

DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION

"AFTER DINNER" NEWSLETTER, OCT. 2007

Editor: Geoff. Marchant; NB: See details bottom of page 8 for contributions.

R.I.P. for Local Lad who "made good".

Lord Biffen *"Conservative minister who was unable to embrace Thatcherism but proved an outstanding Leader of the House of Commons"* In the Daily Telegraph for 15th. Aug., 2007, under the above title, one of Dr. Morgan's School's most famous pupils was remembered. He had died the previous day and DMS was mentioned in the following paragraph: "William John Biffen was born at Combwich, Somerset on Nov. 3 1930, the son of a tenant farmer. He was educated at Combwich village school and Dr. Morgan's School, Bridgwater, winning a scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, where after National Service as a clerk in the Royal Engineers, he took a First in History." The quarter page report gives a detailed summary of his political career and makes very interesting reading – if anyone missed it and would like to borrow it (with photo), I can provide it, as can local libraries, or even the internet, I suspect. I do wonder whether the "Combwich Farm" referred to was the same one where member Brian Haggett (DMS '51-'56) spent his early days (I think that address was Cannington, though, yet it was off the Combwich Road, & his dad was a tenant farmer also). I shall ask Brian to research this possibility. (Thanks to M.Pitman, DMS '51-'56, member, for dropping a copy of the original article in to me. Update: Brian has told me that it was actually Hill Farm, Otterhampton where John's dad farmed and where he was brought up. Thanks for that correction, Brian.)

Other R.I.Ps

Over the past few months I have been made aware of the following list of DMS names who have passed away in previous years: Ref. Mike Beaumont, with DMS start year:- Brian Pople (DMS '56) died approx. '80, age c35 Rodney Hembrow ('56) ~~~ ~~~ '74 " 29

Ref. Roy Morrish (& for JW, also Francis Pearce):- Phil Edwards (DMS '57) died approx. '??, age c?? ?? Sidofin ~~~ ~~~ ~~~ ~~~ '?? " ?? John Webb & Brian White no dates known for these or others below. Note: 'c' in the above = circa.

Ref. David Derham:- Michael Atwell (DMS '52);

Ref. Francis Pearce:- Simon Murphy (DMS '67); Laurie Ross (DMS '55)

Ref. Chris Cudlipp:-

Mike Ellick (DMS '53); John Smith (DMS '53)
John Hook (DMS '53); John Case (DMS '53)
Don Brown (DMS '53).

Ref. not recorded:-

Peter Stone (DMS '64); Andrew Murphy ('65)
John Bevan was also DMS '65 intake, ref M.D.

Ref. James Hooper:-

Group Capt. Bob Hooper, MBE; BSc(Eng);
MRAeS; (DMS '57) died 07.01.04 in motor accident.

We also have unconfirmed reports for two others of the 1947 intake but no names will be published until confirmation is received. Any information anyone can give to fill the gaps in any of the above records would be most welcome. (Editor).

Editorial & "Thanks".

Well yet again we can say a really big "thank you" to all the staff and helpers at the Tudor Restaurant Bar 27 for a really excellent dinner. We must also thank Mike Dodden for the overall arrangements, and Ralph Sealey, who had organised the menu for us in collaboration with the Tudor. Mike's stand-in choice for the speaker (when he found that his original choice was already booked for 22nd. September) was comedian Bob Webb and he proved to an admirable "follow-on act" from last year's Tank Sherman, perhaps even "having the edge" on Tank. Bob was a Londoner who had lived in Swansea for the past 15 years. Some of his continuous stream of gags that come to mind, and hopefully will bear repeating as best I can remember, will be held over until the next newsletter, just to keep you (and me, knowing my memory!) in suspense!

