

DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION

PRE-DINNER NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2008

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

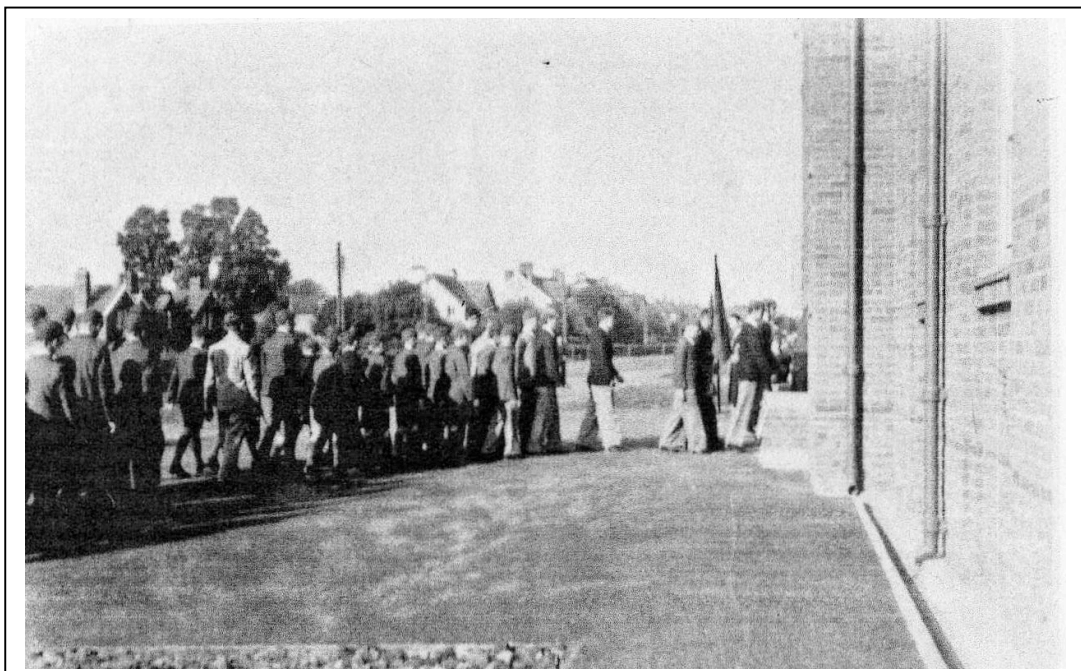
Editorial – The 2008 Dinner.

We do not generally have a pre-dinner newsletter because the dinner has previously been in September. This year, as a trial run, it was decided to try to accommodate those people who have asked if it could be held later in the schools' half-term week. A 'show of hands' was requested at last year's dinner on 'whether you agreed with a trial change' and also 'whether you would come on the later date of Saturday 25th. October'. The results were such that your committee decided to continue with the trial for this year only, the date for future years to be decided on the results of this trial run, and the availability of our venue, "Bar 27" at the Tudor Restaurant in St. Mary's Street, Bridgwater. **So please do come along in force at 7pm on Saturday 25th. October, 2008 – and especially all those who asked for the change! For late bookings phone Mike Dodden on 01278 423890, 422391 or email him at mike@mjdodden.co.uk. If you can't come at the last minute, having booked already, PLEASE let Mike or a committee member know – see contact details on page 8.**

Also, do let Mike Dodden, or any committee member, know as soon as possible after the event if you have any strong feelings, one way or another, as to whether you were happy with the change and would like our dinner to be on a permanent 'late October' date, or to revert to September. Please don't moan afterwards if you don't let us know your feelings!

