

# THE RED ROSE 2013

## CONTENTS

FORMER CHAIRMEN & ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	2
EDITORIAL	3
PRESIDENT'S LETTER	5
CHAIRMAN'S LETTER	6
OLD GEORGIANS' NEWS	8
OBITUARIES	17
SOCIAL EVENTS 2012-13	18
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	27
MY FIRST DAY AT KGV	31
2012 ARRIVES & RED ROSE ARCHIVES	35
GEOFFREY DIXON CENTENARY	36
RED ROSE SURVEY	37
FORTH COMING EVENTS	40
MEMORABILIA	42
CONTACTS	42
SPONSORS	43

## **FORMER CHAIRMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **KGV OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

T P Spencer (24) W Beetham (25) R E Sanderson (26-7) C I Minshull (28)  
S J Hargreaves (29) A V Cunliffe (30) W M Towers (31) A V Cunliffe (32)  
R E Sanderson (33) A D Sawyer (35) P Slater (36) G K Bridge (47)  
D F Sutton (48) P Slater (49) T E Booth (51) G P Wakefield (52)  
L Duckworth (53) J W Lord (54) J Edwards (55) S C Wilford (56)  
K Rostron (57) J R Edwards (58) R A Lloyd (59) H E Nettleton (60)  
G Barnes (61) G Walton (62) H Long (63&4) M B Enright (65)  
H Evans (66) A V Langfeld (67) A Fairclough (68) H J M Royden (69)  
D Brown (70) R Abram (71) S B Rimmer (72) A J Chandler (73)  
J R N Petty (74) S B Fletcher (75) J N Rostron (76)  
C W Jerram (77) E G Cowen (78)

### **OLD GEORGIANS' ASSOCIATION**

T H Dutton (79) G Livesley (80) M M Lockyer (81) R Fletcher (82)  
J C West (83) J J Marriner (84) G T Seed (85) M J Waring (86)  
R A Barnett (87) B M Rimmer (88) J R Pilling (89) P D Bagshaw (90)  
R C Fearn (91) E A Ogden (92) J R Elliott (93) R O Jeffs (94)  
M J Fearn (95) A Bond (96&7) C Threlfall (98) M R E Hyde (99)  
G F Dixon (2000) S L Bond (01) A D Hughes (02) J P Marsh (03)  
K F Edwardson (04) D Burton (05) R Abram (06) D Lonsdale (07)  
Catherine Lapsley (08) Janice Darkes-Sutcliffe (09&10) D Lonsdale (11)  
Neil Spencer (12)

## **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT	Adele Wills
VICE PRESIDENTS	Former Chairmen & Presidents
CHAIRMAN	Neil Spencer
VICE CHAIRMAN	David Lonsdale
SECRETARY	Martin Fearn
TREASURER	David Lonsdale (Acting)
RED ROSE EDITOR	Jonathan Elliott
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jonathan Elliott
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Jonathan Elliott
COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE	Pam Shea
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE	Paul Bagshaw
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Former Chairmen & Co-optees

## **EDITORIAL**

Welcome to the Red Rose 2013. If you are reading this, we made it past Armageddon on 12/12/12, 20/12/12 or whichever date was being considered!

Judging by the correspondence received about the RR 2012, last year's publication was an enjoyable read and I hope this year's can live up to expectation!

2012 has been a good year in many areas, for both the OGA and it's membership and KGV College (see our Presidents letter).

The Olympics came to the College (see article on page 33). The Annual Dinner successfully returned to a former location, the Prince of Wales Hotel (page 20). Our two other social events, the Quiz Night and the Snooker Night were a resounding success (see *Fearn Campaign Triumphs By Default*, pages 26 to 28).

Our membership has rallied to the cause with many donations (see page 40), especially from the Neil and Colin Hunt who generously sponsored this year's magazine to cover the postage cost. If any of you are ever nearby, please visit one of their hostleries in neighbouring Yorkshire (back pages).

The request in the 2012 magazine for OGA news has turned out well, with an expanded section in this year's publication. Please continue to send in your news and we will ensure it is published in the following magazine. Some people have commented that this may be 10 months later and what is the point. Well, there is little that can be done about that, but all I can say is any news is welcome news, regardless of it's time line.

My thanks to those who sent in their updates by email – it is much quicker to enter it into the magazine than written correspondence. If you can continue that practice, please do so. But for those who prefer the quill and parchment, please still send in your news!

My one disappointment is the response to our plea for an update to the membership list and your desire to continue to receive the publication. The magazine costs around £1500 to produce and distribute each year and we do not generate that amount of cash from our events and membership. We have to rely on donations and bank interest. Therefore, it is important that we manage this cost as effectively as possible. We do not want to cut the content, although there are boundaries we have to be aware of – 44 pages ensures the magazine stays within the 'small letter' category for

postage. Therefore we need to be certain that we are being efficient with our production volume. Last year I included an insert and plea for an update, either by returning the insert or contacting me via text or email, as to whether you still wanted to receive the magazine and by what means. From our 1500 members/circulation, I received a disappointing 280 replies!

With this small return and with such a large unanswered membership, we can not just simply cut the magazine back by 1200 copies. The committee understands that it is easy to delay the reply and then forget. It is also quite likely that magazines are being delivered to void addresses and the resident has not carried out a 'return to sender' to the College address on the envelope. These are the ones we want to remove from our mailing list, so it is important that we can distinguish them from any other 'non-reply'.

With that in mind, please can we once again request your response to continue to receive the annual Red Rose magazine.

You can return the insert, with or without any personal information (although 'with' is good for the News of Old Georgians section).

Or you can email – jonelliott61@hotmail.com

Or you can text - 07969889843

The committee has further discussed this project and decided to continue with one last effort. To those who replied, our thanks and you are listed on page 37 to confirm that we have your response and do not need to reply this time around (unless you have changed address!).

The magazine will continue to be available on the OGA web site via the KGV College web site. So if you do not want or need a paper copy, please tell us.

If you do still want a paper copy sent to you – please tell us. We want to know the cost is not wasted by sending it to a void address.

My final request is for volunteers in the Southport area. If you can assist us in placing the RR into envelopes or hand delivering 20-30 copies in the Southport area, please will you contact either Stan or myself and we will let you know when this will be required. We usually carry out the enveloping on a Friday lunchtime at the College in January, with the delivery taking place as soon after that as people can manage.

May I wish you a fantastic 2013 and I hope that you continue to enjoy your Red Rose.

***Jonathan R Elliott – RR Editor (Grears 1973-1980)***

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Old Georgians,

I can't believe that I'm sitting down to write this letter as I head for my third Christmas at KGV. Where did those two years go?!

In many respects, it feels as if I've been here for much longer as it has been a very eventful two years. The economic environment gets no easier for anyone and ensuring the College's future financial viability remains a key challenge. We face another change to the national funding methodology which will result in yet more cuts so our belt is feeling very tight indeed.

Educational policy also seems to be changing on a daily basis and keeping abreast of the current breath-taking array of initiatives is certainly exhilarating. The general direction of travel at present seems to be towards a much more traditional post-16 curriculum offer with a fundamental review of what a study programme should be, new A Level and GCSE courses to be introduced in 2014 (with the immediate removal of January modular exams) and a new Ofsted inspection regime that was introduced this term. That should just about cover everything we do!

As ever, in the calm eye of this hurricane of change remain those qualities that make KGV the unique College it is: its staff and students. We celebrate another year of fantastic results both in A Level and BTEC courses. We were also 'pleased' to host a visit from Ofsted in the Spring term and, given the new robust inspection regime, we were delighted with the outcome. You can read the full report on the Ofsted website. Inspectors said lots of positive things about the College, but perhaps the comment that I remember most is that our students are among the politest and most respectful that they have ever met. While KGV has always been a place of academic excellence, it is also so important to me that our young people develop into mature, well-balanced citizens of the world and for that to be recognised by Ofsted has to be the highest accolade.

Last year, I reported on our luck in securing a building grant which allowed us to refurbish our Learning Centre and Refectory. I hope that many of you will have been able to visit to see the fruits of this work. This year, we were granted a similar amount of money and have used it to upgrade the Science laboratories and re-locate our Learning Support department into a new suite of custom-built rooms. Science provision has always been strong at KGV and this new resource gives us the opportunity to add to our very successful A Level courses – in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Electronics – by introducing a new BTEC Extended Diploma in Science, aimed at young people who are looking for a general science course with a more specific

industry focus. The official opening of the new Science suite will be before the College Christmas Concert on 18 December when we are also hoping to hold a short ceremony of re-dedication to Ken Rostron, to whom the previous labs stood as a memorial.

