

DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION

New Scribe

You may well remember that in the last (Summer 2005) edition, Roger Evans appealed yet again for someone to come forward to do the newsletter. Well I let it pass me by for a few weeks and then phoned Mike Dodden to see if any more worthy saint (fool, or sinner!) had stepped into the breach. The answer was “No” and so folks I’m afraid you are stuck with me! I am Geoff. Marchant and I was at DMS from 1951 to 1956, so your scribe is now of an earlier era than Roger and readily admits to knowing very little of the school in its latter years, or of the staff and pupils who were in attendance from 1956 onwards. So there immediately is your chance to enlighten not only me, but our total readership, of both the serious and amusing anecdotes which you later scholars all remember so well! Equally, the older members may well have stories which have not already been aired in the newsletter columns; now is your time in the coming months to send them to me by post, text, or e-mail, to assist in keeping this newsletter up to the standard we grew accustomed to receiving when Roger was at the helm.

All of you, please don’t put it off – your account may not be used at once but I can assure you it will be welcomed, stored, and used at the first convenient opportunity. You will find my telephone & address details at the end of this special edition. As a member of the staff of my time used to say each year to his Geography Club pupils, “This is your club, get on with it” – similarly this is your newsletter, so please ensure that we have sufficient items to produce the usual three editions a year, and above all please let me know of anyone who you know was a Morganian who has a significant anniversary, claim to fame, or even who has departed this earthly life,

please write a few words or let me know somehow.

My background.

Very briefly at this stage (and you will see why overpage), I will give a few details so that you know who this “new boy” is. In my DMS days I lived in Durleigh village (not always true actually as in early years we were just over the border in Goathurst parish, but so far from that village that even before we moved one house up the road we considered Durleigh as our real location. So did the postman, he would never have found us if ‘Goathurst’ had been in the address!) My brother, Clive, & I cycled to DMS, a point raised by Peter Day recently who used to cycle by our house on his way to DMS from North Petherton – as he said, how many young lads would do that nowadays! I left from the 5th form having decided to try for an engineering apprenticeship in the ROF at Puriton, or so I thought! Llanishen, Cardiff was the War Dept’s stipulation, so into the first of many digs I went. I should have seen the warning when 2 years later Llanishen closed & we were all sent off to new locations, me as a student apprentice to Glascoed in the Usk area of Monmouthshire. After much more college work, & an extended apprenticeship to cover the same, I had an interview in ROF Enfield but was offered a job in Chertsey (Fighting Vehicles Establishment)! I decided to get back nearer home & eventually joined the Bristol Aircraft Company at Filton, and have been in the aircraft and associated fields (including 15 years at Bristol Aerojet in all its guises on rocket motor cases & pressure vessels) ever since. I retired a bit belatedly in April this year, was given my old works computer, and so became available, & with the required tools, to offer to do this task.

Strange Encounters of the DMS Kind!

Mike Dodden was telling us of a recent visit to The Oval with his son to watch Somerset in the 20/20 cricket finals. He got chatting to the bloke sat beside him and they found out that they both came from Somerset, although the stranger now lived in Berkshire. Then came the realisation that they had both attended DMS. The 'stranger' turned out to be Jim Munn. Is anyone in touch with him?

Ralph Sealey then recounted how, when he & his wife were in Singapore in March, they went for a drink in Raffles Bar. A chap came up to them and said to Ralph "I know you, you come from Bridgwater and we both went to DMS"! After reminiscing for a while, this new acquaintance suddenly said "Well have a good holiday" and walked off. Then Ralph realised he still hadn't asked who this bloke was – so if you know someone from DMS days who was recently in Singapore, & who has possibly said that he met a fellow old Morganian there, please let Ralph, myself, or both, know!

Now here's a tale of a similar occurrence which happened to one of my brothers-in-law in the 1990's when he was working for an engineering construction firm in Saudi Arabia. Old Morganian David (Brian) Kent lived, when home, at No.4, The Square, Woolavington. One day into his office in Saudi comes a younger lad & they both realise when they speak that 'they do come from the West Country'. "Where do you come from?" asks the lad. "Somerset" says David. "Yes, but **where** in Somerset?" "Oh a little town you probably wouldn't know (always cagey, this fellow!) "**Well try me!**" is the answer. "Bridgwater" says David at last. "**So do you actually live in the town?**" "No, a village a few miles outside" "**So where's that then?**" and yes, you've guessed the reply already, "Oh a little village you probably wouldn't know"! So, to cut a long story short, they determine they both come from Woolavington, and their homes are only a few hundred yards apart! The lad turned out to be Robert Atkins, and he was back

living with his parents having been away from the area for some time. We know that his parents had lived in the village for a few years, so there is just a chance that he, too, could have gone to DMS. Does anyone out there recognise the name, and if so, do you know where he is now?

Other Information for this Newsletter

One of my ideas is to ask you to supply me with details of your life since leaving DMS, sort of a CV but a bit more chatty & possibly picking out the more interesting things. Hence my very short summary of my background as when (if) I get short of **your** background information I may well have to bore you with mine in great detail! I have a particularly good set of reminiscences of a very good friend of mine, old Morganian Ronald Short, who died in April 2004, about 2 weeks before his 82nd birthday. Most of these are about his childhood life in Somerset, and include a bit about the old school & its move to Durleigh Road! I shall delve into these when I have space to fill, & I'm sure you will find them of great interest. There are also a few ex DMS pupils of my own class who I can (will!) lean on for "This Is Your Life" details, even if I have to interview them and jot down details myself. It would, however, be much more appreciated if those with a particularly interesting life-tale to tell (or not, as the case might be!) sent me details without me having to ask Mike for a likely name and address! Please do send some in as soon as you like.

Date of 2006 Dinner

Please note that it is intended that the 2006 dinner will again be at the Tudor & will be on 23rd September. Those attending this year will get details with their 2005 dinner tickets from Mike Dodden.

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