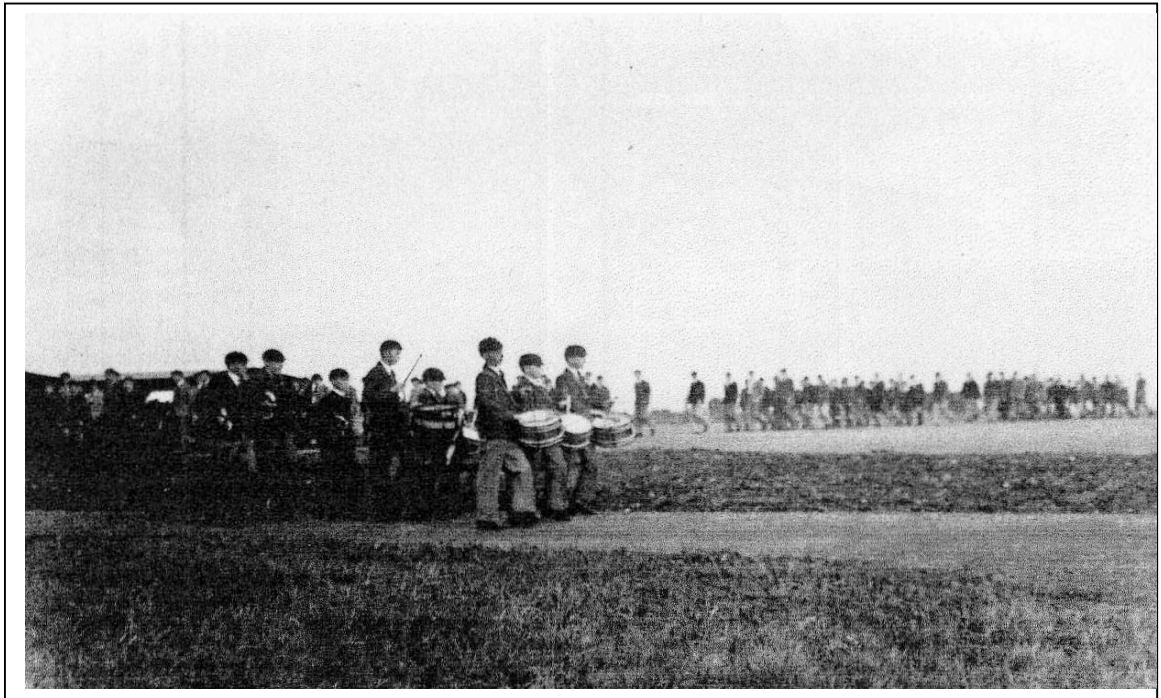
Now, as this seems to be a time of change, I have re-arranged the newsletter as well – again perhaps for one occasion only. We have still got a lot of responses from ex-pupils to catch up on, but this time they are on the inside pages. We continue with some pictures, scanned in for us by committee member Clive Kett, but taken originally from photocopies of documents in the Blake Museum, Bridgwater, in their "Schools" Box 20a, ref. 74.4.19 a) to d). They seem to be DMS photos, but does anyone know what the event was and what year it may have been in? Is it possibly an Armistice Parade (note the banner), or does anyone have any better suggestions – "answers on a postcard,

19a



please”, to the Editor! (a phone-call, e-mail, or letter will be just as welcome!)