And finally my review of this year would not be complete without a special mention of the honour of being chosen as the site for the start of the Olympic Torch relay in Southport back in June. It was a wonderful day that will remain in the memory of all those who were involved and there was a tangible feeling of celebration. My personal thanks go to Jan Regan, Assistant Principal, who stage managed everything to perfection and the event was enjoyed not only by staff, students and friends of the College, but also by many of the pupils from our partner schools. It was a truly inspiring day and, like the whole Olympic summer, a reminder of what makes us great: the foundation of our traditions giving strength and optimism to the next generation. In these difficult times, that's a message that we must all remember.

**Adele Wills**

### **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**

Dear Old Georgians,

My first term as chair of the Old Georgians Association began at the annual dinner at Easter with a few puzzled looks and subtle checking of the rule books as I was nominated and voted in. Was the association quite sure that a "youngster" of 40 and former two year "A"- level student actually allowed to become chair?

I have been nothing if not consistent. At the annual quiz, despite gathering together the finest (and only available) fellow Old Georgians from my year, we were placed around the bottom of the teams gathered (note for future years...play your joker, keeping it safely hidden on the table does not benefit your team in any way shape or form). Promising myself that I would make a much better showing at the annual snooker, bowls and darts evening. Surely growing up playing far too many computer games and losing the odd hour or two playing pool in student union bars, would give

me superior hand, eye co-ordination and muscle memory! Alas, NO! First round exits in all three events demonstrated that experience is not to be overlooked.

I shall shortly be visiting the college to tour the learning centre, poke my head into a few of my old class rooms and most importantly take in the wonderful Christmas Concert.

In early March I intend to re-launch the vaunted Chairman's weekend. The final details of suitable location and accommodation are being finalised. I look forward to seeing faces both new and familiar and no-one will be allowed to leave until I have won at something.

The Association's main social highlight will once again be the annual dinner at Easter I am hoping that the guest speaker will be a very close and long standing friend of mine, Andrew Marsh. Since leaving college Andrew has been living in London. He has somehow found the time and money to travel the world, annoyingly defies the on-set of middle age and is a co-founder of a wonderful charity helping premature babies. A word of warning mind. He can be incredibly charming and persuasive so if he asks what you are doing next July and then mentions cycling the length of the country or rowing to Paris, tell him your busy! I am looking forward to seeing a packed function room.

Finally I would like to add my voice to the words of former Chairmen. The Association is maintained and organised by a dedicated group of committee members and Old Georgians. If anyone would like to help or offer advice by joining the committee and supporting the association with the college, the organisation of the dinner and the publication of the Red Rose, they would be made very welcome. The meetings are infrequent and relaxed and the serving of drinks and choice of biscuits are high on the agenda.

May I wish you all a successful and happy year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future events.

**Neil Spencer 1988-1990**

## **OLD GEORGIANS' NEWS**

### **Mike Alexander (Rogers 1960-66)**

Mike retired early from his position as CEO with British Energy some years ago and continues to develop a non executive portfolio. A recent addition has been as Deputy Chair of a Russian mining company. Despite some publicity to the contrary, Mike has been impressed with the Russian adherence to UK corporate governance and their enthusiasm for the market economy. Mike recommends the NED world to those tempted – but it limits the visits back to Southport!

### **Professor Chris Ashley (Evans 1951-59)**

Chris has now retired as a Medical Tutor at Corpus Christie and is now Emeritus Professor of Physiology at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow of Corpus Christie.

### **John E Aughton (Evans 1951-58)**

After 47 years away, John returned to live in Southport in 2005. He has retired after spending his working life in research and development in the electronics industry.

### **Craig Bromilow (Evans 1974-80)**

Craig joined the 'granddad' club last year, with the arrival of Harry in September. Married to Karen (nee James, KGV 79-81) and living in Southport.

### **Victoria E Bould (1988-90)**

Victoria has progressed in her teaching career to the position of Head Teacher at a primary school in Morecambe.

### **Allan Brookfield (Edwards 1949-56)**

Allan retired from teaching in 1996. During his career, he was one of the pioneers in Media Education. He is now a co-organiser of Birmingham International Film Society. He has 4 grandchildren and one great grandson.

### **Peter W Brunt (Evans 1950-54)**

Peter has just completed his term as Chairman of Alcohol Focus in Scotland and is the VP of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. He is also VP for the Medical Council on Alcohol and has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

**Fraser Campbell, Dr. (Amers 1975-81)**

“I’ve been splitting my work time each week over the past twenty years between being a GP partner in Prestatyn and a Medical Advisor/Medical Director in various different guises in the North West of England and latterly across North Wales. My wife and I also own a couple of pharmacies in Denbighshire, just to add to the general melee of work each week. “

**Michael J Cattrall (Leechs 1969-75)**

Michael is Assistant Head Teacher at Hall Cross School in Doncaster where he has taught for 33 years. Michael was a member of the Southport RUFC Colts team of 1975 that won the Lancashire Cup and recently met up with Mark Greenhalgh. It is worth noting every member of that team came from KGV! (How about a re-union at the dinner in 2013? – ed).

**PA Caunce (1977-84)**

Peter currently works within the logistics department of Morrisons Supermarket. He visits Southport regularly and is hoping to join us at the Snooker evening as he is a regular player at home. Peter recalls many connections to Southport, noting purchasing his first racing bike from Norman Moss crop and watching his father play bowls with Bob Abram.

**Duncan Chandler (Evans 1970-77)**

Duncan has been made redundant twice in 5 years, which helped in his decision to set up his own business in March 2010 which has proved successful and looking to expand in 2012. He has recently qualified as an RFU referee and moved up to Level 3 - sometimes hard going at the tender age of 52 !!

**David P Charters (Edwards 1958-65)**

David lives in Cambridge and retired 11 years ago, having sold his port folio management company to a London merchant bank.

**John Clough (Staff, 1956-1990)**

Mr Clough wrote in to apologise for not being able to attend the dinner in 2012 due to a scheduled operation which clashed. He hopes to attend in 2013. The OGA Committee wishes him well and looks forward to seeing him.

**Don Crompton (Grears 1952-58)**

Don’s passion for golf led him to the Captainship of Thirsk and North Allerton Golf Club in 2003 and he is now on the Harrogate and District Captain Society Committee.

**Gordon A Croome (Leech's 1968 - 1973)**

"Many thanks once again for the annual memory jogger that is the Red Rose magazine. Having just completed reading another interesting chapter, I am trying to recollect the last time I provided any commentary on life's progress for the dubious "benefit" of readers from my own generation of students. Over 37 years have passed since leaving the hallowed corridors of KGV and joining Nat West Bank in Southport. Nat West takeover by Royal Bank of Scotland resulted in relocation to Scotland followed by my involvement in the technology integration of Nat West onto the RBS operating platform. Major divisional and cross-divisional project and programme governance has featured heavily in daily activities since, recently including UK telephony transformation, initial planning for the divestment of branches to Santander UK and Planning & Dependency Management of the multitude of projects that will deliver the transformation of the Retail Bank into the most helpful & that will return the Bank to stand alone strength.

Juggling work responsibilities with (a decreasing frequency of) sporting involvement together with as much time possible with wife Joan, and (now grown up) children Donna & Carl remains a priority."

**Lance B Davies (Leeches 1955-62)**

Now enjoying retirement since 2008 from Airbus, spending his spare time, if any, being treasurer of two associations, one for mentally handicapped children, and the other for Airbus Sports & Cultural, 6000 members! Lance was awarded the French Societe d'Encouragement au Bien medal for social activities

**John Davis (Evans 1957-64)**

John is now 66 years young but not yet ready for retirement, having recently launched a new toy company as their Sales Account Manager.

**Ron Ellis (Masons 1952-59)**

Ron is currently the Arts Editor for Champion Newspapers in Southport.

**Michael Gibbons (Grears 1950-56)**

Michael married Rozale in 1962 and worked for the NatWest from 1956 to 1974. He left banking and went to work as an accountant for British Aerospace in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Malaysia. He retired to Cyprus in 1992 and celebrates his golden wedding anniversary this year.

**SJ Gordon (Grears 1952-60)**

Mr Gordon sent in an interesting page from the SFC program, noting that Southport was originally in the County of Palatine and still is! Anyone confused can just post to Southport and PR8 or PR9!

**Chris Hale**

Sadly, Chris is now in a nursing home in Southport, suffering from MS. (Ed – apologies for such little information about Chris, this has come via several sources).

