. Roger." So if anyone would care to write to Michael, please send it to Roger, see p.8 box for address. From our treasurer, **Mike Dodden** on 21.06.15 I got:- "Just picked up on FaceBook that **Ralph Maishman**, who was **head of English at Morgan's from about 1969** and who transferred to Bridgwater College died earlier this month. Funeral has already taken place in Hertfordshire. Afraid I don't have a contact for the family." On 25.07.15 I received : Somewhat by chance I learned of the death

on 15 March (at the age of 87) of **Robert Clatworthy**, an eminent sculptor who was **born in Bridgwater and attended Dr Morgan's**. Several national newspapers carried obituaries about a month after his death. Thought you should know (if you don't already). With every good wish, **Peter Redding**"

Member **Brian Haggett** noted that the cyclist who was "killed by pothole", see p.26, Daily Mail, April 11th 2015, was Martyn **Uzzell**. Brian wondered whether, as this was quite an uncommon surname, whether he could have been related to **our old school master, Colin Uzzell**. If any one has any thoughts or information on this, we would love to know more. In addition to member **John Stuckey, Dick Raymond, Roger Richards, and myself, Geoff. Marchant**, attended the funeral service for Dr. **John Chris Lawrence** on 29th. May. I was given the original of the Eulogy written by a son, J.Nigel Lawrence, and this will be included in an Addendum to this Newsletter, with grateful thanks to Nigel.

Thank you for all that information. **May those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.**

In more cheering mood we have from an online report 13th June 2015 on the Queen's Birthday Honours "The singer **Michael Ball**, the broadcaster Nicky Campbell and the actor Martin Clunes all receive OBEs, as does actress Lesley Manville, best known for appearing in several films by the director Mike Leigh." Members may recall that Michael is son of Tony Ball, OM member who has addressed us on more than one occasion. Also, on Friday 10th July, Roger Richards and I had a very informative meeting with Head of Haygrove, Karen Canham re our dinner in 2017 and 'restoration' of the old DMS buildings (parents had been advised of the possibility of some of this the previous evening and more information had arrived from Somerset Education officers that very morning.) Later that same day Roger, Dick, my wife and I attended the opening of "The John Hoare Music Centre" by Cllr.Ian Dyer, Chairman of Sedgemoor District Council, as guests of the school and enjoyed plentiful refreshments, music by the school choir, and later 'The Hardley Fentons, their singer being the Haygrove Head girl. John Hoare was a previous History and PE master for 38 years or so. We were all welcomed by the present Head of Music, Mr C. Whiteoak.

We were much indebted to Karen and her staff for the invites and all the attention on the day and always. More details of this and all latest developments at Haygrove via [www.haygroveschool.co.uk](http://www.haygroveschool.co.uk)

**OM 2015 Dinner.** We have little room left to discuss this here but suffice it to say that the meal was again fantastic and I will enlarge on that if I can in the next Newsletter. Approx. 85 attended. I must also record our grateful thanks to **Graham Addicott O.B.E.** for his speech and entertaining us with his memories of his career in the Old Bailey and later as a Courts Administrator. There has just been so much going on in the background and so much to report this time, that I am including two Addenda to this Newsletter: No.1 is the account of the visit which some of our members made to **Millfield School** last year, with many thanks to **Committee Member Colin Brown** for that and many other Millfield pictures which I will use when I have room. No.2 is the Chris Lawrence Eulogy which I mentioned above.

**More R.I.Ps: I regret to report that we have been notified of the deaths of OMs Tony Upham and Gordon Perry.** More details next time.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OLD MORGANIANS Website Address is [drmorgans.com](http://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.**

**Old Morganians President:** Bryan Lancaster.

**Old Morganians Committee:** Treasurer Mike Dodden 01278 423890 **mob: 07540052982** e-mail: [mdodden@aol.com](mailto:mdodden@aol.com) ; Secretary: **Roger Richards**, 3 The Crescent, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 9FT. 01249 716263 [rognsue@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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