

T.O.G.S. NEWS.

The Newsletter of Torquay Old Grammarians Society

Torquay Boys Grammar School, Shiphay Manor Drive, Torquay. TQ2 7EL
Tel: 01803 615501. Fax: 01803 614613 Volume 28 Spring 2009

From The Editor:-I am pleased to publish another Newsletter. Unfortunately we have not received many contributions from members but I am pleased to note there are fewer obituary notices.

The frequency and content of the newsletters is determined by information which comes to us from Old Boys themselves, from the School and what we are able to extract from the Herald Express newspaper.

We would very much like more input from the members, whether it be in the form of extended career summaries or anecdotes from their time at school

Annual General Meeting, November 2009.

Patron of the Society.

Denis J. Reid (1933 -'39) At the above meeting Denis, a past president, was unanimously elected as **Patron of the Society**. Few have done more than Denis to support and further the interests of Grammar Schools and the Torquay Grammar Schools in particular. After leaving the school in 1939 Denis qualified as a Dental Surgeon in 1944. As well as having a Dental Practice in Torquay, Denis became a local councillor, and as such, successfully fought for the retention of the Grammar Schools when the Government's policy was for Comprehensive Education. He was Mayor of Torquay when the Queen visited Torbay in 1988 for the William of Orange Bicentenary Celebrations and was elected a Freeman of the Borough in 2001. Denis served on the Board of Governors of the Grammar School for 32 years and was Chairman for the last 3 of those years. He has been a stalwart member of T.O.G.S., served as President, as a Committee member and has attended the majority of meetings and the Annual Reunion Dinners.

President of the Society

Michael Angelos (1947-'53) was unanimously elected as your **President**. Michael joined the Grammar School in 1947 from Westhill School and left in 1953. Michael states that he was in the first group to take the new G.C.E. examinations as opposed to the Old School Certificate and confesses he did not shine. A keen sportsman he played football for the 2nd XI and also captained Pitman House team when it won the Cricket Shield. After leaving the school Michael joined the Royal Air Force for four years 1954 -58, serving three years in Germany. He then worked as a photographer for four years before he joined the South Western Electricity Board and served for 21 years leaving in 1982. After school and R.A.F. service, sport continued to play a major part in his life with snooker, table tennis, darts, football and cricket to a reasonable standard before taking up golf in 1962. On leaving S.W.E.B. Michael became self-employed with a residential guest house and then residential flats until retirement but he still enjoys golf! Michael is a keen supporter of T.O.G.S. attending the AGMs and the majority of Annual Dinners.

T.O.G.S. Annual Reunion Dinner 2009.

The dinner will be held at the Riviera Conference Centre on Friday July 3rd
Dress: Lounge Suits or Blazer/Sports Coat and smart trousers. Free Parking for the evening. A dinner ticket application form is attached to this Newsletter.

News from the School

Shiphay Manor has been transferred from the ownership of the Torquay Girls' Grammar School to the Boys' Grammar School. It is in rather a dilapidated condition and the Headmaster, Mr Roy Pike, wishes to spend £500,000 on it to turn it into a 21st Century Visual Arts Centre. To this end the school has obtained planning permission for 32 homes on a steep area of problematic, scrubby land off Raleigh Avenue. It is designated to be "Social Housing". Money raised from this sale will provide funds for the Manor's restoration. Mr Pike added: " The Mayor is quite supportive and wants to make sure the Manor doesn't fall into disrepair. Everyone can see the value of preserving the historical manor which would be preserved for the whole community ".

Girls on the School Roll? Although pupils from the Girls' Grammar School have for some years shared the facilities of the Sixth form college with the Boys' Grammar School it is reported that a pioneering group of girl pupils have applied to join Torquay Boys' Grammar School for the first time in its history. The girls from schools around South Devon will join a group of boys who are opting to give up A Level examinations in favour of the International Baccalaureate from September. This will only apply to those joining to the Sixth Form.

News of Old Boys.

Jai Geyer (2006-'08) Former student Jai Geyer has produced his best form, winning an International Alpine Ski Competition in the French resort of Megeve. From a field of mainly French and Swiss racers, after leading the first run on the Giant Slalom, Jai (18) finished second on the next run which proved enough to secure his first international success. In 2007 T.O.G.S. supported Jai with a cheque towards his expenses when he represented Great Britain at the Winter Youth Olympics.(Herald Express)

Lee Farmer (1983-'88) Last year Lee made the ascent of Everest and spent this winter leading a six week expedition to the South Pole. The group of 12 people visited the Scott Amundsen Scientific Station and the South Pole itself. In between Lee also obtained an MBA in business management and says he has developed an additional career speaking about his expeditions and taking on new expedition challenges.(Herald Express)

Paul Dunn (1981-'88) "Old Boy" Commander Paul Dunn R.N. was the Guest Speaker and presented prizes at the Grammar School Speech Day. Commander Dunn was promoted to the top job on HMS Vigilant, a Vanguard Class submarine which carries the UK's nuclear deterrent, the Trident ballistic missile. He admitted that he had a somewhat undistinguished school career and joined submarines because he couldn't find his sea legs on surface vessels.(Herald Express)