**Colin Halsall (Honeybones 1972-79)**

“After graduating I spent three years teaching mathematics at a school on the south coast. I enjoyed my time teaching but although I tried, I never quite managed to look as menacing as Mr Wohlers did with a cup of coffee in his hand! I therefore decided to move into the I.T. world and spent the next 25 years working within a number of banks and insurance companies, focussing on strategic business change and the use of technology. In 2011 as my 50th approached, I decided I had researched the offices and motorways of the UK enough and it was time for a well earned rest and to spend more time at home with my family before they all flew the nest. I have thoroughly enjoyed this time but am now starting to look forward to the next challenge. “

**Mike Halsall (Grears 1966-74)**

Former School Captain/Head boy, Mike is gliding to retirement as a part time accountant, with 2 great lads as grand kids who keep him occupied on his days off. Mike is still married to my wife of 35 years and living in Nottingham.

**John Haynes (Leechs 1961-1968)**

John retired 2 years ago after 42 years in the banking world. He has recently been appointed Trustee and Vice Treasurer of a large Wirral based charity and is also Social Secretary elect of the Merseyside branch of his former employers Pension Association. Life continues to be active following Tranmere Rovers FC and 30 years membership of the Merseyside Quiz League (How about bringing a team to the OGA Annual Quiz John? – Ed). John has celebrated 37 years of marriage to Pauline and notes he first watched television in colour at his cousin's house, which is now the domain of the Editor. John also noted a poem of his was featured in the RR archives last year from the 1968 edition duplicated.

**Dr Cyril P Hershon (Spencers 1948-55)**

Cyril is now approaching his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday – in fact he will have achieved this by the time of this publication. He is still researching full time as an associate fellow of his alma mater, Birmingham University. He is working on editing the first Occitan version of the 14<sup>th</sup> century encyclopaedia, the *Elucidari*.

**Henry Howard (Rogers 1932-36)**

Henry is now 92, and many years retired from his career with HBOS when it was known as the Halifax Building Society. Although the names he recognises in the RR are now diminishing, he can clearly recall many events in his school life, especially his mentor, 'Lettuce'.

**Simon Howard (MS2)**

Simon is now living and working in the North East of England as a doctor, specialising in public health.

**Colin Hunt (Leeches 1974-81)**

"Having left KGV in 1981 did nothing really until joining Merseyside Police in 1982 (that should surprise a few people) in which I served at Lower Lane police station. I left the service 12 months later deciding this was not my career path. I then joined Merseyside Fire Brigade in 1984 and served until 1998 at Southport Fire Station when I was retired on ill health grounds (arthritis). Then not knowing really what to do I reverted to type and decided pubs were where my destiny lay. I started out with a pub in Newcastle-under-Lyme before moving to Bamber Bridge, Preston. Then in 2000 I went in to partnership with my brother Neil and we purchased our pub in Hatfield, Doncaster. To date I am still running this with my wife Sheryl. I have 3 children, all boys, aged 24, 23 and 22 and am now proud grandparents of grandson Jack. Quite a few people will also remember me from sporting activities in the Southport area in both cricket and football especially. Unfortunately these too went the way of the fire service due to arthritis.

Should anyone wish to look me up please refer to the back pages of the Red Rose."

**Robert B Hunt (Evans 1955-61)**

Robert trained in Medical Laboratory Technology on leaving KGV and emigrated to Canada in 1969. He initially lived in Ontario, but is now in Edmonton, Alberta. He retired five years ago after twenty nine years with the Gross Cancer Institute as Laboratory Manager. He is now working on perfecting his golf swing. He sends greetings to those of his generation.

**Simon Jones (Grears 1973-79)**

Simon has just left the Civil Service after a long career and has set up as a walking tour guide in London.

**Stewart Kersh (Leeches 1953-59)**

Stewart retired as a senior partner of chartered surveyors Sutton Keish, in 2008.

**Graham Stuart LaCourt (Spencers 1967-74)**

Having spent nearly 30 years travelling with work and the last 10 in China, Graham has returned to the UK to retire from work – but “not from life”.

**Tony Lancaster (Grears 1951-56)**

Retired as Goldberger Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, Brown University, U.S.A. in 2008. Currently work part time as Consultant Biostatistician in the Brown University Medical School.

We maintain a flat in Beverley, East Riding and summer there. In January 2012 my wife Jane (from Walsall) and I went round, and landed on, Cape Horn. See the 7 minute video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXbdCUKJayM>

**Keith A Lawson (Edwards 1962-69)**

Keith retired last years after 25 years as Nutritional Director for Wm Thompson Ltd.

**Robert Lloyd (Lunns 1976-82)**

Robert has been a Police Officer in Nottingham since 1985 and is currently the Senior Forensic Collision Investigator with the force.

**Alan Murgatroyd (Evans 1946-51)**

Alan is still a flying instructor in New Zealand, though' the medical profession and the NZ Civil Aviation Authority are clipping his wings a little, which might be expected at age 77 ! Alan has been active in the N.Z. Coastguard Volunteer Air Patrol for many years, President of his local unit for over 12 years, though' he has finally passed that mantle on to another, but last year was awarded the NZ Coastguard Air Patrol Person of the Year, and his prize was a week in the USA, in Indiana, to observe and participate in a week long training school organised for pilots and crews of the USA Civil Air Patrols, groups of volunteers like his own Coastguard unit, though' they fly for a variety of American Emergency Services, not only for Coastguard as in NZ. Alan's' American wife said that if the first prize was a week in Indiana in August, then second prize must be two weeks in Indiana, she'd been to Indiana and wasn't going again, so enjoyed some time in

Southern California instead ! In fact Alan thoroughly enjoyed his stay, and remarked that having been retired from his aviation career for over seventeen years, finding himself totally immersed in aviation again for a week was a pleasure in itself.

Alan was amused to discover that the US CAP's had been formed in 1941, just one week before the attack on Pearl Harbour, and had been primarily used to shadow German submarines that used to patrol off the East coast of the USA. One such patrol had observed a submarine stuck on a sandbank, but had been unable to do anything but watch as the tide rose and the vessel eventually refloated and slipped away. On hearing of this President Roosevelt ordered that the Civil Air Patrols be armed with bombs, and two submarines were subsequently sunk as a result. It is recorded that a U-Boat Commander claimed that the thing he feared most on those patrols were those pesky little yellow aeroplanes ! Alan has noted that the NZ Coastguard CEO has told him that the NZ Coastguard aircraft will not be armed !

**David Newton (Rogers 1960-67)**

David was a Head Teacher at a secondary school in Knowsley and retired in August 2009. He is now working as an Education Consultant.

**Tom Newton (1998-2000)**

Tom is an equine vet, living and working in the North East. In September 2011, he married Laura, who is also a vet.

**Perry Price (Amers 1975-82)**

Perry is now ten years into his second teaching career, having run the family business for six years after his first ten years in education. He now teaches physics at Merchant Taylors Girls School in Crosby, having taken over from Frank Large's wife when she retired. Perry sends his best wishes to those who remember him, his brother Julian and his indefatigable and former KGV teacher mum, Audrey.

**Barry Ramm (Leeches 1941-54)**

Barry is still in touch and, along with many, was saddened to hear of Bob Abram's passing.

**Peter Rigby (Edwards 1966-73)**

"I left school in 1973 and gained a degree in Economics at Manchester University I then studied and qualified as an accountant working for Metal Box and WH Smith before joining my current company Informa (a UK quoted media business) in 1983. I became chief executive of Informa in 1989. At KGV I was captain of rugby, vice -captain of cricket, deputy head

boy, Edwards's house captain and school fixture secretary. Sport was everything and I subsequently played rugby at Waterloo and Southport and cricket at S&B. In 1978 I moved to Wiltshire with work and continued playing sports to this day (too old for contact rugby though). In 2010 we moved to Switzerland and live near Luzerne. I am married with a married son and two daughters. So a bit of skiing now as well"

**Stephen Salt (Leechs 1956-63)**

Stephen retired from teaching physics in 2004 and is now an active worker with his local Citizens Advice Bureau and is a Volunteer Director on the board. He has two grand daughters, a large garden and a black Labrador to keep him fit!

**Benjamin Sanderson**

Ben is now working for the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

**Noel Shearer (Amers 1973-81)**

"Still living in Wirral. By the time Red Rose 2013 comes out, my 2 lads will be in 6<sup>th</sup> form and University (hopefully!). I am now an Area Commercial Manager for United Utilities in Warrington. "

**Keith Shorrocks (Rogers 1944-49)**

Keith is an Honorary Life Member of the RAF Sailing Association and has completed 7 ocean crossings in the last 5 years, including a round the world sortie via Panama, Brazil and South Africa, where he met OG Peter Turton. Keith sails 7 weeks a year around Greece in the yacht of which he has a share. He is an active member of Southport RUFC where his wife, Ann, is President.

**Conrad Slater (Woodhams 1945-54)**

76 year old Conrad started to learn the piano last year. Despite deteriorating eye sight and an ageing memory, he surprised himself by passing the ABRSM Grade 1 Examination with Distinction.

