

DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2006

Editor: Geoff. Marchant; NB: See details & esp. new e-mail address bottom of page 5.

Editorial.

What a lot has happened since I typed the Spring Edition! I have spent many hours following up a lead which Mike Dodden had given me – namely that the Admiral Blake Museum in Bridgwater had several files of information on the old school, mainly supplied by headmaster Francis Davey when he moved on after the move from grammar to comprehensive schools. Some of this info. is day-to-day admin. stuff, some involves speech day & similar reports, some should not really have been released into the public domain!! Fascinating! Keep up your membership & read the newsletters if you want to know more! I must give several thanks this time: to Clive Kett who has offered, at his own expense, to help trace the big list of 'lost' old boys – and this is a really daunting task, yet within minutes of starting he phoned to say one on the list, Paul Arrigoni, lived just opposite him on Wembdon Hill – what a great start & he is progressing well; many, many thanks Clive on behalf of the whole association. Also to Dave Peak yet again for a further contribution – this time on old boy's associations with the Bridgwater Carnival; to Chris Cudlipp for this edition's article on his dad "George", to his brother Graham for a summary of his post school years, & to Chris again for withstanding my insistence that we must have news of his own career, & to his amazing 91 year old mum for finding out school photos of both of them! I had intended that this would be a shorter edition than the Spring one, but with all the above, an appendix of the full list of 'lost' old boys (which I have decided I must publish, otherwise doing it a few per issue will take forever!), **and** a committee meeting report to boot, it may well reach a record length. Also, for the next edition, many thanks to Graham Dent ('60-'64) for photos and an article on his school-time group, "The Bootles". Keep similar articles

coming & I shan't need to bore you with my life history for quite a while yet! I have also decided that this justified column format wastes one hell of a lot of space, even if it is marginally easier to read, so you will find some of the main reports done in normal A4 format & not justified – let me know if anyone finds it unacceptable, please. I will also repeat my appeal from the Spring edition:

Does anyone have a photo for a similar future 'Who Am I' quiz? If so please send it, or a **light** photocopy, to me A.S.A.P. (N.B. e-mailed photos to be sent to Mike Dodden please.)

News of Members: Alan Chedzey noticed on 'BBC Points West' 6th March '06, Peter Swan enthusing about the caverns under Box Hill, Wilts. He asked me to look on the DMS listing, - & sure enough, old boy Peter Swan commenced DMS (in year zero the old list said!) & Alan remembered that Peter had been an Arts scholar. Can we have an article about your life, please Peter? Peter was also one of my brother Clive's contemporaries ('47-'52) which I found out when Clive reeled-off a list of his class-mates to help up-date our 'old-boys' listing – again, many thanks. Could you **all** think of doing, **& do**, the same please! More recently, on the same programme I think, Paul Forrest, 'Avon' Coroner, & a recent after-dinner speaker for our association, was warning of bodies piling up at Southmead Hospital, Bristol. He has been insisting for the last 2 years that his plan for a new mortuary at Flax Bourton **must** be carried forward or there will be dire consequences. It was turned down through tardiness last year despite a £1.3million grant being available, & is in jeopardy again this year. Bristol City Council said they have been putting together a proposal document for the grant & were confident they would meet the May 4th deadline (Anyone know if it did?!)

There was also a mention of Brian Rose, Director of Cricket for Somerset County Cricket Club – I've got a feeling that someone could have told me they suspected he was one of our 'Old Boys' – does anyone know for certain, or can someone find out, especially dates and a contact address/number?

Your Committee – members, their special duties, repeat of appeal to find M.D's school photo, report of latest committee meeting, dinner & site visit information:

The DMA committee members, with any specific area of interest, are still as follows:

Mike Dodden 01278 423890; mdodden@aol.com -Chair, organisation, membership. Send membership list changes & any e-mail photos to Mike please.

Mike Beaumont 01278 786888 – covers all aspects of our society.