Simon Crowe (1976-'83) Simon is the executive producer behind a £27million blockbuster film " The Secret of Moonacre". He left school in 1983 after finishing his A Levels and moved to London where he became involved in the film industry. His Company is "Velvet Octopus" which he set up three years ago after working for 8 years with Mel Gibson's production Company "Icon". (Herald Express)

Roger Deakins (1960-'67) Roger once again was nominated (jointly) for best cinematographer for his part in the making of "The Reader" starring Kate Winslet. Kate won an Oscar for best actress but unfortunately Roger missed out on an Oscar for the eighth time. (Herald Express)

Owen Nankivell (1937-'45) The Herald Express reported that Owen in his annual "State of Torbay" address suggested that one way of increasing trade in Torbay town centres would be to offer free parking between 10am and 4pm. The Council seem to have taken some note but so far have only subscribed to parking for £1 at weekends.

Memories.

In a Bygones edition printed in the Herald Express (17/02/09) was a photo/caption and article concerning the Torquay Boys' Grammar School 7-a-side triumph in the Devon County 7-a-side cup in 1969. This elicited a response from **David Attridge**, the schoolteacher in the photograph. David wrote "*I was a chemistry teacher at T.B.G.S from January 1965 to December 1969. It was my first teaching position and a very happy one at that. Don Roberts was my Head of Department and I enjoyed playing rugby for Torquay Athletic Rugby Club as well as coaching under 16's rugby. Here I was encouraged to be involved by David Golder -an inspiration -who was Head of P.E. I thoroughly enjoyed my teaching days at the school in the lab/classroom and on the pitch with a collection of boys who presented a challenge but a most rewarding one!*

The 7's victory was the culmination of a number of seasons hard work. Seen in the picture some fine young men who showed real talent. They won the South Devon competition by beating Audley Park in that final and progressed to Exeter County Ground for their ultimate triumph. However it was touch and go -not on the rugby pitch -but a matter of school rules! On the day of the competition at Exeter, some boys arrived without school uniform. For a moment it seemed that we would not have a complete team as the rule was 'no uniform -no play'. However the boys would be allowed to play if they collected their school uniform from home. The coaches, both vehicle and person, were busy for the next half an hour.

I have now retired from teaching after some thirty seven years in the profession, and live in the Portsmouth area. I remember the team with great affection and carry the commemorative pen that they gave me, to this day.

T.O.G.S. Ties

The TOGS tie is available from the Treasurer at £9 (inc. p&p) .

Copies of the T.B.G.S. Centenary Book are available from the School. Tel. No. 01803 615501

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Obituary.

Raymond John Chilvers (1940's). A celebration of the life of Raymond Chilvers was the subject of a service held at Torquay Crematorium on the 6th November 2008.

In the days before Television everyone went to the cinema at least once a fortnight. Every night Raymond could be seen entertaining audiences at the console of the illuminated Compton organ as it rose up through the floor of Torquay's largest cinema, the Regal. Thus for a time he was a local celebrity, recognised by everyone in Torquay. Budding Romeos would often approach him in the street, requesting he play a special romantic song for that night's hot date they were taking to the cinema. He went on to be a well known and sought after entertainer around the hotels of Torquay He was always somewhat shy about his precious talent and took it in his stride. When offered the chance to appear on the radio, he turned it down, much to the consternation of his family. He was happiest playing to local people and felt uncomfortable with the pomp and ceremony that surrounds concerts and what he called "High Brow" performances. He could play virtually any song or concerto you would care to name from memory, whilst chatting you at the same time. He would take an almost childlike delight in shocking the unprepared by effortlessly switching from Stevie Wonder to Schubert and back, on a whim or request. It was a talent that he used to amaze and entertain, be it at a party at Dartmoor Prison, a Wedding Service or the guests at the Beverly Hills Hotel, California, he did it, because he could. (Committee member Christopher Madge went to the Service and it is thanks to him and Raymond's family that we print the above from the Order of Service Card).

Memorial Shield Adam Bynoth (2000-'07). Adam's obituary notice was printed in the Autumn Newsletter after he died tragically from a rare disease believed to be Guillain-Barre syndrome on Friday morning October 3rd 2008. Your Officers and Committee have proposed that a Shield, named the "Adam Bynoth Memorial Shield" should be purchased by T.O.G.S. and be presented to the

School in his memory.

Torquay Old Grammarians Society.

Patron:	Denis Reid
President:	Michael Angelos
Hon Sec:	J.V. Pearce
Treasurer.	P.Whatton
Registrar.	David Simmons

Committee: D Cavaliere, B Holmes, C Madge, C Turner, P.G. Willis, S. Margetts, John Alford
Vice-Presidents: (who also serve as Committee members) R E Pike, D. Reid, Don. Roberts,

D. Brunsdon, Simon Whittaker, Len Lewis. Graham Bradshaw

Honorary Members.

Current Staff:-Roy E Pike (Headmaster), Chris. D Penford Former Staff:-Barry K Hobbs (Headmaster 1982-'86), Peter J Hewitt (Deputy Headmaster), David Berry (Deputy Headmaster), Gilbert Head-Rapson, John B Hopwood, David Johnson, Don J Roberts, David Golder, Ian Kay, David Kerswell, A.K.Hele. Governors:-Chairman Brian Wills-Pope.