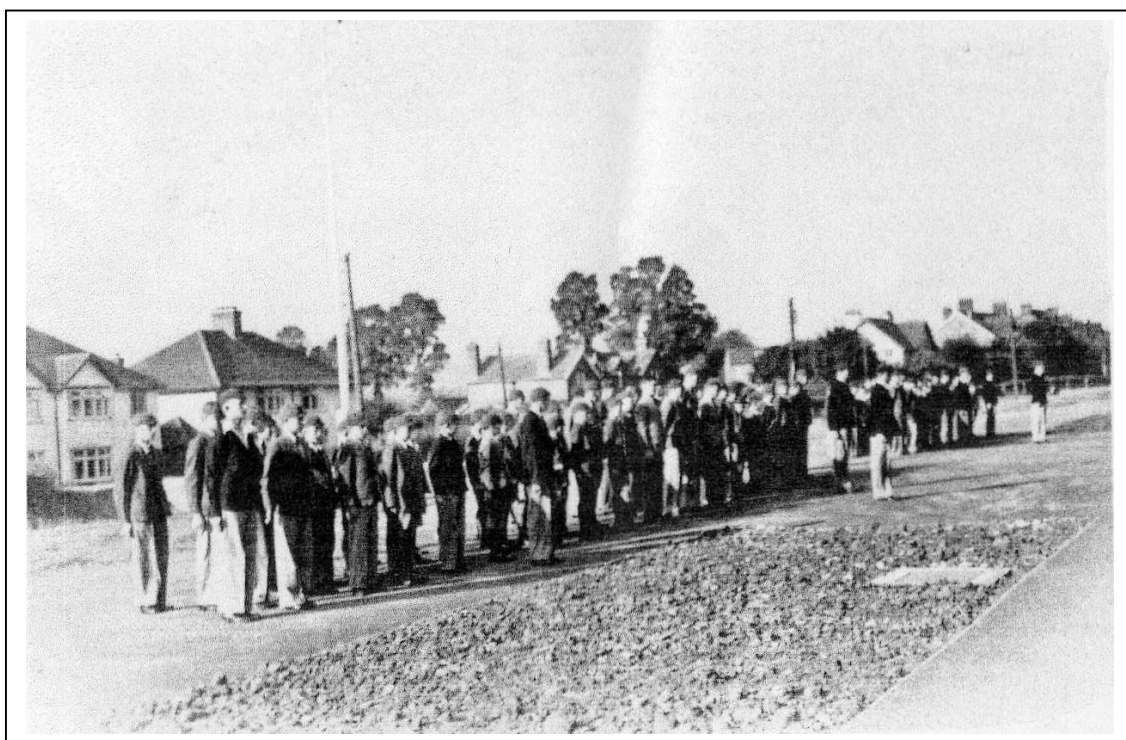
19b



19c



Picture 19d is on the next page. Please note the furled banner, or flag, in 19a, the drums in 19b, the school caps in all photos, outline of buildings on left of 19c above, and houses on 19d. Are the latter too close to be Durleigh road dwellings, especially on the right side of the picture?



If you have any ideas what the above four pictures are all about, please contact the editor, see contact details on page 8. If you know any older “Old Boys” please ask them as well, as these pictures may have been in the files for many years. However they do seem to show the Durleigh Road site so must date from the late 1930s or later. Perhaps those members living on Durleigh Road, or nearby, could do a check with the current house profiles?

MEMORIES.

In the June Newsletter, on Page 7, we printed “Do You Remember”, the first of two articles by committee member Ray Haines on his time at DMS (1953 to 1960). As I said then, Ray’s disastrous first day could only lead on to better things (hopefully!!), so here we continue his memories with his “Potted history ~ Professional” and then “Potted History ~ More Personal”. Many thanks to Ray for these contributions – I am still patiently waiting for other people to follow suit and send me their memories; DO I WAIT IN VAIN??? – If so, this newsletter will soon fail. Please do send me your memories or favourite DMS “stories”.

Ray Haines – Potted History ~ Professional.

I left school in 1960 to undertake Teacher training at St. Luke’s College, Exeter; Physical Education main subject, with Geography as subsidiary.

1963 - First teaching post in Hampshire as Assistant P.E. teacher in a Secondary Modern School.

1965 – Appointed as Head of P.E. at The Kings of Wessex School, Cheddar, Somerset, and held this post until Comprehensive Education came in 1976.

1976 to 1995 – Relinquished P.E. post but continued at Cheddar as Head of Extra – Curricular Activities. During that period of time I did youth work at Wedmore and Axbridge (I needed the extra money!!) Additionally I did a fair bit of weekend and holiday work at Kilve Court Residential Centre (same reason!!) I also achieved a “Special Needs” Diploma.