**Peter D Taylor (Evans 1960-68)**

Peter left the North West in 1996 to take up the post of Diocesan Director of Education in Leicester. He moved on to the Church of England Academy Services (Ltd) in 2009 to project manage the delivery of Church Academies. He took early retirement in July 2011 and subsequently is under taking charity work and looking after his two grand daughters.

**Michael Charles Thompson (Edwards 1948-56)**

“On leaving KGV I enlisted for National Service in the RAF. On demob I emigrated to Central Africa where I served as a Customs Officer with the Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. With the dissolution of the Federation in 1963 I joined the Nyasaland (now Malawi) government for whom I served until 1969 when I returned to the UK. I joined IBM at Chiswick in London and moved to the south coast when the HQ function transferred and held various financial positions at Cosham, Havant and Hursley. After retirement in 1994, I became a Governor at a local primary school for many years. In 2003, I undertook a full time degree course at the University of Portsmouth and gained a BSc (Hons) in Sociology. My love of sport continues undiminished and whilst I always look out for Southport FC I tend to support my local non league club at football and Hampshire at cricket.

**Terence W Tilsley (Evans 1948-53)**

Terence moved to East Sussex in 2006 from Southport. This followed the unfortunate passing of his wife in 1996. He met his new partner in 1999 and seven years of driving to and from her Sussex home convinced him to finally move!

**Paul Whitehead (Edwards 1966-72)**

Paul is the New Product Development Director for Dairy Crest.

**John R Wood (Rogers 1968-74)**

John has been Headmaster of the Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth in Leicestershire since 2007. He was the 2012 Chairman of the Independent Schools Association and is a member of the Board of Independent Schools Council.

**Ian A Young (Rogers 1940-44)**

Ian wrote to us from New South Wales as he prepared his Opel van for a trip to North Queensland, having spent some time locked in during the recent flooding in the Eastern States. He plans to see the Gulf of Carpentaria, Mount Isa and Charters Towers. Most of his family have now emigrated from the UK, with one cousin left in Scotland.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **David Bailey (Edwards 1950-57)**

David passed away at home in Liverpool on 8 December, 2012. Born in Southport on 28 December, 1939 he was a pupil at KGV from 1950 -1957. A keen and talented cricketer David represented his House team and the school 1st XI and played for Crossens in the Southport and District League. On leaving KGV he attended Liverpool University gaining a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering. He emigrated to Canada in the early sixties and after a successful engineering career he returned to Britain in 1989. In his later years David did not enjoy the best of health. He is survived by his partner, Margaret, who cared for him throughout his illness with great love and dedication.

### **Jonathan Chapman (1949-56)**

Jonathan passed on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, aged 74.

### **Kenneth G Halsall (Rogers 1949-56)**

The association was informed by his son that Kenneth passed away on March 15 2011.

### **Ian Livesley**

Ian sadly passed away in 2009. Ian assisted with the OGA web site, bringing up to date the Roll of Honour after some considerable research. Ian is survived by his wife Pat.

### **David N Max (Evans 1948-55)**

David passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 after a long battle with cancer. He was great admirer of the Grammar School system. He spent his career in the legal profession on the Roll of Solicitors, was a stalwart Rotarian and a community activist.

### **Frank J Rimmer (1950-57)**

Franks widow, Ruth, wrote to us to inform the OGA of his passing on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008.

### **Flt.Lt Adam Sanders (2001-2003)**

Adam was tragically killed in an accident whilst operating as a member of the aircrew of an R.A.F. Tornado GR4, in an incident off the Moray Firth on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012. He was aged 27. Adam was converting to the Tornado in preparation to join the 'Dambusters' 617 squadron later in 2012. He was an instructor on the Hawk T1 and described as an extremely talented pilot by his commanding officer.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS 2012**

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

As planned, the 2012 Annual Dinner returned to a former venue, the Prince of Wales Hotel, on Lord Street and what a resounding success!

The International Suite hosted the AGM and the main Ballroom, the dinner. After last years issues with co-hosting both events in the same room, separating them out was clearly the right thing to do and with the AGM taking place in a well lit, quiet and sumptuous room, the issues of last years disco floor were put behind us. Chairman Lonsdale took charge of the proceedings, steering all through the agenda with both efficiency and entertainment. Our incumbent Chair made a sweeping entrance part way through the evening following his vote into the office and continued to work the agenda through to AOB. Welcome Chairman Spencer.

With three bars available to those assembled, guiding the membership towards the Ballroom was a somewhat difficult task, as our wandering herd were easily side tracked to an alternative watering hole between their start point and destination! This led to a delay in starting the dinner, but one which was taken in a jovial manner by all, bearing in mind the renewal of camaraderie and the decent price of a pint in the Prince!

The food was well prepared, excellently served and even more fanatically consumed by those assembled. One point noted was that the tables were kept smaller this year, by request from our membership last year, to allow conversations to take place and be heard by all at the table. This has now been countered by requests for next year to have them larger so that arranged groups are not split up! We will endeavour to cater for both requests in 2013, but we are the mercy of the hotels table availability!

The dinner done, the speeches took place and wise words were spoken. Of success and progress from our President on behalf of the College; of thanks and rallying from our Chairman on behalf of the membership and from our guest speaker, Mr John Lonsdale, regarding his memories of KGV and his subsequent professional career, mainly in television production.

We did over run and the organiser (Ed – it was me) takes the responsibility for that and will keep a closer eye on the watch in 2013 to ensure everyone has sufficient chat and drinking time.

Attending in 2012 (former staff in italics):

Martin Abram	Martin Fearn	Ray Owen
Derek Adams	Ronnie Fearn	Chris Parkinson
John Allen	Terry Fleetwood	Graham Pearce
<i>Maurice Amer</i>	Rob Fletcher	Mike Pendlebury
Colin Andrews	Mark Fletcher	John Pilling
<i>Hilary Anslow</i>	Alistair Ford	Haydn Preece
<i>David Arnold</i>	Stephen Grindley	Ken Priestley
Peers Arnold	Roger Hargreaves	<i>Stan Rimmer</i>
James Arnold	Dave Harrison	John Roberts
Paul Bagshaw	<i>Dorothy Hughes</i>	Dennis Robinson
Frank Ball	Neil Hunt	Michael Robinson
Steven Bell	Colin Hunt	Peter Rostron
Tom Booth	Mike Hyde	John Rostron
Robin Bowen-Williams	John Hyde	Derek Salmon
Steven Bracher	Keith Johns	<i>Michelle Sanderson</i>
Adrian Brown	<i>Caroline Kaye</i>	John Seddon
Paul Bullock	John Keeley	Trevor Seed
Duncan Burton	John Kendrew	Keith Shorrocks
Dave Carter	Ian Kettle	Brian Shorrocks
Mike Chalke	Catherine Lapsley	Neil Spencer
<i>Pauline Collier</i>	Sarah Lapsley	Andrew Sweeney
<i>Chris Collier</i>	<i>Janet Lawley</i>	John Wainwright
Alan Cunliffe	Gordon Lees	Mike Waring
<i>Pauline Davies</i>	David Lonsdale	John Webber
Alan Davies	John Lonsdale	Barrie Whittaker
Mark Day	David Marshall	Adele Wills
Alan Dickinson	<i>Barry Mawer</i>	Tony Wilson
Mark Dransfield	Julian McInenry	Stuart Wincer
Matthew Duffy	Belinda Miller	Chris Winnard
Jonathan Elliott	Tony Milner	<i>John Wohlers</i>
Mark Elsen	Graham Ostick	Alan Wright

**QUIZ NIGHT 2012**  
**(or the Fearn Campaign for World Domination, part 1)**

The fifth undertaking of the OGA Annual Quiz took place at the S&B on May 25th, with an attendance of some 89 people.

Once again, our Quiz Master was John Nelson and presented a fantastic evening of fun, frolics and testing of facts to those assembled.

The College staff took up their own table, with former School and College staff sat at two further reserved tables. OGA members, friends and family quickly claimed the remaining tables to ensure the room was bulging sufficiently to be buzzing with atmosphere, but not too close to allow the occasional peak over a neighbour's shoulder to try to confirm the identity of photo number 12.

Several first timers attended, including our Dinner prestidigitator, Terry Fleetwood and two friends (more later) and the evening took off with fervour as pictures were identified, anagrams solved and dingbats identified.

Further rounds took in sport, music, history and the occasional themed inquisition regarding either the Golden Jubilee or the London Olympics, which kept everyone on their toes until supper was served.

Duly consumed, we were then asked to dance and jive to add extra points to the team scores. It was easy to identify either those who were drunk, had eaten little, or were desperate for points – they moved whilst others sat!