Perhaps at this point, having spoken about our own dinner, it would be appropriate for me to say a few words about my being asked to represent our committee at the DM Society dinner, which preceded ours on 8th Sept., also at the Tudor. (See the committee report for 6th June '07 on page 5 for background.) As Mike Dodden was unable to be present this year, and as I had found that not only would my old

classmate Alan Chedzey be interested in attending, (thus giving me at least one person there whom I would know!), but also two old DMS friends who could not get to our dinner this year were planning to be there, I accepted the invitation. Again, the dinner was excellent and it was good to see & hear how the other half celebrate & remember the old school. Alan & I had both attended the dinner at the Rugby Club in 2001 - was this the "joint" dinner* when, we are told, the speaker was the same as for the Society's dinner this year, Tony Ball? Our memories don't recall any of that speech but it must have been good as we went on to stay in membership of the Association until the present time! He was certainly enthralling & hilarious this year, his speech being based on the theme of the 70th. anniversary of the move of DMS from Mount Street to Durleigh Road. It was certainly a 'winner', and although Parkinson's is such a pernicious disease, our fellow attendees will no doubt roar with laughter, or suppress a wry smile, depending on circumstances, if that subject is mentioned in forthcoming months, as its effect was the punch line for one of Tony's inimitably delivered jokes.** The whole 'house' roared, & we were very pleased to have attended. Thank you to Brian Lancaster and his team in the Society for all their organisation, & above all for the invitation for any of the Association committee members to attend.

* The old Association website says the joint dinner was in 2000, when "230 people sat down to dine at the Rugby Club" so there is either conflict of memories here or did the Assoc. stay at the Rugby club the following year? Yes I am told it did! Also that the speaker that year (2001) was Paul Forrest, County Coroner.
 **With permission, I may also record this joke next time round – if you can't wait, phone or e-mail me!! (Editor.)

Apologies. My proof checking of the June newsletter missed two points: on page 2 in the 6th line of column 1, I referred to the Addendum on page 7**, this should have been updated before printing and e-mail transmission to say simply "page 9". Worse, on page 3, 2nd line of "Committee meeting", I put "Roy Haines" instead of Ray Haines – he hasn't complained (oh yes he has, now!) but a certain 'friend' soon picked up the phone to tell me of that one!! My humble apologies.

Even More Responses.

I think this "Responses" section will be running for quite a few more newsletters yet! From those who did reply the help, humour, and comments which I feel need a wider airing, were abundant, generally very helpful, and a joy to receive.

First of all, though, let me say that my attempts to contact another old classmate, James Yelling, via Birkbeck college started with great promise but stalled when the request for an address or tel. no. was passed on to his actual old department, so if anyone can help on that one, and/or for his brother Charles, **please do so.**

I will start off this time with the same person as I finished with last time – **Malcolm Veale** ('55 entry) came back to me last year and said that **John Newman** was in the 1st or 2nd year of 6th form when Malcolm had joined DMS & therefore he would be 67/68 now. Well as I'm 67 & started in 1951, that means that John would have been a 1950 or 1951 starter. So I looked at my updated 'missing' list and found I hadn't got him shown! He is now on there; **can anyone can get us a contact??**

Malcolm said "He (John) used to live 6 or 7 houses away from me until I was around 20 years old. Despite the 5 or 6 year age gap we used to go fishing together and, later on, played tennis together. Since his parents died a number of years ago I haven't a clue where he is now." Well he's not on F-R (Friends Reunited) either, **so can anyone help?** (Please contact Editor.)

Mike Crook ('64 finish) said "I don't remember the school very fondly overall. However I was there for 7 years and, generally speaking, I think it's important to put time into the archaeology of my own life. I have had a few interesting Morganian exchanges through F-R but not for a while. I can't resist a conversation with anyone who might have some information about how I seemed to them in those far off days." So if anyone out there remembers Mike, **please contact him on mike@mikecrook.com.**

Chris Burton (left '60) replied "Thanks for the contact. I've just got back to UK from Italy so read your e-mail too late (for

the '06 dinner). Yes...I would be pleased to join the group." That sort of reply was really rewarding! Thanks Chris, & welcome.

