

# **DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION**

**SPRING NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2012**

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

**Editorial – I should have put this notice here last time, and it will appear in the ‘Contacts’ box at the end of each newsletter from now on so that no member can have an excuse for not knowing: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DMA Website Address is: [drmorgan.com](http://drmorgan.com)**

**ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT this year's reunion dinner will be a joint function with the DM Society on September 15th and the speaker will be DMS Old Boy Tony Ball. The venue will be the old school hall (now Haygrove Comprehensive) by kind invitation of the present Head, Karen Canham.**

**Catering will be by Windsor Caterers, who will also supply all dinner furniture and cutlery, and the bar will be run by Bridgwater Carnival Club. Please do give us your support by booking as early as you possibly can and make this a real event to remember!**

**Your committee hope that by that time we, and the existing DM Society committee will have completed the great amount of work required to combine the two separate “DMS Old Boys’ clubs” and that from then onward we will have a new committee drawn from the two existing committees. Three chosen members of each existing committee are working together at ‘Special Meetings’ to achieve this aim, and as we have had very few DMA and DM Society members voicing an opinion against this aim, we will continue so to do. Members of both ‘clubs’ PLEASE DO GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT in any way you can – eventually we shall request that new, and possibly younger members, from the combined “Old Morganians” (suggested new title) come forward to lead that body into the next era of Dr. Morgan's history. That is the general plan; please even now let your relevant committee know if you have any great objection.**

## **DMA Committee Meeting, Wed., 21.09.11:**

Mike Dodden, Bill King, Ray Haines, Geoff. Marchant attended. Apologies received from Mike Beaumont, Ralph Sealey, and Chris Hockey. Clive Kett had said he would

be present but failed to arrive. MB had requested it be known that he had the well-being of DMA at heart but had been in hospital again recently so actual commitment had had to be delayed. RH apologised for recent non-attendance as he had delayed his return from S.Africa and then his partner had had a health scare which took up much of his time – happily the result was “no problem”.

MD said that electronic copies of the Oct. Newsletter had been out for some days and the hardcopy ones were dispatched that very day. He also reported that Eddie Crane had lost his wife Mary about two weeks ago and Dennis was also very poorly. Tony Wilkins had informed him that he may not be present at the dinner to say ‘Grace’ as his mother was very ill. Bill King said he would cover if Tony could not be present. (In the event David Roach said Grace. Ed.) Mike would do the Menu Cards and Table Plan. The main course this year would be Roast Beef, with a vegetarian option. A choice of Starters and Sweets would be agreed with the Tudor management. It was believed that DMA had started about 1995 – even the founder members present could not remember for sure! (From the Website contribution by founder member Roger Evans the date was 1998 Ed.) Membership was now about 130 paid for 2011, with dinner bookings being 50 plus our speaker, John Edney. David Hall had mentioned he would try to get Mike Withers to come this year, David Young had recently contacted Mike Dodden, and our oldest member John Howell, of Mount Street days, was also coming again. Mike hoped that next year's dinner would mark the coming together of DMS and DMA; the committee all seconded that hope. Geoff. Williams had sent in Speech Day leaflets, some ‘Morganian’ magazines, plus some Boy's Brigade and a 1967 DM School rolled photo. Brian Purnell had contributed an old school tie and hat, ‘Morganian’ magazines for 1938, and April and Dec 1946. Mike Dodden had also had an e-mail from Jenny McCubbin, a present day parent, who had noted that 2012 was the 75th anniversary of the present Durleigh Road school building and had decided, and got permission presumably, to celebrate this event with a display of literature, boards and regalia, if we could help provide any. DMA had access to two of the ‘Honours’ boards of our era, no doubt DM Society had also been approached as they had two boards pre 1956 on show at their recent dinner, which Geoff. Marchant and Alan Chedzey attended to represent DMA and Ray Haines attended also in his capacity as both a member of that Society as well as also being a member, and on the committee, of DMA. GM said he had not had any follow up from the lady at Somerset Care who had requested a photo of the Mount Street site and its possible use in a commemorative document she was producing in 2011. The meeting finished at approximately 9.30 pm having started at 8pm. The next meeting date would be agreed after the dinner and with attention being paid to the date of the next joint committee date when that had been agreed.

## **Our Dinner on Saturday 22nd October 2011 at The Tudor Hotel.**

As we were all assembling upstairs in Bar 27 for the dinner it was announced that a reporter from the Bridgwater and Burnham Times had arrived and we were cajoled into place for a photograph. This was duly printed in the edition of 3rd Nov. and can no doubt be seen online.