1995 to 2006 – In 1995, after 32 years in teaching, and particularly with the onset of the ‘National Curriculum’ in schools, I felt that was enough. I happened to be in the right place at the right time and secured the post as Deputy Director at Great Wood Outdoor Education Centre in the Quantocks. I still loved working with children, the big difference being that they were doing fun activities and wanted to be there.

And now I’m an ‘Old’ Age Pensioner – its lovely having no responsibility any more! Its not quite the end of the story, though, as I am regularly called in to Great Wood and Kilve Court to instruct in Outdoor activities on a casual sessional basis. I still enjoy the work with the benefits of no responsibilities – I just do the work and go home. (I need the extra, extra, extra money!) More time now to indulge in what I want to do.....

Ray Haines – Potted History ~ More Personal.

1963 – I married on leaving College.

1963 to 1965 – Played Rugby (my first and continuing ‘First Love’) for Alton and Farnham, and captained them in my second year there. My first child (a son) was born in 1964, during the Tokyo Olympics. I played a bit of Golf.

1965 to 1969 – Lived in Cheddar. Played Rugby for Weston (not the Hornets). Still a bit of Golf. Two more children – both girls.

1969 to 1984 – Moved to Burnham but still played rugby for Weston until 1984. Fourth and final child, a third daughter, born in 1971. Divorced in 1984 and moved to Woolavington – Single again!

1984 to 2004 – Settled in to ‘Polden’ country. Extension on the house. Married again in 1992. (Should know better!) Since 1997, part owner of a villa in Southern Spain (not time-share, I hasten to add.) Took up skittles again for the first time since youth. Divorced again in 2000. Moved to Bridgwater in 2004.

2004 to date – Carole, my partner since 2001 is a true rock and very important in my life (no marriage – we don’t need it!) Additionally I have three lovely daughters and nine grandchildren. I have some time in the garden, doing some D.I.Y. It keeps me occupied. Sadly, I lost my son in May of this year (at time of writing, 2007 Ed.) to cancer at the age of 42. However, life goes on and time will heal.

If any of you out there want to get in touch, here are my details:-

Address:- 24 Pine Tree Close, Bridgwater, TA6 4EQ. Tel. 01278 450834

e-mail:- rayandcarole21@talktalk.net

Well I hope we have some members who remember Ray from schooldays and after, and will get in touch with him. (Perhaps they will also write a few memories for us! – Ed.)

Our Continuing 'Responses':

It is quite surprising that, though I sent out letters by e-mail to all DMS boys and all BGSF girls listed on Friends re-united in late 2006 and early 2007 respectively, I am still getting a trickle of replies. This trickle seems to have increased significantly in May of this year, so we may still get a few new members as a result. In the meantime, though, I need to catch up with all the responses we had in 2007, so here we go again... The first should perhaps have been in a "My Career" section but as it is quite short I will produce it here, especially as it then follows on from Ray's career details. **Mike Allinson** wrote: "Just received the latest newsletter and thought I would send you my information I was at DMS from 1955-1960. I was totally useless at academics and sport but had one occasion to play rugby for the school at an infamous game against Sidcot School at Winscombe. We trounced them in the game and were invited back to their school for tea where a bun fight ensued and we were struck from their list of possible opponents.

When I left school I took an engineering apprenticeship at ROF Puriton and subsequently transferred to ROF Woolwich Arsenal in London. I met my wife Ann during this time and after our marriage we moved to Andover, Hants. In 1975 we moved to Canada where we still live and later this year we are retiring to Invermere, B.C. which is located about an hour's drive from the Banff/Lake Louise area of Alberta. We will wake up each morning (with views) to the western slopes of the Rockies. Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet few of my old schoolmates. I enjoy the newsletter and hearing about some familiar names. PS I am back in Bridgwater in April '07." – So I wonder if any of you saw Mike then? If not, he gave his e-mail address as devan13@telusplanet.net so old friends can still contact. Hopefully, Mike, you will have let Mike Dodden have your retirement address as well. Many thanks for all your information. As a corollary to that, perhaps I should add that part of my reply to Mike said "You got to ROF Puriton – it wasn't on the list of ROF's taking apprentices in 1956 so I started at Llanishen, Cardiff. That closed 2 years later and I was transferred to Glascoed near Usk in Monmouthshire, but at that time some of the craft apprentices went to Puriton for interviews & came back saying what a smashing place Bridgwater was – a pub every other building!! (presumably High Street & Eastover!) Geoff Yendole (DMS 51-56) also lives in Canada, on a small island off Vancouver Island, called Gabriola." (Note correction to that island name, Mike A. – Ed.)