John Crossman said "I am afraid I do not know the said T. Crossman....I left in '60 so would never have met him at school either. I am already a member by the way!" (– Well I knew I would drop some clangers, **but can anyone else help? Ed.**)

Then, quite by chance, & to do with a set of tubular bells at Aberaeron, West Wales, I phoned the vicarage and was transferred to the man temporarily in charge, Rev. **Hew Gregory-Smith**. Does anyone remember that name – some should as in the course of our conversation he told me that he had attended Haygrove (ex DMS) School! I asked him to consider writing a few words for our newsletter telling what it was like in the early days after the changeover. Why is it that whenever I make this request, I never hear another word?! (and from him, not even another word about the bells or of a mutual friend!)

Peter Watts (left '64), now of Frome, was a great help though. "Yes" he would like the June '06 newsletter copy, & he also got the October one as well as his old mate Graham Dent was featured in it. He also gave us his brother's details. "Will send in a sub for '07 on receipt of application form." – That's what I like to hear!

And similarly from **Terry Baker** ('69 finish), "I would be interested to receive a copy of the June '06 newsletter, if only to check out how many names I remember! Many thanks for tracking me down. Yes, I would like to join & hopefully will make it back for the dinner in '07"–I hope he did but he's not shown on MD's early list of attendees!

Matt Bruce sent the swimming photo featured in our June '07 newsletter. He said "I know about half the names in it- some will laugh at it." Well two of our committee had great fun trying to place names to faces, I hope you did too if you were of the '64 – '66 era.

Geoff. Christmas (left '66) said he had also forwarded my message to **Tony Christmas** and **Robert Taylor** "in a separate e-mail to preserve their privacy and left them to reply to you as they wish. I live abroad & I doubt whether I would be able to attend any dinners or meetings & so

I'm unlikely to take out membership but would be interested to see a copy of your newsletter if you are able to send it by e-mail." Well, at that time we weren't, & as I don't think we ever got a postal address from Geoff. that was a great pity. At least some of you may remember him, though, and we will make sure he now gets a complimentary e-mailed copy (Oct. '07 only). Then a nice chatty type of e-mail from **Tony Kell** – "known then by my Sunday name, Anthony. I attended DMS from Sept. '68 at the age of 11. Initially in class 1P, teacher was Mr Payne. Behind his back we called him 'Neckie' I stayed at DMS until early in the 4th year when I moved with my parents to Selby in Yorkshire & I still live near there & work in Leeds. I have a terrible memory for names & can't really remember many of the class other than there was a lad called Priddice who, despite his small stature, was a real fighter. It was me he usually fought! And I never won! I also remember Mayhew, but I'm lost for any others. The Head was known as 'Stumpy' but I can't recall his real name (see 2nd para., p.3, June '07, I believe; Ed.) Somewhere in the photo section on F-R there is a school photo & I'm on it with my 'sticky out ears', right at the back on the RHS near the end (I shall look for that one; Ed!) I used to live in Westonzoyland on the main road opp. the Methodist church. My brother **Trevor** went to DMS in '70. He too lives in Yorkshire, in fact we live only a few doors from each other. All the best with the Association." Again I asked for a postal address – if I got one he got a newsletter, but I don't think I did.

Finally, for this time, I got a very straight forward "Hi Geoff, I have just received your message via F-R. My details are...." with a Combach address from **Robert Forgan** (left '71). *Many thanks, Robert.*

Funnies!

Fellow committee member Clive Kett often sends me e-mailed "funnies" which he gets from a host of contacts. My contribution here pre-dates the e-mail era by many years as I have kept it in my wallet since 1969 when I was working for

Comprehensive Designers International in Phoenix House, Southall, Middlesex. I think it's a real gem:

The wonderful love of a beautiful maid,
And the love of a staunch true man,
And the love of a baby unafraid
Have existed since life began,
But the greatest love, the love of love,
Even greater than that of a mother,
Is the tender and passionate infinite love,
Of one drunken sod for another!