A game of Bums and Heads was played, the raffle drawn and the evening approached its tense conclusion with the announcements of the teams in reverse order. The outgoing Chair was not present this year, to kindly hand over his resident last position to a more deserved team.

Last year's winners were still in the mix as the final two places were declared, only to be scuppered by Mr. Fleetwood's debutant team, by a single point!

Now, the subtext to this finale was the presence of the Honourable Martin Fearn. Martin arrived half way through the evening, claiming mis-information, first about the date, then the venue, then the start time, effectively making each previous excuse implausible. On the advice of the organiser, he joined Terry's team which was the smallest, only for the organiser (also a member of the second placed team) to rue the decision having to face Martin's gloating once the final scores were tallied!

Well done Terry – knowing Martin's prowess (or lack of) for retaining facts, I am sure you would have won without him!

See you all on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013!!

**The 2012 Annual Dinner**



The Associations' Chairman and President at the Annual Dinner



A view of the Ballroom from the balcony at the PoW Hotel



The Head Table



Members at the AGM prior to the dinner, including our new Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right.

## **2012 Torch Relay**



The Social Secretary and Chairman representing the OGA membership



Local schools lined the roads around the College, cheering on 'the torch'.

**Snooker Night 2012**



Martin Fearn, perfecting his under arm technique in the final



Jon Elliott, aiming at the board, not Martin's head!



Martin, straining for the winning pot in the snooker final

**SNOOKER EVENING 2012**  
**(World Domination, part 2)**

Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 – 7pm – S&B Club – the date, the time, the location for the resurrection and continuation of the annual games night. After last year's series of unfortunate events, 14 soles gathered at the S&B to display their sporting skills in darts, snooker and carpet bowls. The middle ages ruled the attendance this year, with the oldies making a contributory appearance in the form of Stan, Tony and Roy Elliott and for once the middlies came to the fore.

The skill level of this year's players reached a potential all-time high. The first event for the off, or occie, on the night was darts, which is played as 301 finishing on a double. Unlike previous years where games had been quite unbalanced, all players continually scored with all three darts and for the most part, gaining scores of 40 or 50 for each trio of arrows thrown. The two favourites fell by the wayside – Paul Merone in one semi-final and Matt Duffy in an earlier round, deservedly placing Kevin Gere and Jon Elliott in the final. After a tense opening salvo, both players were down to double figures after 12 darts and thus followed a tense chase for the double. Both players worked their way down to low doubles, with Jon triumphing with the first successful 'hit'.

Although starting in a staggered fashion, all three competitions ran concurrently, with players switching between events and venues (we had two rooms), to keep the momentum going both before and after supper. Each event had a total of 15 matches through the evening in a straight knock out format. The snooker was mustered by Tony Miner, explaining the rules of first to 15 points winds, or disqualification on your third foul. As with the darts, the skill level was impressive. Several matches quickly progressed to 13-14 scores with no penalties. Indeed, no matches were won on the evening by three fouls, a first for our games evening. Another first for our competition was achieved by "he who shall remain nameless", taking the break in his second round game, he fouled on the very first shot when breaking, by missing the pack and playing the black. The semis presented the possibility of an Elliott v Elliott final. Sadly (Ed) that was not to be and Messrs Milner and Fearn duly took up their places at the baulk end. A tight contest developed, with some exciting potting attempts and ambitious safety play. With both players requiring a red and colour to win, the game was poised up to the point of Martin putting Tony into a difficult snooker. Tony's ambitious attempt failed by millimetres and he conceded the title to Martin – Well done to Champion Fearn!

The carpet bowls was sadly missing one of its founders this year, Bob Abram. However, the competitors did him proud with many tight games taking place. In this event, each player has three bowls and they take it in turns to get nearest the jack, the winner either scoring 1, 2, or 3 points for each end (although all ends were played from the same end, if you know what I mean). The first player to reach or exceed 7 points wins the match.

With many 7-6 matches taking place with points gained one at a time, the bowls duration was the longest 'play time' (or Fergie time) of the evening, but thoroughly enjoyed. The final saw Martin Fearn enter the arena fresh from his snooker success and brimming with confidence as he faced Mike Robinson in the final. Once again, the match proceeded step by step up to a 6-4 lead for Mike. With Martin in a position of not being able to concede any more points without losing, he swept into end 11 and duly gained all three points in a devastating swoop to add the bowling title to his snooker title. The crowd duly celebrated, with such anecdotes as 'he should do well; he always practiced playing with his balls during lessons'.

Our Chairman presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up, thanked everyone for their attendance and assistance and the evening closed in an air of triumph and enjoyment for all present.

### **CHAIRMAN'S WEEKEND**

The ability of our Chairman to find work at various points and both ends of the country disabled the process to arrange a weekend this year. Watch this space.....

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jonathan

It is with sadness that I read about Bob Abram. When I scrambled over the fence into 3B, he was particularly understanding of my insatiable scientific curiosity. This had been ignited by our neighbour who had a 10" reflecting telescope given to her by Oswald Bradley of Excalibur Fireworks in Southport.

David Spencer's article proved very interesting; not least by revealing the whereabouts of Mike Gibbons. He and I swam for the school and the formidable Southport Swimming Club. Most of the school team played water polo for the town over the years. After surviving matches against Bootle Police, Manchester Grammar simply let us swim up the unopposed to score!

Please OGS, do not let the Red Rose sink to simply being a pamphlet again. My congratulations to the Editor and the team for the resurrection of an enjoyable read.

*John Haynes*

Dear Jon,

Firstly could I ask you to note my recent change of address. My wife Jean and I felt that, for elderly burglars, a modern bungalow was more convenient than a 400 year old cottage despite not having a walled garden! Unfortunately the Retreat remains unsold at present.

Yes I would like to receive a hard copy of Red Rose as it is nice to hear news about KGV and Southport, which we left to come to South Yorkshire 56 years ago. I always look for names I can recollect from my years (Rogers 1943-1948) though hardly ever see any, but the names of the old Masters bring back happy reminiscences. I well remember Teddy Edwards and played for Leyland Road Juniors and the seniors in my Articled Clerk days. I was once rounded on by Hank Higham because he had heard I was actually playing soccer as well as appearing for the Colts under 16 Side. He even said "and I see you have slipped two places in form as well Beard".

I suppose to an ex Lancastrian County player it was heresy to do both codes and soccer must have had a bad influence on my academic studies. I well remember George Wakefield coming back to teach after his war service as he took us for English. I wish I could get to the annual dinner, but alas it's a bit far from the wilds of Derbyshire. My wife spotted the Shorrocks were

there last year, with whom she went to Churchtown School before moving to the Girls High School, she was Jean Calvert then.

With best wishes

*John Beard*

### **LOOKING BACK**

As a former King George V College student, my experience was not always perfect. However, it is what you make of your time in education that matters, and I can truly say that the quality of help received from the staff, both on the modules and in the support team at the College, was invaluable in getting me to my present position. I am currently in the final year of a degree in Media, Film and Television at Edge Hill University. My long-term ambition is to create my own independent film production company.

When I first visited the College, I was advised not to go into film. However, I decided to stay with what I really wanted to do, and in studying English Literature, Film Studies and Theatre Studies, my skills and my confidence grew. I shall never regret choosing KGV. Those are the years that make or break you as a person, and I still keep in contact with members of the College, hearing of their achievements and telling them about my current productions.

I hope I have made the most of my educational opportunities. If that is true, then it would be a just reward for those at KGV who supported me so well, and put me onto the first rung of the higher education ladder.

*Joshua Gwynne* (KGV College, 2007-09)

Dear Jonathan

Not much change in my particulars except that I lost my wife Hilary (nee Bruce) ex High School in December 2010. I currently spend time walking the dog up the Fells. I have just given up as Treasurer of the Thames Barge Thalatta after 21 years. I am still a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers in the City of London and a member of their Charities Committee. I am also involved with fundraising for the Coniston Mountain Rescue Team and vice chairman of the Coniston International Twinning Association for our Italian connection.

In reading through the memories of Bob Abram I have one if it's not too late. It concerned a cricket class for the newts in 2a in the spring of 1952.

We were playing on the Southport side of the school with Sir at the crease facing the road with the football stand beyond Third Man.

Sir was instructing us in defensive batting – night Watchman or opening bat. He took the crease and called for a bowler. No one volunteered so I was instructed to bowl the first ball to him which I did with some trepidation. My wobbly ball missed his bat and demolished the wicket.

Howzat was called rather stifflingly by 12 year olds not sure how to react. Sir instructed the wicket keeper to mend the wicket and remained at the crease. One brave chap called out “you’re out Sir” which met with a stony look from Bob. Bowl again he called so I send down a somewhat more confident ball. That one was given the full defensive treatment finishing up on Scarisbrick New Road. With the third ball Sir swung also giving it the defensive treatment, it finishing up by Haig Avenue Football Stand.