The write-up was quite good and one highlight was the proposed combination with the D M Society for the 2012 dinner. This theme was underlined by committee member **Bill King**, as MC, in his welcome when he stated that there would be a possibility of 140 seats available next year, so book early! The Association had been founded in 1998 by **Roger Evans, Mike Dodden**, and himself with 197 members and we now had 150 members, "Thank you all for your loyalty". With the members in the Society we could go forward as a strong joint body.

Old Boy **David Roach** gave the 'Grace' and we were then admirably served to yet another outstanding meal by the Tudor staff. Another DMS Old Boy, **John Edney**, now Chairman of Somerset County Council, was our after dinner speaker, and an entertaining one too! Having commented appreciatively on the DMA tie at the start of his speech he was immediately presented with one by Bill King, and he then also welcomed the news of the possible amalgamation. He also pointed out that the year 2023 would be the 300th anniversary of the founding of Dr. Morgan's School. By contrast, Somerset County Council had been founded in 1888 and had had 26 chairmen to date, one having done two terms. John was now into his 3rd year in the post, which ranked 3rd below the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Gass, and the High Sheriff, John Cullen. (Laughter when J.E. recounted that son Jamie Cullen had appeared at a Somerset function and part of the repertoire was "I shot the Sherriff"!)

Below the Chairman came the various chairmen of Council departments, and then the Mayor. A gavel was provided to obtain order but he had found it unnecessary, using a bit of humour instead. That was the "nitty gritty" of his references to S.C.C.! From then on we were witnesses to his humour. He had once said to his wife "Did you ever think in your wildest dreams that we would ever be in anything like this?" only to be told "John, YOU

never appear in my wildest dreams!" On another occasion he had to explain that 'Screwfix' was not a dating agency! He proffered the theory that "The higher the rank, the better the 'gentleman' attitude and demonstrated this with his esteem for the Royal Family. From here he touched on characters at dinners he had attended, and humorous headlines from papers – "Cork Man drowned"; "Evidence of Missing Boy found in Sandwich"; and on a can of deodorant "Remove top and push up bottom"!! After several other stories about such people as a 'Parish council rustic', 'revelations by running club ladies', John said he had a 'predecessor anecdote' – a meeting of the full council had started at 10am with a break for lunch, and 'Alan' always enjoyed lunch! Later in the afternoon session, 'Alan' suddenly woke up, and as an apology stated "My spotted dick is lying heavily on my stomach" – which no doubt 'brought the house down'! John very much appreciated the "Aura of DMS" and the staff who had taught us all so well (murmurs of total agreement.) He had decided many years ago that entry qualifications for many firms in the area had been "Play rugby; drink beer, been to Dr. Morgan's". He had memories of headmaster C. E. Key trying to resurrect a play in which John had been dressed in crinoline as a lavender seller for a Speech day when one of the two booked speakers couldn't fulfil his booking. John had been ragged mercilessly after the original appearance so had no desire to repeat the performance! When sent to Sam Napper to get the key of the store room in the tower John had found the props for the play – and made sure they were crunched beyond all recognition! He concluded with a poem presented by John White of Over Stowey at the Court Leat Sessions – see page 8.

After this speech, members enjoyed each other's company recounting school life and searching through the new memorabilia which had been bequeathed to DMA this year and displayed by Bill King. Bill said items were always welcome and he also mentioned that Roger Evans had a new book on Somerset coming out the following Saturday and that had a whole chapter on Dr. Morgan's School. Chris Cudlipp rose and asked permission to extend a very warm vote of thanks to all the committee for both the dinner and the work they were doing to bring about the amalgamation – applause.

**Don't forget: Book early next year for the joint dinner at "Haygrove School", in our old DMS school hall, 7pm for 7.30pm, on Saturday September 15th., when Old Boy Tony Ball will be the speaker, and will no doubt yet again hold us spellbound!**

Before giving the Grace, David Roach reminded us "I am sure you recall that at the beginning of every term the following was sung by us all with varying degrees of gusto...

*'Lord behold us with thy blessing,  
Once again assembled here.'*

Tonight we assembled once again, not for the beginning of a new term, but for our annual reunion; a reunion of former pupils of Dr Morgan's Grammar School for Boys, to give the school its full title. Our lives have been enriched by the benefits provided by an exceptionally good education, thanks to the Masters who plagued our existence while we studied at the school. We have used the knowledge and guidance imparted at this time in our lives with our own particular abilities to take on the challenges of everyday life on this planet. I quote the words of John Ruskin, 19th Century Author, Art Critic, and Social Reformer...