In Feb '07 **Raymond Cox** had written: "Thanks for your letter giving some info about the association. I saw that good old "Bunny" Storer gave you my address. I had the pleasure of looking him up last year, and took him and his wife out for lunch. It was amazing how much detail he could remember about everyone, certainly about my "generation". Our get together was arranged following a conversation with my sister who lives in Durleigh Rd. We were discussing the major influences on our lives, and I said that Bunny influenced and guided me enormously. In fact I took two A levels with him, Botany and Zoology. The other A level was with Chris C,'s dad!!!! (Cudlipp -Ed) Then I went on to Nottingham University to read Agriculture Science. After that I worked for Quaker Oats. The company was American, and made breakfast cereals, animal foods and pet-foods. They also owned Fisher Price toys, amongst other things. I headed manufacturing at one stage and then had two spells in Operations and Supply Chain roles in Brussels, where I worked for about 10 years during two stays. It was good to get some news of names I remember. Best wishes, Ray." RAYPCOX@aol.com for anyone who remembers Ray and would like to get in touch. So that, too, was a good career account and it must be extremely rewarding for the staff to get such appreciative remarks as to how they helped direct our 'old boys' into good professional careers. I again contacted **Sarah Ansdell** via F-R in late Feb. '07 as she had said she would be prepared to write an account of her father's life at DMS. Unfortunately nothing has arrived to date, but she has been back in touch Aug. '08 and will try to do a report soon.

Sarah had also mentioned the www.digifutures.org/schools website. She had checked that and the DMS pictures were still there (LHS, "Photos and Staff Room"). She had submitted some of those, nothing yet in writing, but in the past she had worked alongside **Francis (Sealey - Ed)** to try and get that site an interesting one to visit. She did say "I am so sorry I didn't get around to doing anything on my father and really I ought to as the memories will go with me – its just a series of anecdotes."

Then I got a reply from **Anna (Bieraugel) Connolly**: "Just rec'd your email through F-R. My brother **Karl Bieraugel** attended DMS. I'm sure he would be interested in hearing from you. He may have other contacts – I know one of his school chums now owns the Castle of Comfort in Somerset (Nigel Venner – Ed.) Another friend, **Mike Thomas**, also attended and again he may have more names for you. I went to school with Anna who now runs The Tudor in St. Mary's St., so it's a small world. Please pass on my best wishes to her when you next see her (I asked M.D. to do this as he knows the staff there much better than I do – Ed.) I moved to Cyprus nearly 4 years ago so possibly will bump into her here as her family are from Cyprus. I still carry memories of unfortunately stamping all over DMS boys during our regular dance lessons in the BGSF. Thank goodness my dancing has improved but I still blush at the memories. Best wishes with your endeavours." I later got a reply from Karl, saying he was pleased to be "found", he was at DMS 1960-1965 and he remembered it fondly. "I have lived and worked in Hertfordshire for many years although, up until recently, my mother still lived near Bridgwater and I visited the area regularly. She has now relocated and my future visits are likely to be very occasional. I would certainly be interested in newsletters to see if there are any faces or names I recognize and please do send me info about an annual subscription. Kind regards." karl.bieraugel@ntlworld.com (This was all as a result of an enquiry letter I sent to Karl, who we didn't have on our lists, but unfortunately he doesn't seem to be on our latest distribution listing – yet! He is one we may well try again now we can send newsletters by e-mail – Ed.)