The next three balls were duly dealt defensive strokes falling dead in the middle of the pitch. I do not remember Bob teaching my class cricket again. If he did continue to teach us he obviously did not want to face my bowling again!

*Derek Adams (Spencers, 1951-56)*

Dear Jonathan

I enclose the first aerial photograph that I ever took, circa. 1957, which might be of interest to O.G.s ? Maybe too small in detail for the print version, but probably OK for the electronic one? I recently stumbled across this again, and in fact sent it to the Southport Visiter, so it may not be a surprise to O.G.'s? It is centred on a section of Preston New Road near the intersection of North Road, and Rathmore Crescent, where I was living at the time. The Eastern edge shows bits of Crossens towards the Plough pub, and Banks, and extends to the West towards the old Embankment on the coast. Perusal of Google Earth suggests that there have been some changes!

My father had a photographic studio at 131, Eastbank St. – now a Barbers Salon - and with the intention of Following In Father's Footsteps completed a photographic apprenticeship before National Service, that being served as an RAF pilot, and shortly after leaving the RAF I gained my civilian flying licence, and went off to Speke Airport and hired an Auster, then flew back to Southport and poked my trusty Super-Ikonta, 120 size roll film camera, out of the window as I flew the aircraft alone, so what I actually photographed was largely a matter of luck, but I managed to include

Rathmore Crescent, which was the object of my flight, being where my home was at that time, 5th one along on the right hand side as viewed here. As a schoolboy I recall squeezing through the railings of the wooded area behind our house, to trawl the dyke for tadpoles!

In retrospect I wish I had taken many more photographs on that flight, but then the Road to Hell etc.

Alan Murgatroyd (Evans 1946-51)



## **MY FIRST DAY AT K.G.V.**

By Neil Hunt, Leeches 1973 - 1980

The photographs, in Red Rose 2012 of the demolition, somehow reminded me of my first day at KGV Grammar School. The more recollections they evoked the more I wondered if J.K. Rowling had somehow been informed, when describing Harry Potters first day at school, by the processes we all went through. The analogies with Hogwarts seemed too many to be coincidence. Let's examine the evidence.

A few weeks before term was due to start a letter arrived on the doormat informing my parents and me that I had been accepted to King George the Fifth Grammar School, an accolade not bestowed on the majority of boys my age but reserved for those who had been identified as possessing special talents. Ok, what it said was I had passed the eleven plus examination, but you get the drift.

The letter provoked a trip to 'Town' to equip me with the requirements of the list it contained. The trip was by bus, not by flue powder and maybe Lord Street is not exactly Diagon Alley. Certainly Rawcliffe's, whilst having certain similarities, was not Olivander's, but the parallels are apparent. It is only with hindsight that I am disappointed the long thin box contained not a wand, but a black, maroon and silver tie (Mine had a slide rule – Ed). Never the less, the possession of that tie was loaded with meaning and represented high achievement for an eleven year old in Southport. No Nimbus 2000 for me either, but as a reward for passing the exam, I became the proud owner of a Raleigh bicycle equipped with a Sturmey Archer three speed gear box which I rode with at least as much abandon as Harry Potter would ride his broom. The bike was later christened the JSIII by Ian 'Butch' Patterson whose own bike suffered from my own steed's tank like properties when a minor collision demolished his rear mudguard.

Another letter followed the first, this time containing the KGV counterpart of the ticket for the Hogwarts Express – my bus pass. I left on that first day of term in September 1973 and boarded the No9 bus which would take me to our own platform 9¾, better known as the bus stop outside Dixons. Others in the KGV uniform milled around waiting to board, most in the all black trousers and jackets, but a few in the far more colourful affairs that marked the wearers as the elite of the elite. First years were easy to identify as the only ones actually wearing school caps and my own was rapidly consigned to the leather satchel like briefcase which at the time only held my newly acquired geometry set and a slip to hand in to sign up for school dinners. It would be another couple of years before the large number of wearers of bottle green uniforms that were also in evidence would hold

more of my interest than the tantalising contents of Dixons' window and its perpetual sale.

The number 5 KGV express arrived all too quickly and the soon to be familiar scramble to board saw, not surprisingly, the vast majority of first years without a seat, but that hardly mattered as the bus lurched along Scarisbrick New Road to finally disgorge its contents on the threshold of what to me was a rather imposing edifice. Not, of course, on a par with the CGI of the real magicians of the Harry Potter franchise, the special effects department. Regardless, to those of us used to the parochial confines of Churchtown Junior School, KGV was impressive. First years were ushered through the middle and most imposing of the three entrances through the low and very long boundary wall. A new word was entering my vocabulary, Newt. This, for us, was the derogatory term for first years and not the name of the wizarding equivalent of A levels. We Newts were corralled together in front of the central doors, shortly through which we would enter the School, the one and only time we would enter through those doors.

Ushered by prefects (Ds) through the front of the school, we waited in the lecture theatre before we took our places in the school hall in preparation for KGV's very own 'sorting hat' process. Gathered on the stage were a collection of gown draped teachers (not even the most pretentious of whom would have styled themselves as 'Professors') Silenced rippled around the Hall when they were joined by a gentleman known, apparently, as 'The Fez', or Mr Dixon if he was in earshot. The comparisons to Hogwarts do fail a bit here as 'The Fez' could in no way be compared to Dumbledore! Groups of boys sat with their erstwhile primary school chums awaiting our fates. We were to be sorted not only into twelve houses, but three forms 2B, 2M and 2S representing the colours of the already mentioned tie that was now adorning my neck in an approximate facsimile of a Windsor Knot. My equivalent of muttering 'not Slytherin' under my breath was, when my name was called, to declare that my father had been a member of Leech's which made my place there a certainty. (Some may claim that Leech's WAS Slytherin but that is an argument for another time and place!) It was with some indifference that I found myself assigned to 2M.

If memory serves, although given I am one of the 'OMG I'm 50 how the heck did that happen' group it may not, our next port of call was the form room. For 2M that was room 9 under the eye of someone called 'Kung Fu' by all and sundry. I think the tax man might call him Mr. Whitaker – but, as is the case with many staff and pupils at KGV, it is often only the more important nickname that I remember clearly. I do remember being handed a 'file' each and a meagre ration of file paper. The intended purpose of the file paper eludes memory; suffice it to say that it served two or three roles with interchangeable ease. The first was to push the boundaries of

aerodynamics as the raw material for a variety of ever evolving designs of paper aircraft. The second was to be adorned with lines and lines of repeated text meted out as punishments for any minor transgressions the possessor might perpetrate. A third use was to provide the basic ingredient of a phenomenon known as the soggy. Timetables were distributed, with a blatant lack of potions, transfiguration or any other Hogwarts-esque subjects, but with such tantalising topics as French and Woodwork alongside the slightly more worrying Latin and the other regulars. Latin was, for me, only to last a year and turned out to be more to do with the fortunes of the Welsh Nation Rugby Union Squad under the tutelage of 'Blod' (T.B.L Davis) than the subtleties of a dead language. French turned out to be about a foreign language with 'Ma Blod' (Mrs Davis of course).

Then came the wonders of 'break'. The school had a tuck shop and regular visits from an ice cream van, unheard of luxury for Churchtown graduates. The first break though, along with the bulk of the day's Lunch Hour was occupied with what would now be called hazing. It worked like this; a Newt would be approached by an older boy who would demand to know what house you were in. If your answer was the same house as the assailant you were fine but if, as was statistically more probable, you were not, the inquisitor would give you a very firm shove to the shoulders. This would not have represented much of a 'haze' were it not for the other older boy who would be crouched behind you on all fours. The combined result would be a victory for gravity at the expense of the integrity of the victim's skull. Fortunately the school grounds consisted of a notoriously springy brand of grass clad moss peat. Even so I had no desire to find myself in any form of close contact with it that did not involve my feet, an aversion which stayed with me even into Rugby lessons. My solution was, when the first push was administered, to sit down very firmly on the back of the accomplice. This resulted in some discomfort for him and, rather than the swift retribution that may have been expected, a loud exhortation to 'watch this one, he fights back' that left me relatively unscathed – *for now*. None of this seemed to be covered in Ms Rowling's narrative, but with Malfoy, Crabb and Goyle around it must have had an equivalent thus far unrecorded.

Break's all too short adventure came to an end and a return to the mundane was unavoidable. I don't really remember much about the academic activities of the remains of that day. I know we had a house meeting at some point, in room 8 for Leech's where we met 'Etty' Johnson, our House Master and 'Santa' Clowes, his deputy. Scary things were discussed, like the house's reputation as a Rugby contender, something to which I could only contribute by non-participation. Had sport involved the giddy speeds of a Quiditch match it might have been another matter.