*'The first duty of a State is to see that every child born therein shall be well housed, clothed, fed and educated.'*

I hope you all feel you have been blessed accordingly.

Gentlemen, will you please stand. As is customary I invite you to respectively spend a few moments in silence in memory of Geoffrey Tout. He attended Dr Morgan's in the 1930's. Sadly he is no longer with us.

For what we are about to receive  
Good food, good wine and good company,  
May the Lord make us truly thankful, Amen.

Gentlemen, Thank you. Enjoy your evening.

**.....and we did!**

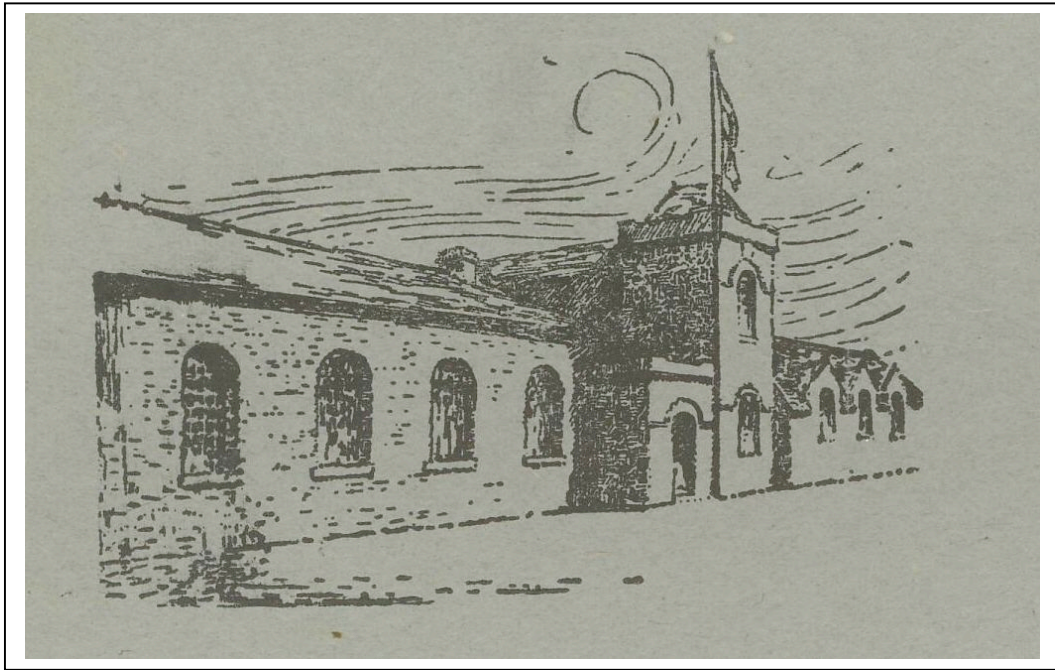
### **John Howell's Memories.**

This John was at school at DMS Mount Street 1933 – 38 and at this year's dinner gave us on 'Storey' table some of his interesting memories. He said that the headmaster's office was to the LHS of the school buildings, viewed from the

front (see existing buildings in Mount Street or picture on page 4 of the Oct. 2007 & page 5 of the Feb. 2009 newsletters, or this present newsletter page 4 where I have scanned in the drawing shown on the front of 'The Morganian', Vol. 15, DECEMBER, 1938 recently kindly donated to DMA. This drawing has the only view of the tower at Mount Street that I have seen, the old newsletter pictures seem to have been taken respectively to the East and to the West of the tower.) His office opened onto a lovely garden and an area with apple trees and grass. Here physical exercise lessons were done. The present Haygrove School site was then the DMS school field with rugby and cricket pitches. (This answers Ray Haine's recent phoned query to me as to whether sports were then at St. Matthew's field or Victoria Park – neither!) There was a deep ditch on the North side of this field, behind the sports pavilion and here some boys "in the know" met the local girl school girls at lunchtimes! He was not sure if there was a girl's school there or whether the adjoining field was just their sports' field.) At Mount Street he thought that some of the original tower was no longer there, but classrooms were to the left of the entrance and laboratories to the right, see p.4 here. The Cloakroom was just inside the door to the left of the tower. 'The Morganian' for Dec. 1938 is now in Bill King's possession but currently on loan to your editor.