Bill King 01278 456405; louise@king1197.fsnet.co.uk - media & display boards. Bill is always pleased to learn of any DMS items which can be bought or borrowed for display at our dinners.

Geoff. Marchant 01934 834550; Newsletter editor - see p.5 for item submissions.

Ralph Sealey 01278 722934 – covers all aspects of our society + **booking for site visit: see report below...**But first I make no apology for repeating this appeal:-

Mike Dodden's 1972 whole school roll-out photo 'lost' from the display areas after the 2005 dinner has still not been returned – do we have to assume this was taken deliberately?

EVERYONE, PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK what you took home & contact Mike if you have it.

And now the latest committee meeting report: Your committee met again on 11th April '06 in the Tudor front room by kind permission of Mike the proprietor – we had intended to be in Bar 27 but had forgotten it is closed on a Tuesday night. Last time it was a Thursday Jazz evening & we had to seek shelter in the same front room to be able to hear! That was on 17th Nov. after the very successful 2005 annual dinner. This time we were a full quorum with all pleased to see Mike Beaumont back with us, and especially to learn that his first 3-monthly check-up had been successfully achieved. Welcome back aboard, Mike.

There were three main items on the agenda; this year's speaker & dinner menu, the school visit, and initial plans for the 2007 dinner. Mike Dodden was pleased to be able to inform us that he had secured '**Tank' Sherman** as our after-dinner speaker on **Saturday 23rd September 2006** at Bar 27, Tudor Restaurant, St. Mary's Street, Bridgwater (**7pm for 7.30pm.**) He said 'Tank' is known as a very good stand-up comedian who had entertained Bridgwater Town supporters at their dinner only last year, & who had been a 'warm-up' act for television comedians. **So do please book your dinner (and site visit at the Durleigh Road school 2.30 – 4.00pm if you can make it) and ensure a record attendance for our association.** Please state if you have any special dietary requirements for the dinner, but for those who haven't, the decided menu will be:

Starter – soup or pâté; **Main Course** – Roast Loin of Pork (or vegetarian alternative if required.)

Dessert – Apple Crumble or Fresh fruit Salad, followed by Cheese & Biscuits, Coffee & Mints & the

after-dinner speech. All this for £16!! Many, many thanks to our host, another Mike, at Bar 27.

Mike Dodden will put a notice of the dinner on the "Friends Re-united" web-site again, as he did last year, and members are here notified that that there may well be lady members present. Last year he had enquiries, this year it is just possible we may have joint BSG/DMS ladies in attendance.

The DMS ('Haygrove') site visit suggestion has drawn warm approval from Mr. Robert Ward, the present Head of Haygrove School. Please be prompt for the tour at 2.30pm – Mike Dodden has requested that we meet at the front door of the school and says that there is plenty of parking at the front of the school. **Get your names in early to Ralph Sealey for this site visit if you do not want to be 'ruled out' due to numbers.** Ralph is on 01278 722934 or e-mail ralphandanna@tiscali.co.uk

As far as preliminary plans for the 2007 dinner were concerned, it had been hoped that another joint affair with the DM Society would be possible, & negotiations had been considered by Mike Dodden to be coming to a satisfactory conclusion. However, in the past few days before our meeting a major 'hiccup' had been encountered. Our chairman, Mike, is still working diligently & responsibly to try to surmount the hurdle. More details will be supplied in due course.

At our meeting date, 59 had paid for the 2006 dinner & 118 subs. had been paid. **At least 52 from 2004 hadn't yet renewed membership so only one more Newsletter (this one) will be sent to them in the hope it will trigger a response – so if you are one of them please do renew now!!**

First Staff Member Story.

We are indebted to Chris Cudlipp ('53-'60) for this story about his dad "George", whose photo alongside was taken in 1952.