Then came Lunch. Being signed up for school dinners and at some point having found out which of the two sittings I was to attend, I duly presented myself at the dining room. We were to dine in our houses, sitting either side of long tables on benches, facing each other in two rows of house mates. An arrangement familiar to pupils of Hogwarts! The teachers' table didn't look much different to the one at the wizarding academy either, although it was offset to one side due to the inconvenient location of the main entrance door. Food was not, however, distributed by magic, but rather by prefects who were perhaps a little less egalitarian with their portion control. Despite all this I adored school dinners and the prospect of seconds was an ever present temptation, not to mention the cause of many an 'argument'. I grew very familiar with the ritual of grace and have, on the odd occasion I have been asked to say it, shamelessly stolen my favourite from those days. 'For food and for fellowship – Amen '. About the only time such brevity ever overcomes me.

The afternoon periods were soon over too and I do not remember any details about them. I am sure that, at some point, school rules were promulgated. I don't remember when, and I don't remember ever being inclined to pay too much regard to them. The day finally ended with an almighty scramble to get to the busses waiting at the far end of the school boundary wall and the reverse trip home, pausing only to spend 2p on a packet of Polo mints at Whistlers, the return leg No9 bus equivalent of Dixons on the outbound journey.

Maybe the above is evidence of J.K's knowledge of KGV, but probably not. There were no girls (not for another six years!) There were no borders and so no dormitories. It was possible to get singed in some science lessons, but only by misuse of a Bunsen burner. So perhaps it is just evidence that KGV wasn't the only school in the country to follow such rituals!

There is one more thing I remember very clearly about day one. Whilst corralled outside the door before our first tentative steps across the threshold I read the carved writing on a large block set in the wall alongside the entrance. It informed all those who were inclined to read it that KGV had opened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1926. The 16<sup>th</sup> of October is my birthday which means that the centenary of KGV (at least on that site) is also my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is great not least because it probably means I can depend on the Old Georgians to organise my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday party! I might even offer to sponsor it ☺

## **2012 ARRIVES AT KGV**

As we probably all know, this year's Olympic Games in London was preceded by a Torch Relay through the British Isles. What you may not know is that on Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>, that days relay commenced at KGV College. A team of staff at the College had worked with the OOC for many months prior to the day, detailing the process, the people, security, parking, catering and many other things, in order to ensure that the day itself went well, but indeed the preceding days ran smoothly to ensure the build-up to the event was successful and followed through on the day.

Additional liaison was required with many other schools within Southport, as all were invited to send students to line the departure route through the College grounds to ensure a noisy and resounding send off for the first Torch Bearer. The Old Georgians were invited to represent the College team and David Lonsdale and Jon Elliott arrived on the day in full fervour to join in the celebrations and wave the torch on its way. They were both eclipsed by John Rostron in his role as Chair of the Governors, modelling one of his many splendid rowing jackets.

## **RED ROSE ARCHIVES & EXTRACTS**

We are still missing copies of the following, if anyone has issues they would like to donate:

Vol 1 #2 (July 1923); Vol 26 #2 (April 1947); Vol 47 #2 (April 1968); Vol 55 #1 (Dec 1975); Vol 57 #1 (Dec 1977)

## **Geoffrey Dixon Centenary** **A Biography of GFD as Climber and Alpinist**

30 October 2012 was the centenary of the birth of Geoffrey F Dixon, Headmaster of KGV 1949 – 1976. I would never have known that fact unless I had decided about twelve months earlier that I would attempt to write a biography of a part of his personal life – as climber and Alpinist - that affected just a small number of us in the 1950s. So by pure chance having begun the project I discovered the date of his birth above and could use that as a target date for completion.

The Boss had a hard shell, difficult to penetrate. Only a very few got through. That is not to say he was an android before his time. He was an ambitious and forceful man, which showed in his climbing and mountaineering. The memories that KGV boys have recorded and are repeated here are each worth reading for their own sakes. Before that though, GFD had written about his most challenging mountaineering experiences, one of which was published in the Alpine Journal in 1952. The rest remained unpublished except herein. They are descriptions of epic adventures in the Alps that would have seen off weaker men, and we would suddenly have needed a new Headmaster.

As a committed mountaineer myself, brought to it by him, I have felt able to detail his climbing life and set it into the context of mountaineering at the time in the UK. He then brought it to KGV – the outdoor pursuit that became the basis of many adventurous experiences for youngsters subsequently. But his style was the old school method of 'suck it and see if you liked it'. The Government in the early 1960s decided that this trial and error method involved unjustifiable danger to participants and gradually phased in the formal teaching of individual outdoor activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and hill walking through the establishment of outdoor centres with instructors in these specific pursuits.

Geoffrey then began to take a back seat and withdrew from rock climbing with boys from school. He also seemed to stop climbing altogether, but did not stop others, and inspired the Long Rigg project. This CD covers his own mountaineering activities from 1933, anecdotal writings of a few of his converts in the period 1949 – 1962, and my attempt to make a coherent story of these activities throughout his life.

The writing is available on CD from John Allen (Woodhams 1950 – 1957) at price £7.50 incl p + p.

**John Allen, 8A Irvine Place, Stirling, FK8 1BZ**  
**Phone 01786 472241 E-mail: hillandben@f2s.com**

## RED ROSE SURVEY 2012

**The following members kindly replied to the plea in the 2012 Red Rose regarding the delivery of the Red Rose magazine. They do NOT need to reply to the same request this year as their preferences are duly noted in the membership database.**

Martin	Abram	Ruth	Briscoe	Peter	Davies
Derek	Adams	Craig	Bromilow	Lance	Davies
Christine	Adamson	Allan	Brookfield	Mark	Day
Ron	Ainsworth	Steve	Brooks	Alan	Dickinson
Kati	Alcock	Adrian	Brown	Adam	Dinwoodie
Mike	Alexander	Derek	Brown	Reginald	Dixon
John	Allen	Peter	Brunt	Mike	Dodworth
Norman	Allen	Richard	Burgess	Angela	Donoghue
Katie	Amer	Duncan	Burton	Mark	Dransfield
Colin	Andrews	Fraser	Campbell	John	Duffy
David	Arnold	Fiona	Campbell	Joanne	Edgar
Piers	Arnold	Herbert	Campion-Smith	Lawrence	Edwards
Paul	Arnold	Edward	Caplin	Ken	Edwardson
Paul	Ashcroft	Steve	Cargill	Jonathan	Elliott
Chris	Ashley	Michael	Cattrall	ES	Ellis
Victoria	Bould	PA	Caunce	Zoe	Ellis
John	Aughton	Duncan	Chandler	Ron	Ellis
Richard	Aughton	David	Charters	M	English
Paul	Bagshaw	Iain	Clenehan	David	Everett
Peter	Bailey	John	Clough	Darrell	Farrant
Frank	Ball	Barry	Colclough	Barry	Farrington
John	Beard	John	Cook	Ronnie	Fearn
Paul	Bilton	Eddie	Cowen	Martin	Fearn
D	Blume	Graham	Cox	Rob	Fletcher
Alan	Bond	Raymond	Cranshaw	Kate	Forshaw
Steve	Bond	Katherine	Croft	J	Fyne
David	Booth	Don	Crompton	Ivor	Galkoff
Thomas	Booth	Gordon	Croome	Stanley	Gerrard
Andrew	Bradley	Alan	Cunliffe	Michael	Gibbons
Richard	Bradley	John	Dalby	Ms S	Gladney
Peter	Gladney	Thomas	Jones	Alan	Murgatroyd