*Thank you John Howell for those memories.*

***I have taken some photographs of the present state of this old school building, and one is from approximately the same angle as the old view. It would appear that the old tower was extended rearward at some time so that it now blends in with the enlarged building. The only other significant change I noted was the addition of a bow window at the western end of the frontage. – See page 4 lower photograph. Of course the garden which John Howell refers to has mostly gone and the present day photo of that end is shown on page 7.***



**The drawing above is reproduced from the front cover of 'The Morganian' Vol. 15, December 1938 and is of the front of Dr Morgan's School as it was then in Mount Street, Bridgwater.**



**Roughly the same view as it is today (28th November, 2011.)**

**Now I will continue David Derham's article. In the last newsletter David recalled that while we had school houses with Civil War leaders' names, from memory we were not told much about them. So recently he has done some research. He ended part 1 with this paragraph: *Cromwell & Fairfax were in one camp and Wyndham & Hopton in the other. Perhaps the choice of two from each persuasion was a deliberate act, designed to generate a spirit of competition - useful on occasions of sports' days etcetera as long as they stayed away from the matches!***

**Hopton - Wyndham - Cromwell – Fairfax (Part 2)** *Continued from Oct. 2011 newsletter, Page 7.)*

The four different surnames (but five persons), were the three Royalists Sir Ralph Hopton (born Witham Friary); Colonel Edmund Wyndham and Francis Wyndham and the two Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell (born Huntingdon) and Sir Thomas Fairfax (born Denton, Yorkshire). I would hazard a guess that the DMS Wyndham, if not representing both, was probably Edmund?

I have woven into this piece, Robert Blake. He seems to be a hero of Bridgwater. I did a bit on him in a thesis of Bridgwater at DMS I seem to recall. Though why he was such a Bridgwater hero has yet to become clear to me. Perhaps someone can help? From school, I only held memory of his maritime affiliations. The stories recorded here, were new to me (or had been known but completely forgotten!).

1642. Colonel Robert Blake, a Parliamentarian, survived (just) a three month siege in Taunton Castle by Sir Edmund Wyndham, the Royalist Governor of Bridgwater.

1643. Blake fought for Parliament in the siege of Bristol

May 1645, Blake was Governor of Taunton and was again besieged, this time by the Royalist Sir Richard Grenville. In advance of his arrival, Blake stripped the countryside around Taunton of food and other supplies, just in time. Not only that but he cleared the region of anything that might have been useful to Grenville's troops. I recall Napoleon did the same during his retreat over the Pyrenees into France in the face of the coalition armies in the Peninsular wars (scorched earth policy) and the Russians did the same to the Germans with devastating consequences during a bitter winter. (My g. g. grandfather Richard Baby and two of his brothers, soldiers in the Somerset 40th Regiment of Foot, fought in the Peninsular wars and also at Waterloo. My g. g. uncle was born & christened while the regiment was encamped outside the gates of Paris in Oct. 1815 and my g. g. grandfather, his brother, was born in Brussels in 1816).

While as DMS school boys we were invited to revere Robert Blake as a son of Bridgwater (isn't that him on the Cornhill?), he surely made an entire community of our beloved Somerset suffer badly in the name of Parliamentary objectives and the destruction of England's Monarchy!

Blake's resistance to the Royalists in 1645, resulted in a half of Taunton being destroyed and laid to waste by fire (not too big a place in those times) and much of the rest of it left in ruins. His garrison just managed to survive the attack by a miracle when Sir Ralph Hopton, who was in charge of the Royalist assault, got wind of an impending approach of a detachment of relief troops from the New Model Army and so withdrew with speed.

April - July 1645, George Goring's army terrorised Somerset. The nearest they came to Chewton was a short stroll down the road in Wells. Their presence will have been keenly felt in Chewton without doubt! Of all the opportunities for Ann Derham to have been made pregnant through rape at the instance of soldiers of war, this one would seem to be the most likely - from what we have learned about "Goring's hordes".

July 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax and his New Model Army laid siege to Bridgwater, governed by Col. Edmund Wyndham. In the ensuing battle, both used fire. Wyndham fired Eastover after Fairfax fired areas such as the Cornhill, St. Mary's Street and High Street. Between them, they burned 120 houses out of about 400 - and we revered them in our school house names! To their joint credit, they allowed women and children to leave the town prior to battle - 800 in all escaped the fighting including Wyndham's wife.