"George"

George, as he was known in and around the Chemistry Lab. was not a "George" but a "Gerald". Everyone knew that he always signed his name as "G.W.Cudlipp", none of this first name nonsense as seems to go in some schools today. The first time that Dad knew that his name/nickname was George was when he was taking a party of 6th form (now years 12 & 13) budding chemists to a lecture in Bristol University. One of these brave souls (have we got a confessor out there?? Ed.) plucked up courage (Pun?? Ed.) and said to Dad, obviously with tongue in cheek, "I didn't know you owned this lot, sir." Dad said "What do you mean?" to which the reply came "Look at this lot" as the aforesaid pupil pointed to all the signs proclaiming "Georges Brewery" or whatever else went with the famous "Georges" beer. When I was talking to some of the

'Old' Boys at last year's gathering in September, they expressed real surprise to learn that my father's name was in fact Gerald, or "Gerry" as his fellow members of staff called him. I vividly recall "Skid" (Joe) Skilton (Bernard Storer's predecessor) calling Dad "Gerry" on the numerous occasions the whole family came to visit us before emigrating to Canada. So now you **all** know the real name of the "stinks" teacher in the chemistry lab!

Dad died on April 28th., 1972, aged just 56. He died of cancer, probably lying dormant for years after exposure to the dangerous chemicals that he was handling during the 2nd World War.

Why did the Cudlipp's come to Somerset? (I know one non-chemistry minded pupil who probably asked this question before each Chemistry period!! Ed.) During the early years of the 2nd World War my father was serving in the British armed forces in the army in Northern Ireland. As a top chemist he was re-directed to take charge of the nitric acid plant in the ROF (Royal Ordnance Factory) at Puriton. Nitric acid is a key starting point in various explosives – think of TNT – tri nitro toluene. I wasn't on the scene as I was born in January 1942. My parents moved up from Cornwall and settled first in Woolavington, and then Cossington. Some of the pre-war build-up activities in the country were fascinating – at least I found them so when I heard them. As Hitler rose to power, the whole country was surveyed to find the areas that were hidden first when the mists formed as the temperature dropped. One of these areas was that of the Somerset Levels, so it was decided to build an underground factory beneath the soil at Puriton. Most chemical reactions give out heat, so vast quantities of water were required to cool the reactants. In order to obtain this water the "New Cut", or Huntspill River, was excavated. The story for propaganda purposes that was banded about was that, in the event of war, we could be have been blockaded, being an island race, so we would need to grow more food on land that needed to be drained by the new river that was being created. This propaganda worked, as the Germans never knew of the existence of this factory under the Somerset soil, where the bombs were manufactured that eventually helped us win the war. I think that a lot of workers were sworn to secrecy (we were even when I joined the ROFs in 1956. Ed.) but that they were told that the chemists were trying to make artificial sugar for sweetening, etc. The only visible signs of this hidden underground factory were two huge brick-built cooling towers and I find it amazing that the Germans never discovered the secrets hidden under the Somerset soil.

Dad did tell me that one night the towers were in fact strafed with enemy gunfire as the bombers were returning from a night raid on Bristol. We will never know all that was going on at the ROF but Dad did tell my mother in an unguarded moment that he had helped "put the punch" into the bomb that was dropped in Hiroshima when the news of that horrific event was broadcast.

Copyright: Chris Cudlipp; DMS 1953 – 1960; 06.02.'06

What a fascinating story about one of our staff to start this series of occasional staff profiles which I have been tasked with trying to produce. Many thanks Chris for sharing some of yours, and his, secrets with us.

And now a summary of "George's" 2nd youngest son's life since he left DMS:

We are also indebted to Graham Cudlipp ('57-'64) for this account of his working life so far. For any contemporary of Graham who would like to contact him, his e-mail address is gcudlipp@moneyconcepts.ca as Graham now lives in Canada.



He says, "Hi Geoff (fellow Old Morganian), It was good to hear from you and to learn about the activities of the Society and Association. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend your dinner but I have attached a brief article on my career and experiences since leaving the old school."