David Derham has contacted me many times over the past few years with helpful information. On the subject of replies from F-R he said he did not realise they would not pass replies through to his own Email address as he thought that's how he had got an enquiry from **Chris Meadon**, in 2006, about the reunion Chris's year were doing. He mentioned that Chris & he had been friends for about 50 years, yet strangely he hardly remembered him from school. He had four such friends of 50 years standing, two of whom went to DMS – one true exclusively DMS friend being **Nigel Fitzhugh**. He also gave me an address for **Robert Brunt** in North Worle. He had a picture of Robert, himself, and Chris in a school group of St. John's Junior at Highbridge back in 1952. He spends most of his time nowadays researching his Derham family. David then sent me a floppy disk with all his DMS pictures and I hope to use more of those soon. Many thanks to him. He also said that he was off to see dozens of cousins in Aug. '07 who he had no idea existed 18 months ago. "We are celebrating a 150 year's anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne in 1857 of Thomas Burge Derham, a 5th cousin from North Curry (my Grandfather was born there too). His offspring have generated many children and there are going to be at least 140 descendants at the gathering. They have me doing a talk to them about the Derhams of Somerset and Norfolk. Another will talk on the Derhams of USA (Thomas's brother went there & struck it really rich in the gold rush in the 1860's.) Others of his family will do talks on the descendants of each of his 13 children! Then I get to stay with a few of them and afterwards do some travelling, eventually going over to Perth and then up to Denham to see **Richard Rummery**, ex DMS, and his wife **Valerie née Bishop**, who was a BGSF pupil. So I am very busy at present planning my 8 weeks stay out there." (If I had only thought of it at the time, David might have been able to drop in on **Jane Halstead**, "Australia". She was a Haygrove School leaver of 1975 and

Martin Travers, of Wares Lane, Wembdon, had managed to contact her, but too late for their reunion at "Haygrove School Hall" on Saturday 23rd Sept 1995. However Jane sent me a great list of pupils from that time which Martin had sent her, and so I must check these off against our "Ex DMS pupils" list to make sure we know of all the boys, who would have started out their education as DMS pupils. Jane recently contacted me again as F-R had said she had another "call" from me, but that turned out to be a hoax; still she offered any more help she could give – what a star! Her list had gone to Australia in 1995 and got back to me from there in 2007, when it could have got to Mike Dodden from only a mile or so away! Ed.)

As well as Jane's list of the 1975 Haygrove School leavers, I also have the following lists from the DMS school site on www.digifutures.org/schools : Masters and Mistresses c.1971, Boys c.1971, Dave Green's classmates (left 1972), Lester Evan's classmates in first year in 1972/3, John Black's "inmates of Form 1A in 1966", and a class list of Class 3A Sept. 1970. There is therefore quite a lot of cross-checking of our lists left to do to ensure that we have all these on our "contacted" or "missing" list.

A more recent correspondent:-

I am going to insert here a much more recent message I received from **Gordon Williams** since it raises questions which, no doubt, he would like answers about as soon as possible. On 10 June '08 he said:-

Geoff, congrats on the newsletter recently arrived. Who cannot be impressed with the amount of hard work you and the committee are putting in to trace, record and update the DMS connections! Proper job. I enjoyed "First Day" thoughts and I'm (sure?) there are lots more of those to come. As for "missing names" can I put down **GERARD HOLLIDAY** who was at school '68-71 for the 6th form. He was a great soccer player much to the chagrin of the PE staff but a "good egg" and when I left the area to do teacher training at St Paul's he went to America to play and coach soccer. Where are they now? I taught at Malmesbury school with **Tony Furseman**, sadly no longer with us. **Tony had a daughter late on in life who is keen to collect her late dad's pottery, for which Tony was famous in the Minety (Wiltshire) area. Any one out there who can supply her with any pieces?** Pleased to read of **Jed Vize** of Woolavington. May I enquire what **Gerald Jnr.** is up to now? As for me, retired from teaching and work as a learning mentor in a Swindon school. Must try to attend a dinner soon. Is **Malcolm Davies** still fit? Gordon Williams '63-70 (Contact gordon@stradey.fsnet.co.uk Gerard was already on our missing list as "Gerry Holliday" – he is listed on Friends Reunited but didn't answer my appeal. Can anyone help contact him? Perhaps **Malcolm Fender** could ask **Paul Williams** to ask **Jed Vize** about "**Gerald Jnr.**" and then get back to Gordon as above? Also give me details as he is another one on our F-R list who hasn't answered. We believe he left DMS '61. Again, please help if you can. Ed.)