September 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax and the New Model Army, recaptured Bristol for Parliament.

October 1645, Blake and Col. Sydenham, laid siege to Dunster Castle (governed by Francis Wyndham)

January 1646, Hopton was appointed by the Prince of Wales (Charles) to command all Royalist forces of the Western Association (5000).

February 1646, Sir Thomas Fairfax and the New Model Army, defeated Hopton at Torrington.

2nd March 1646, Flight of Charles to the Scillies and later to France. The fortifications at Bridgwater were dismantled on the orders of Parliament.

12th March 1646, Hopton surrendered to Fairfax, the remains of the Western Association's army

16th April 1646, Robert Blake met Sir Thomas Fairfax at Chard, on his return from Torrington. The following day, Blake's forces were joined by an infantry regiment of Fairfax's New Model Army. They proceed to resume the siege of Dunster Castle. By 19th, Francis Wyndham had surrendered the castle.

1647, The war was now over, the last army to march across Wiltshire was Fairfax's New Model Army.

1648, Fairfax was garrisoned in Bath with many issues for and interference with local inhabitants.

So one of those events close to Chewton was probably responsible for the illegitimate Jonas and the father was probably a European mercenary carrying that Tunisian gene! There were plenty of mercenaries in the armies of both sides for sure.

The Civil war was clearly why our school was divided into four houses named after these gentlemen! I am still confused however, as to why the forefathers of DMS chose to immortalise these men who brought nothing but death, torture, terror, theft, plunder, rape, pillage, butchery, confiscation of goods and food, multiple taxation to support the war and misery of untold magnitude! The war was not of the people, it was of just one man and his parliament who could not agree. The King was clearly at fault in refusing to accept other than that he was King by the will of God rather than by the choice of the people or by conquest or by succession. Had he given up his belief, there would almost certainly never have been a Civil War and he would have continued to rule as head of the Kingdom but together with his parliament. This would have ensured not only he but all future monarchs, would have been held accountable. Charles lost his head because he would not agree to such a change. Since the restoration, monarchs have survived through having learned the lesson of their predecessor monarch's mistake and how not to both ignore the will and underestimate the power of their subjects. Even our current reigning monarch, 400 years later came close to coming "unstuck" over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales we may recall. It was only by the action of the Prime Minister of the day, Tony Blair (who had a quiet word in her ear) that the day was saved (or should that be the monarchy?).

Had my main source of information through the written word not been researched and compiled from the 1970's to 1999, the above would not have been possible. John Wroughton's book "An Unhappy Civil War" published in 1999, is a marathon work of research sourced from 79 separate references stored across many libraries and universities. I recommend it to any son or daughter of Somerset. It is so incredibly illuminating in explaining the hardships endured, the pressures to support either side and the terror unleashed upon ordinary simple farming folk everywhere.

In my days at DMS, this work was 42 years away so we would not have had available such collected, detailed information on the effect of the war on the West Country! Perhaps John attended DMS! He was at one time the Head Teacher of King Edward's School in Bath and is now a Doctor of Philosophy. His string of published works are largely on the Civil War and the Stuarts. He is clearly a significant authority on this period.

Oliver Cromwell 1599 - 1658 born Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. (*Parliament – Ed*)

Sir Ralph Hopton 1596 -1652 born Witham, Somerset (*Royalist - Ed*)

Sir Thomas Fairfax 1612 - 1671 born Denton Yorkshire. 3rd Baron Cameron (*Parliament - Ed*)

Sir Edmund Wyndham 1601 - 1683 born prob. Kentisford, or Orchard Wyndham, Somerset (*Royalist - Ed*)

**David Derham, Dec. 2010. DMS (Cromwell House) 1952-57**

*Well that must have taken a lot of time and detailed study and I do thank David for sending it to me for use in our newsletters. If anyone has comments or other views, please do send them in. (Editor. Contact details are shown bottom of Page 8).*

By the way, David would like to correct the statement by George Whitelock (page 2, Oct. 2011) that the picture showing 'Skid' Skelton was by **Peter** Derham. It was in fact taken and presented to us by **David** Derham, as stated at the time. (Even brothers won't stand for incorrect attributions, especially when it was incorrectly made by (in schooldays) a prefect, and 'bus controller' who wasn't their 'best friend'!! – *he's quite a nice chap now, David! – Ed.*)