(Displayed in a pub on the Heston Road, Southall, 1969.)

...and in more sacrilegious tone, from the Locking Camp Bus Shelter, circa 1989, again by that prolific Welsh bard, Anon-y- Mouse:-

“Sex is evil, evil is sin,
Sins are forgiven, so get stuck in!”

I shall use some of Clive Kett's, now I've got permission, as space allows in future newsletters.

Bridgwater Carnival Committee Photographed in 1925 outside the Old School buildings in Mount Street.

Some time ago, DMA member Dave Peek brought my attention to the photograph reproduced below. Originally provided by Bill Biffen, it appears in a history of Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival (“Remember, Remember, the Story of Bridgwater Carnival” by Roger Brown and Chris Hocking) and by the kind permission of the authors (obtained by Mike Dodden) we can now show it here. I have obtained some more pictures of the old school buildings from the Blake Museum archives and I hope to use those at a later date. In passing, it seems rather sad that before too long we may be referring to the Durleigh road site buildings as the “now gone, old school”. At least these buildings in Mount Street have been retained and at a future date I hope to show “before” and “after” illustrations.



Dave said in his e-mail to me “A Christmas gift book has given me an idea for a dinner display and maybe a newsletter article which Bill King is in an ideal position to follow up”. (There's nothing like offering someone-else's help!! – Ed.) Dave continues, “Roger Brown was a former apprentice with me at Wilmot Breeden, & Chris Hocking, (I.P.) President, is Bill's life member Carnival colleague. The picture shows the then 1925 Carnival Committee pictured outside the old Dr Morgan's school in Mount Street and seated 4th from left is my grandfather “Ernest Bailey Evett”, the then carnival secretary. Listed in the back of the book is an appendix of all known past and present carnival officers, Bill included. The picture would make a suitable display showing the school's connection with the Carnival (perhaps the committee met in the school's hall or rooms? Bill may have access to past carnival documents and minutes which might clarify this.) A wider display could be to include suitable recognition to all past Dr Morgan's boys who have made a contribution over the years to this historic event, now added to the list of ‘all things British’ I note in the Feb. '06 press. Take a

bow Bill, and I think Rod Stoodley was also at Morgans (Yes, '56 intake – Ed.) - he was a more recent Carnival Secretary.”

Dave also mentions that his brother-in-law, Roger (“Dodger”) Richards is now working at Cranfield University – “sneaked off from the doomed Marconi job mentioned in a previous dinner speech by our Sports old master.” Finally, on a personal note, the book had started him onto e-mail discussions with his cousins (also mostly DMS or BGSB) in Bridgwater, Exmouth, Hants. (Brian Sealy), and Malta, to unearth their long lost Carnival photos of his grandfather and grandmother, which he had previously no idea still existed – “another story starting from the very next page in the book....more later on this!” Well if its anything to do with DMS or carnival, or even otherwise interesting, I expect I can find room for it some time, Dave, and many thanks for the above. If **anyone** can follow on with the above Carnival theme, please do so – all contributions gratefully received and used, sometime! – Ed .

Committee Meeting.