Graham Cudlipp, DMS 1957 – 1964. (See school photo alongside)

Since father Gerald was the chemistry master and brother Chris was a prefect, Graham was forced to behave while at school. (! Follow that Chris!! Ed.) However, he enjoyed all sports and particularly remembers playing scrum-half once for Somerset Colts in Taunton.

He received his B.Comm. degree from Birmingham University in 1967 and emigrated that year to Toronto, Canada. He obtained a CA designation in 1970 and followed that with an MBA from York University, and then an FLMI (Fellow of the Life Management Institute).

Graham's career specialised in finance and insurance, and in addition to Toronto took him to Montreal and Kitchener/Waterloo. He was Chief Financial Officer for Economical Mutual Insurance from 1994 to 1997, when he decided on a career change.

In 1998 Graham and Vivienne moved to pretty Prescott, Ontario, on the mighty St. Lawrence River, an hour south of the Nation's capital, Ottawa, to fulfil Vivienne's dream to open and operate a B & B. They met many guests from all over the world.

Graham is currently working for Money Concepts in Prescott, helping his clients achieve their financial goals. He is very active in the Anglican church and his single biggest challenge is being Rector's Warden at St. John's, Prescott, and trying to maintain an 1860 limestone, 15,000 square foot property built for 600, with a current average Sunday attendance of 60. He is a member of Synod Council of the Diocese of Ontario, and is also currently Treasurer of Fort Town Concert Association, which is associated with Jeunesses

Musicales of Canada, and President of the Prescott Tennis Club. He married Vivienne in 1968 and they have two children and one grandson. Their address is 261 Sophia Street, Box 1773, Prescott, Ontario, Canada, K0E 1T0 Telephone 613-925-0737 & e-mail as above.

Many thanks Graham, and I'm sure he/they would be pleased to hear from any 'lost' friends.

Finally, to complete the hat-trick, we have the results of an interview I did on the 'phone with Chris himself on Monday, 8th May 2006:-



Chris Cudlipp, DMS 1953 – 1960. (See school photo alongside) Eldest of 4 brothers.

So what does Chris think of, if I say “Dr. Morgan’s School” to him? Well first of all he was, like me, in the school orchestra so was ‘taught’ violin by Glyn Rees. We both re-call that the pieces of music we played were all in the “two sharps” key (of D Major, I now believe! Ed.) & so the finger positions on all 4 strings were the same for those pieces - & it was only in later life that both of us found out that that does not apply in other keys – how embarrassing!! Chris also remembered the G.Rees system of metalwork exam marking that Roger Evans exposed a while ago – “line up in the previous years positions”, “Wyndham house boys to the fore” shove, shove, nudge, nudge (G.Ree’s house was..Wyndham!!), “Violinists move even more forward”, “Now decreasing marks from 80% (?) for the top boy are” Chris remarks how Ofsted would approve of this system!! Chris liked his sport (he even told me later that he had partaken in just two boxing bouts [not at DMS] for which he got bronze medals, which he then got electro-plated as part of ‘Oscar’ Bryden’s e-p demonstration, & attached them to a penknife which was nonchalantly lent to his future pupils to sharpen pencils – no rowdiness problems thereafter from said pupils!!)

At DMS Chris became rugby club sec. in the 6th form, so organised fixtures, & was also vice-capt. of the cricket XI. Best academic interests were Biology & Natural History under Bernie Storer, ‘Skid’ Joe Skilton & family having by then emigrated to Canada. (Another story here one day?) In 1960 Chris entered St. Luke’s Teachers’ Training College at Exeter & qualified as a Science teacher in 1963. He first taught for 2 years at Manor Court Sec. Mod. School in Portsmouth before transferring to Technical High School in the same city for another 5 years, becoming Head of Biology there. He then returned to Somerset to take the post of Head of Rural Science at Worle Comprehensive School, Weston-Super-Mare. He retired from there after 25 years when changed pension arrangements came in, and early retirements were on offer!