Back to March 2007:-

I asked Mike Dodden to send a complimentary newsletter, application form, & explanation to Dr **Robin Brace** in Nottingham. He had been found by member Brian Haggett phoning Robin's mum, as Brian had known her "many moons ago". Dave Peek also contacted me 10.03.07 saying he had received a telecon from **Dick Turner** advising him of the passing of friend and '53-59 year pupil **James "Jimmy" Donnelly** from a brain haemorrhage. Jimmy had for many years run the gun shop almost exactly opposite the Tudor.

Yet more sad news: RIP

On 22nd. July this year I received the following information from Mike Dodden - Further bad news I'm afraid. Rod Scribbins reports the passing of **Mike Crook (1957)** at University College Hospital London on 8th July.

OUR TRIPLE “WHO AM I?” COMPETITION (Page 6 of June 2008 Newsletter.)

I have had no answers at all to this competition, so I can only presume that the “Old Boys” pictured have changed so much since their days at DMS that they are unrecognisable! (There could be two other reasons, of course – a) that this newsletter is a waste of time and effort since it is possibly not read by most of our members, or b) that there is total apathy in replying to such questions – even more than that for supplying career details – **I urgently need all those that have been promised, and many more besides if we are to keep the newsletter going.**) Back to the people pictured:- Picture 1 was the one sent in to me some time ago and whose identity I have unfortunately lost. The only information I have is that the jpg picture file was entitled “Monnie” – does anyone know someone who perhaps had this nickname at school, or can the owner contact me please. Picture 2 was the self-portrait referred to on page 4 (1/3 way down 1st. column) and is Rob Coleby (**Rob Taylor** at school), the “well known theatre, TV, & film actor here in Australia” (Ref. Steve Pyott, DMS ’64 – ’66). Picture 3 was a photo of **Steve Pyott** himself. At least as we had no replies we have no ‘Free Membership 2009’ to provide; the funds will be better off, BUT it would have been more satisfying to have had some participation.

‘MORGUE TWO’

I shall finish this edition with a poem on a reasonably seasonable subject (well it was when I was looking for articles for this newsletter but is a bit ‘far-off’ now!). It comes from DMS Sixth-Form publication of the above name, published 1964 & sent to me by member Keith Barnes in Sept. ’06. The cover illustration is of two coffins, with what could be the Quad pathway slab-stones down the length of both! – perhaps Keith could tell us the symbolism of that? He may of course be too modest to reply as I guess that the author of the poem, KSB, is none other than himself! (Don’t worry, there are other authors who may well be my next choice!)

WHAT THE DEUCE?

Have you ever thought why men play tennis?
Why the net has holes, the bats are rackets?
A bouncing white ball, with peculiar pattern
Shoots back and forth in mock dismay.
A demi-god to white-washed disciples.
They bend to its needs, like a bow to an arrow,
Rushing hither and thither,
With deuces and vans, lobs and half-volleys,
The server coils up, servile but grand.
Poised to obey his masochistic lord.
A rally explodes into Morse-like worship.
The court is the world; mankind is on trial
Thirty-love, going downhill fast;
Forty-love, on the brink of disaster;
Match-point now – is Hades at hand?
Oh don’t be silly, it’s only a game!

K.S.B.

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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.** 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.