The DMA committee met again on 6th June '07 – well three of them did, but there were extenuating circumstances which prevented the remaining members from attending. Mike Dodden, Bill King , and myself eventually met up and sat around a table in the front room of the Tudor Restaurant. We went through all the usual pre-dinner & financial issues as best we could and Mike also mentioned that he had heard yet again from Bryan Lancaster, of the D.M.Society, asking whether any of our Association members would be coming to the Society dinner, on the 8th Sept. '07 at which Tony Ball, a DMS old boy & well-known ‘Bridgwaterian’, would again be addressing the assembled company. Mike had replied again that the restricted numbers of seats available for our Association would inevitably split our own membership and could therefore prove disastrous for the attendance at our own dinner later in the month. Bryan had then asked if any of the Association Committee could attend – and guess who was the only one available on that night, yes, your editor! So I was asked to represent the Association in Mike Dodden’s (and any other committee member’s) absence. Clive Kett had offered to update the DMA website with the help of his experienced son and with permission from Roger Evans who had originally set it up. This offer was warmly welcomed and accepted. A further committee meeting was set for Thursday, 13th September, i.e. just before our dinner, so that we could clear up, and/or checkout, any outstanding dinner business. This next meeting duly took place on that Thursday and MD was pleased to comment that it was the first time he could remember that the FULL committee had been able to be present & therefore there should be no apologies for absence. RH did however apologise that he had not been able to do anything for the Assoc. since his inaugural meeting due to a family bereavement – everyone commiserated & said he had nothing to apologise for in their opinion. (He then made me aware he had seen my *faux pas* , see p.2 here! Sorry, RAY.) Our speaker for 22nd. Sept. had indicated that he did not wish to attend the actual dinner, but would turn up in time to give his presentation. MD gave details of the agent so that Bill King could get a “run down” of him for his Master of Ceremonies’ introduction. All other details for the dinner were as already planned and 74 members had so far booked to attend. Though this was down on previous years, there were generally a few late comers – agreement from certain “laggards” of the committee who then handed over their “dinner money”!!! Ref. future newsletter distribution, this had gone OK on the June issue, with no complaints from recipients. Several e-mail addresses had been updated as a result of returned copies and resultant phone calls. **PLEASE do let MD know of address changes, preferably with a copy to GRM & CK.** GRM said there were some problems as pictures previously obtained from the Blake Museum, and elsewhere, as photocopies now had to be scanned for use in the newsletter. While this gave better clarity, it had meant finding someone with a scanner to do this and C.K., with the help of his son, had just done the first one. He was thanked sincerely for this on behalf of all members. Clive was also planning to have a “Pin” Board at the dinner so that any member could write down helpful information on any “missing” old boy. R.S. had put a letter in the B/W Mercury on this latter subject, but only one lady had replied to date. Clive, again with help from his son, was also hoping to get the website up and running again in the near future (this is on “Angelfire” and can be “Googled” by searching for “Dr Morgan’s Association”, though at the moment it is sadly well out of date.) The representation at the Society dinner was discussed, see details bottom right, p.1. Next year’s dinner had been provisionally booked for Oct. 25th. but some opinion on this possible change of date would be obtained at this year’s dinner. Subs. for 2008 would remain at £4 membership only, with an additional £17 for those attending the dinner. R.H. then commented on my query in the June Newsletter as to how “Cuckoo Packer” got his nickname – he assured us it was because of the “crooked” shape of his nose, thus inviting the inevitable query as to why he had not therefore been dubbed “Eagle” instead! (Bird recognition books had a dust off, I suspect, in several committee members’ houses!) R.S. brought up the usual “Where is he now?” GRM said he had been told “on the South Coast” – hopefully Ralph will do the checking out on this! The next committee meeting was set for Thursday, 15th. November, 2007, again at the Tudor at 8pm. If any member would like to “sit-in” on any of these meetings, I’m sure they would be made welcome – especially if they offer to pay for a round of drinks!!

AND NOW!!!!...*The first in an occasional series (depending to a great extent on members who generously give of their time to write articles for us, - very few so far! - and those who give me sufficient data to write one myself) based on the Staff of our old Dr. Morgan's School.....*

And who do you think this is a caricature of??