Chris gave me two amusing stories of incidents that occurred while at Worle: He kept his Dad’s bees at the school after his Dad died, & he also had a brooder for hatching chickens, something in which the pupils took great interest & enjoyment. Also, as part of the Nuffield science teaching scheme there was a section on ‘Useful Fungi’, of which Yeast is one. To show the best conditions for yeast to ferment sugar it was normally done on a test-tube scale, but as Chris was also a wine-maker he decided to “up” the scale & demonstrate real science skills to his Lower 5th year pupils, “How we could solve the energy problem – ferment sugar to alcohol on a big scale”, (for energy usage, I hasten to emphasize, Ed.) So Chris had 3 or 4 demijohns bubbling away in his lab. at the back of the school, opposite the workshops. It was a Friday, & last period as well, & how was Chris to know that the metalwork master just across the way was feeling unwell, just waiting for the final bell, & had not noticed that some of the lads in his group had “done a bunk”. With Chris ensconced in another part of the school, these lads went into his lab., decanted (not too carefully) quite a large amount of alcohol, filled up the demijohns with water, & swigged the lot! When Chris returned he could smell the alcohol & guessed some mischief had been done, but didn’t think to check the workshop toilets – where one lad was in a very inebriated state! The caretaker subsequently locked the Block, & the lad didn’t turn-up at home. His parents raised the alarm, & at that time his bike was found still in the school bike-rack. A major search ensued & at last his own parents found him – he had eventually climbed out of a window, tried to cycle home on his bike, unaware of the search for him at the school presumably, and toppled off en-route. The parents were livid, Chris recalls, - but they eventually saw the funny side of the episode – and even asked him for the alcoholic recipe!!

The second story involved the “3 day week” at the time of the miner’s strikes. The school at Worle was, inexplicably, on the same circuit as the W-S-M Hospital so experienced no power cuts. Chris was raising young chicks in his big box brooder in his lab. under quite a bright infra-red lamp. There are bungalows around the edge of the school field, & one night someone in one of these noticed the glow of the lamp & phoned the police! The caretaker was knocked-up and led the policeman into the school. Now at the time the school had been built it was considered a showpiece of new school design & architecture so the admin. Block had been surrounded on 3 sides by a fancy pond with water to about 2½ feet depth, known to all as “The Moat” (now long gone.) The none-too-pleased caretaker decided to pay back the policeman for getting him out of bed and being somewhat in front of him just jumped over this moat at the corner where it was narrowest. Needless to say, in the dark the copper followed quite unwittingly – straight into the moat! He called up ‘reinforcements’ but all they could do was laugh their heads off at his predicament. So the result was that the light was thankfully left on as none of them would go over the moat!!

Chris never seems to have much spare time in retirement – he gives talks to any group throughout the local area which requests one & the subjects are many & varied, ‘The Bulb Fields of Holland’, ‘Bee-Keeping’, & ‘Vegetable Growing’ to name a few. He also keeps rainfall records & some of these were used to assess the run-off from Bleadon Hill for the last Severn Barrage feasibility study, so he may well be in demand again soon! He is married to Nesta and has 2 children (1 girl who went into teaching until raising a family, & 1 boy) and 3 grandchildren. He is on the Deaconate of the Bristol Road Baptist church, occasionally plays violin in church, having expanded his musical knowledge some years ago with the help of a more sympathetic staff member, and was also on the founding committee of Bleadon Horticultural Society. Nesta tells me he is also always writing articles for one magazine or another.....now was that just a slight wrap to my knuckles for yet another one!!!

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Many thanks Chris for what turned out to be a mammoth 1½ hr. session on the phone followed by a few shorter ones – but I hope everyone will find it interesting reading. Ed.