**R.I.P. DMS Old Boy & DMA member Geoff. Tout, died 15th July, aged 88.**

**On Page 5 of our October 2011 newsletter I recorded the death of Geoff. Tout who had recently given us articles and pictures from the 1930's. Bryan Scott, DMSoc., has provided me with two accounts of Geoff's funeral & life from which I have gleaned the following:**

Geoff left DMS 1939 and went into the County Treasurer's Dept at Taunton. Later moves were to Street, Stafford, back to Bridgwater, 1962 to Bishops Stortford, 1996 appointed first treasurer of Warminster Urban District Council. Staunch supporter of Somerset County Cricket Club, and himself an accomplished bowler and invariably a high scorer. He was also good at Tennis & played several times in

County Championships, and he played in the Beckenham pre Wimbledon tennis tournament against Gardner Molloy, a well known American. He enjoyed watching Bridgwater & Albion up to the last few years. He was a fine cello and double bass player and during the war was in great demand for dances and troop concerts— “He always said that he was one of the few accountants that could play the big fiddle!” Because of shoulder trouble from birth he was never accepted to serve in the forces but volunteered numerous times. “A loving brother, uncle and great uncle always available to help and advise when needed...he will be well remembered by all who knew him and will be missed by all the family who say there will be a terrific void in all their lives”. He had great love for his dog Towsie, and they enjoyed a fantastic companionship.

The funeral service took place at Warminster church on Thursday 28th July, 2011 when his niece, Jill Alton, gave the Eulogy. The large attendance showed the love and respect in which he was held.

The Warminster journal reported that “Tributes have poured in for Geoffrey Tout, a key member of many charitable organisations across the town. Mr Tout was a Feoffee of the Chapel of St. Lawrence for four decades, an esteemed member of Warminster Rotary Club and, as treasurer for the Guide Dogs For The Blind Association, spearheaded the first ever Paw Trek.” Geoff had married Bridgwater girl Joyce Hodgson, and she had died more than ten years ago. There were no children.

***I acknowledge information printed in the Warminster Journals of 22nd (?) July and 12th August for the above report, and many thanks to Bryan Scott for giving copies of the relevant articles to me – Ed.***



**The present day view of the old DMS building at Mount Street showing the West end where the headmaster's garden and Physical Exercise area would have been, ref John Howell, see page 3.**

### **That Poem!**

A poem collected by John Edney from one of the characters he had met, & re-told (modified!) by John at the 2011 DMA Dinner.

### **The Horse and Mule.**

The horse and mule live thirty years  
And nothing know of wines or beers  
The goat and sheep at twenty die

But never tasted Scotch or Rye  
The cow drinks water by the ton  
And at eighteen is almost done.

The dog at fifteen cashes in  
Without the aid of Rum or Gin  
The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then in twelve short years it croaks  
The useful, sober, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for men and dies at ten.

All animals are strictly dry  
Teetotal live and quickly die  
But jolly Old Morg fun Filled men  
Survive for three score years and ten  
And some of us (though mighty few)  
Stay pickled till we're ninety two!

**Thank You, John!!**

### **Dr Morgan's Society and Association Amalgamation.**

Talks with the Society representatives have gone exceedingly well and Dick Raymond, Society secretary, is sending out details to their members in his 2012 New Year's letter. I have limited space here, but Mike Dodden's accompanying letter to Association members will no doubt explain in more detail. This will be the last DMA Newsletter; in June (DV) we shall have the first "Old Morganians' Newsletter" for the combined group, Mike Dodden kindly having agreed to be in charge of circulation to all OM members. Mike will also be the Treasurer of the new group and a new fund for subscriptions and dinner charges will be set up by him, so please be particularly aware to make cheques out as requested **and not to the old fund**. I shall continue, for the time being, to edit the Newsletter and will be pleased to get items for inclusion in it from ALL members – I hope for a big surge of memoirs and tales from our new readers but still want our old readers to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboards! This edition I considered inappropriate as the first for all as it contains only half of David Derham's history of our old school house names, but if some DMSoc. members do receive it, I apologise for the half article and am aware that it needs repeating in full at some later date.

A Very Happy New Year, and 'Amalgamation Year' Greetings to ALL our readers.

The next DMSoc./DMA combined committees' meeting is at the Tudor on 30th January, at 7.30pm.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DMA Website Address is [drmorganians.com](http://drmorganians.com) (and will continue as such for "Old Morganians" Please be patient for the 'DMA' format to be amended.) Details below will change in June edition.**

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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 [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.