WITH WIT WELL-MATURED, AND WITH BOOKS WELL-BRED

J.F.L., alias Jack Lawrence, wrote the following lines in Vol. 27, No. 39 of "The Morganian" in December '66 when Mr. Francis Davey was welcomed and "**Bonzo**" was about to retire:-
(I assume that the sketch above, from the same article, was also by JFL as it was not attributed to anyone else)

" INGENIS, SUBLIMIS, VIVIDUS, VERSATALIS

A Clerk ther was of Oxenford also
That unto logic hadde long y-go

For him was lever at his beddes heed
Twenty bokes, clad in blak or reed
Than robes riche....
And gladly wolde be lerne and gladly teche.

These lines were written when William of Wykeham's College really was new. It is profoundly reassuring to find that New College can still produce such men in the Nuclear Age, for Mr. Vaughan-Jones was a scholar of New College. Like Richard Hakluyt he was Hereford born. Unlike Hakluyt he set out to make voyages, not to write them. After coming down from Oxford he spent several years journeying in the Far East, having taken charge of the affairs of the Oxford University Press in India.

Back in England after 1931, V-J gained his livelihood not as a publisher but as a writer, until war broke out. As a Gunner (T.A.) he was called up at once and “embodied” in the R.A. When the war ended he held the substantive rank of Captain in the Army Educational Corps and was attached to the Guards as a Staff Officer. Having acquired a taste for imparting knowledge to others he left the Army in 1945 to join the staff of Dr. Morgan’s School.

Although his greatest delight was in English Language and letters, he consented to encourage the revival in this school of that ancient and noble language, Latin. But in 1957 he became Head of the English Department, a post which he filled with much distinction. From 1945 until his retirement he has edited the School Magazine. Under his guidance it has blossomed and flourished, attracting articles from young authors from all parts of the school.

Many school parties have travelled with him to Bristol to see performances given by the Old Vic Theatre Company. Every School Play has benefited from his expert criticism. The Forum Society (his own creation) added a new dimension to school life. Many a budding creator has endeavoured to bewitch his first audience within the circle of this club.

It is important too that we should remember that for many years V-J was a supporter of School Rugby and used to act as a referee in school matches. He was often to be found sitting on the panel of a Brains Trust (formerly a popular lunch-time activity). He also made an annual appearance on the Cricket Field when the staff used to play against the school.

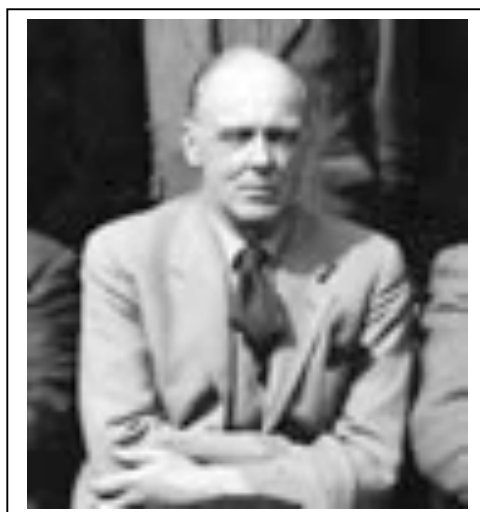
The Staff-room will never be quite the same without V-J. We were all familiar with his likes and dislikes. Every incident of note, whether in world affairs or in the vicinity of the Parish Pump, found us waiting for his comment. We never waited in vain. The ready wit, the startling paradox, the sparkling epigram, the apt quotation, the anecdote with the shattering denouement – this stream has never failed.

We all wish him many happy years in retirement, and should he again take up his pen we must surely hope for memoranda Morganiana in which will be enshrined a selection of his best anecdotes, candid portraits of his erstwhile colleagues(!), and above all a list of those inimitable comments which used to adorn the margins of English essay Books, to the bewilderment of the boy and the delight of the parent. J.F.L. ”