Mrs. G.M.Stephens

Mike Dodden has informed me (and I pass it on for those like me who did not know), that Mrs Stevens, DMS school secretary for many years, died 2 or 3 years ago. Previous to that, his office had had a call from her one-day and she asked to speak to him. Old times were discussed & he was quite touched that she had remembered him. May she rest in peace. I have, in fact, unearthed some details of her career and life of service to DMS and as I have space here it would seem appropriate to put these before you all now:

She was born 26.05.16, so would have been 90 this year, 2006.

She lived at North Petherton for some, if not all, of her secretarial appointment at DMS.

She had trained in shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping, and general office routine at Richards’ Commercial Coll., Broadmead, Bristol, & obtained the London Chamber of Commerce qualifying exams. From 1940 to 1948 she was an accounts clerk & invoice typist at Spry’s Garage, Launceston, Cornwall (**anyone know if that’s still in existence?**). That was followed by 3 years (1948 to 1951) as Personal Secretary to Commander A.M.Williams, Warrington Park, Launceston, Cornwall (The Cudlipp family’s original area!)

In 1953 she was appointed secretary to Headmaster Mr C.E.Key at D.M.S (**Can anyone remember who her predecessor was?? I should, but ‘Anno Domini’ moves on!! Ed.**)

In 1966 she continued that appointment, but now for Headmaster Mr. F. Davey, giving a total of 19 years service to our old school from 1953 through to 1972, when she would have been 56 years old. What an impressive record! Belated & posthumous thanks to Gladys for all she did for all of us, as well as the heads, - & similarly for her predecessors throughout all the previous years.

Odds & Sods:

i) One of our ‘Old Boys’, who lives in Crawley, was driving back cross-country, on the Sunday, from the dinner last September when he noticed a large lorry coming towards him. Even in his relatively small car he says he was a bit worried at the lack of space – and even more so when some fool motor-cyclist decided to overtake the lorry as they were quickly coming together. Both car & motorbike swerved, luckily stayed upright and missed each other, & continued on their way – certainly one of the drivers was shaking as he realised how lucky he had been to come out of that alive! I wonder if the motor-cyclist cursed his own stupidity or even turned a hair? Also, whether the lorry driver realised what was happening beside him? Our colleague was jittery for some weeks after, probably won’t come this year, & just thanking God that the driver of the motorbike hadn’t been in a 4 x 4, or large car even, instead.

ii) Gerald “George” Cudlipp was married with 4 children, all boys! Chris (see above) was the oldest, then came Bob (non-DMS, but who later went into Combwich Farmers), then Graham (also see earlier pages here), and finally David (non-DMS, but who later went to Brymore & lives locally at Catcott). Mum, who was a marvellous 91 on April 24th re-married some years after “George” died and thus became a ‘Banwell’, but still lives at Cossington and she has been so helpful at finding out photos of our two DMS colleague sons.

iii) My wife, who works in the church office here in Yatton in a team ministry, answered a telephone call before Christmas with her usual, “Good Morning, Team Office”. “Do you still have any benches in stock?” asks the caller. As we have over 40 bench pews in this church alone she could have answered in the affirmative & left it at that, but being wary she replied, “I think you must have the wrong number, this is St. Mary’s church, Yatton.” “Oh, I’m trying to get Cleeve Nurseries” says the caller, thinking she had contacted one of the many local garden centres!! I think she would have found the church benches a bit heavy & cumbersome for her needs, but surprisingly some 13 years ago the benches from Butcombe church were sold off & new ones obtained. I wonder how many of the old ones still give support in local gardens there!

iv) **Material For Newsletter. ***Note new e-mail address as from 12.05.06*****

Please write, phone, text, or e-mail text only, to Geoff Marchant, 37 Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset, BS49 4HR. Tel: 01934 834550
Txt: 07906 569 915 E-mail: Please put “Attn G. Marchant” as subject & send via yattonmoor@waitrose.com Please do not send photos to this e-mail address as they severely clog-up the system and cause delays to other, more important, users. If you really need to send photos by e-mail, please send to Mike Dodden at mdodden@aol.com & he will make sure I get it by hand or post for the newsletter. Thanks, Geoff.