As a corollary to this article, your editor reports that, with reference to the February 2007 Newsletter, ex staff member Bernard Storer phoned me one evening as a result of having read the reference to John Holroyd in Geoff. Williams e-mail (p.4 of that Newsletter). He gave me ex Physics teacher John Holroyd’s address and a Newsletter was duly sent off. Next day I had a telephone call from John and an assurance that he was pleased to be contacted; he would send a sub to Mike Dodden; and he hoped to see us at the 2007 dinner. Directly relevant to our “Staff” story above, Bernard had also mentioned a “song and dance routine” that John and Brian Hammond had done on V-J’s retirement and wondered if Mal Davies might have a copy. I haven’t yet followed this up, and as Mal is not feeling too well at the moment and was not planning to be at the 2007 dinner, it will have to wait for a more opportune time – if you are reading this Mal we hope you are feeling much better, and if you can find/remember any of the words, please do let me know. In passing, Bernard also gave me several contact addresses including that of Ray Cox who later came back to me with a chatty letter. We found that Bernard thought his time at DMS had overlapped mine by only one term, but we think now that we (just) completely missed each other. Many thanks for the information both Bernard and John, and possibly Mal too.

Another interesting story is that member Brian Haggett used to work for British Airways at Gatwick Airport (he still works there on contract) and one day in the early ’70’s he heard a loudspeaker announcement asking a certain Mr Vaughan-Jones to report to the information desk. As soon as he could get free, Brian rushed there himself, but was quite disappointed not to find anyone resembling “our” V-J!

Thanks to the efforts of John Cass on the “Digifutures” website for the “Bridgwater Grammar Schools – Staffroom” we can also provide the following photo from John’s 1958 – 1959 compilation (Name correction has been applied as John showed him as Glyn – Jones and we all know “Glyn” applied to, and was reserved for, a certain other character with surname beginning with R!! Perhaps John knows something which none of the rest of us have managed to determine yet, though, i.e. what was V-J’s real **first** name? Can anyone help? – I have even contacted New College, Cambridge but to no avail as yet):-



I have also come to the conclusion that, as “Bonzo” was presumably 65 in 1966 (unless he retired early to get away from ‘Comprehensives’, he would be 106 years old if he were to be still alive. From my own estimate using JFL’s information above, I would make him 102 years old now as a minimum. I had reason to be thankful to him myself as I thought I had blown my chances of getting an ‘O’ level in Latin, but somehow, due only to his teaching, I got through! I couldn’t believe I had a “Pass” in, what to me was that **awful** language!! (not “that ancient and noble language” as JFL called it. Alan Chedzey also recalled seeing him in Bristol Bus Station some years after Alan had left school, but had not had the chance to speak to him. David Derham has also sent me a selection of school photos but the one of Vaughan-Jones is the same as that above so I have not repeated it here, but I will use some others of David’s at a later date.

Tailpieces: Having mentioned “Cuckoo” Packer above, I was talking to Tony Wilkins (DMS ’48-’53) at our dinner on the 22nd. Sept. and he recalled seeing “Cuckoo” at a funeral in Highbridge only a couple of years, or so, ago. Anyone on the South Coast please search your telephone directories – I seem to recall someone mentioned the Bournemouth area as a possibility.

Despite our recent contacts made with ‘old boys’, and the subsequent 64 new members added to our lists, we seemed to have a drop in numbers for this year’s dinner (77 booked), even before the dreaded ‘bugs’ got around and left us with 10 or 12 unclaimed name badges on the night – a great pity as the meal and speaker were both voted superb by all those I and others of the committee spoke to. Please make an effort, whatever date is decided for next year, to attend as we may well be marking the demise of the Durleigh Road building and site, and also the retirement of the present head – regrettably I have been “reliably informed” that both are “on the cards.”

Material For Newsletter. Please write, phone, text, or e-mail, to Geoff Marchant, 37 Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset, BS49 4HR. Tel: 01934 834550 Txt: 07906 569 915 E-mail: Please send to YattonMarchants@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 to this e-mail address** as they severely clog-up the system & cause delays, and also we have to get them “degraded” so that the whole newsletter in which they are published will go onto a floppy disk of 1.44MB. 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.