Adrian	Goodman	John	Kendrew	David	Newton
Peter	Gordon	Stewart	Kersh	Stanley	Newton
SJ	Gordon	Ian	Kettle	Tom	Newton
Ms C	Greenwood	Albert	King	Norman	Nutter
Stephen	Grindley	Lord Colin	Knowles	Eric	Ogden
Paul	Gubbins	James	Knowles	Ray	Owen
Chris	Hale	Graham	La Court	Ronald	Pactor
Colin	Halsall	Miss E	Lacey	Simon	Palmer
Kevin	Halsall	Mark	Laidler	Chris	Parkinson
Mike	Halsall	Tony	Lancaster	Andrew	Pearce
Roger	Hargreaves	Cath	Lapsley	Graham	Pearce
Mike	Harrop	Janet	Lawley	David	Percy
Ronald	Harrop	Keith	Lawson	Martin	Perry
Bob	Hayden	Joseph	Laycock	John	Pilling
John	Haynes	Gordon	Lees	Jonathan	Poirette
Cyril	Hershon	Jeffrey	Leigh	Clive	Pownceby
Dave	Hesgrave	JD	Lewin	Haydn	Preece
Amy	Hilton	Dave	Lewis	PD	Price
D	Hitchen	Trevor	Livesey	Barry	Ramm
Denis	Hobley	Robert	Lloyd	Bertram	Richardson
LG	Hogg	Martin	Lockyer	Adrian	Rigby
David	Howard	David	Lonsdale	Peter	Rigby
Henry	Howard	Robert	Lowther	Derek	Rimmer
Colin	Hunt	William	Lumb	Stanley	Rimmer
Dennis	Hunt	Nicholas	Lunt	Arthur	Roberts
Neil	Hunt	Andy	Malley	Dave	Roberts
RB	Hunt	Peter	Marsh	John	Roberts
Stephen	Hurley	David	Marshall	Dennis	Robinson
John	Hyde	Arthur	Massam	James	Ross
Mike	Hyde	Hilary	Matthews	John	Rostron
Tom	Ibison	John	Mercer	Mark	Rowland
Peter	Jackson	Paul	Merone	David	Ryman
Robert	Jackson	Dave	Miley	Mark	Salkie
William	Jewell	John	Miller	Stephen	Salt
Keith	Johns	Ian	Milne	Ben	Sanderson
Robert	Johnson	Ken	Milne	Geoff	Sanderson
Simon	Jones	Peter	Molyneux	Jonathan	Saxon

John Schober	Gordon Sunderland	Kevin Watkins
Brian Seed	Janice Sutcliffe	John Weber
Trevor Seed	Simon Sutcliffe	Anthony Whitehead
Roger Shaw	Gordon Sweeney	Paul Whitehead
Noel Shearer	Mark Switzer	Barrie Whittaker
Katie Sheridan	Peter Taylor	Brian Whittle
Keith Shorrock	David Thomas	Kevan Williams
Kathryn Deakin	Graham Thomas	Robin B-Williams
Conrad Slater	Miles Thompson	KF Wilson
Ian Smith	Michael Thompson	Stuart Wincer
KM Smith	Chris Threlfall	JR Wood
Laurence Smith	Terence Tilsley	Melvin Wood
David Spencer	Chris Tinsley	Roger Wood
Peter Stephenson	Ian Tinsley	Alan Wright
Paul Sternberg	Dave Trotman	Ian Young
Peter Stott	Richard Turner	Philip Broadbent
William Stuttard	John Wainwright	David Preston

Also G Griffith and B Hargreaves

The association is also grateful to the following members who made extraordinary monetary donations to the association in the last 12 months:

Ken Wilson	Cyril Hershon	James Knowles
Bob Hayden	Anthony Whithead	Jonathan Saxon
Peter Jackson	David Charters	Michael Gibbons
Mike Alexander	Denis Hobley	Ian Young
Brian Whittle	Simon Jones	Tony Lancaster
Barry Ramm	Robert Hunt	James K Ross
Harry Howard	Kevan Williams	Ken & Ian Milne
Norman Allen	Ken Edwardson	Richard Aughton

Special thanks to Neil and Colin Hunt who have sponsored the postage costs for this years Red Rose, a not inconsiderable sum as you may guess!

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **THE OLD GEORGIANS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

The Prince of Wales Hotel, Lord Street, Southport

#### **AGM Agenda**

**Commencing 7pm**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Honorary Treasurer's Report
- 6 Educational Foundation Report
- 7 Election of Officers 2011-2012
  - Chairman
  - Honorary Treasurer
  - Honorary Secretary
  - New Committee Members
- 8 With new Chairman presiding: Date of next OG meeting
- 9 Any Other Business

#### **Annual Dinner – Menu**

**Commencing 8pm**

Meadow Mushroom with Cream Soup

-

Succulent Roast Chicken served with Pan Gravy and Stuffing  
Chef's Seasonal Vegetables

Vegetarian option

-

Hot Bread & Butter Pudding with Bramley Apple & Sauce Anglais

-

Cheese & Biscuits

-

Coffee & Mints

Dinner tickets at £30 available from Jonathan Elliott or Stan Rimmer.  
Cheques payable to 'Old Georgians Association', in advance please,  
so that the organiser is not fully occupied pursuing late payers.

Please ensure you notify us of any dietary requirements.

Please note that any cancellations made after **22<sup>nd</sup> March** may not be refundable. Bookings **MUST** be confirmed to either Jon Elliott or Stan Rimmer. Any unconfirmed bookings at that date will be withdrawn. This is due to losses in the last few years.

#### **50's REUNION**

Graham Cox is organising a reunion to coincide with this year's dinner. It is for all of those who have passed or are approaching the '50' barrier during the current school year. If you wish to be part of this well organised event, please contact Graham. Numbers attending are already around 30 –

[cmcox@bopenworld.com](mailto:cmcox@bopenworld.com)

#### **OLD GEORGIANS QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

Be there – or have a boring evening somewhere else!

Yes, it is the 6<sup>th</sup> annual quiz night in 2013 with variety, hilarity and celebrity content throughout the evening. Come along and take part, teams up to 6 members are welcome and you are guaranteed a great evening, if not a winning one! There are spot prizes and a raffle, so you have opportunities other than the quiz to walk away with a prize!

This will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the S&B Cricket Club. Doors are open at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm.

Tickets will be available from Jon Elliott & committee members and include a hot supper and entry in to the raffle.

Teams can be UP TO 6 members. Please note teams of 8 and over will be split into at least two teams. Please confirm by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

-0-

#### **THE SNOOKER NIGHT – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

The 2013 event will take place at the S&B as usual, 7pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets will be available from Jon Elliott & committee members.

## **MEMORABILIA**

The items below are available at the Annual Dinner or by post from:  
Paul Bagshaw, 46 Lyndhurst Road, Southport PR8 4JT. 01704-565075  
Ties: Stan Rimmer, 361 Liverpool Rd, Southport PR8 3BT – 01704-576713

Cheques payable to: Old Georgians Association. All items are Post Free.

KGV REMEMBERED DVD – Video programme featuring OG's Reminiscences and photographs from 1920 to 1979 – 81 mins Also available from Broadhurst's Booksellers, Market St, Southport.	£7
GEOFFREY DIXON REMEMBERED DVD – Video of Geoffrey himself, with tributes from colleagues & former pupils – 87 mins	£7
AERIAL PHOTO of KGV School & College 1980. (A4 Colour)	£5
AERIAL PHOTO of KGV School in 1950s. (A5 B/W)	£5
PHOTOGRAPHS of Southport Pier, The Marine Way Bridge, Lord Street, KGV College in the Snow. (A4 Colour)	£5
75 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY RED ROSE BOOK – Stories of KGV (1920-2001) A very small number of this 160-page book now available.	£7
KGV SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 1930. (A5 Facsimile)	£5
OLD GEORGIANS TIE – Black, 2 Red & White Stripes, Red Rose	£9
1930s VINTAGE OLD GEORGIANS TIE – The is Silver, Red & Black and is similar to the Colours Tie.	£18

Southport Photographs by Martyn Snape - smartpics@btinternet.com

## **CONTACTS**

### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Martin Fearn, 4 Palm Grove, Southport PR8 6AD.  
01704-543169 [\*\*martin.fearn@lineone.net\*\*](mailto:martin.fearn@lineone.net)

### OGA EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP

Jonathan Elliott, 2 Beresford Drive, Southport PR9 7JY.  
07969 889843 [\*\*jonelliott61@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:jonelliott61@hotmail.com)

### RED ROSE MAGAZINE

Jonathan Elliott, 2 Beresford Drive, Southport PR9 7JY.  
07969 889843 [\*\*jonelliott61@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:jonelliott61@hotmail.com)

### OLD GEORGIANS TIES

Stan Rimmer, 361 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 3BT.  
01704 576713

### KGV MEMORABILIA

Paul Bagshaw, 46 Lyndhurst Road, Southport PR8 4JT.  
01704-565075 [\*\*paul.bagshaw@talktalk.net\*\*](mailto:paul.bagshaw@talktalk.net)

# *Ingram Arms*

Sports led pub with big TV screens  
Excellent range of quality ales, lagers and ciders  
Pool, Darts and dedicated Snooker room  
Opening hours: Sun-Thurs 12.00-23.00  
Fri & Sat 12.00-24.00

High Street, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6RS  
Tel: 01302 840333

When visiting, please ask for the proprietor,  
Old Georgian, Colin Hunt.



**BURLEY STREET  
BREWHOUSE** LS3

*Craft brewed traditional real ale  
Available at discerning pubs around Leeds*



9, Burley Street,  
Leeds, West Yorkshire  
LS3 1LD



2, Woodhouse Lane  
Leeds, West Yorkshire  
LS2 9DX

**When visiting, please ask for the proprietor, Neil Hunt, who will be pleased to welcome any fellow Old Georgians.**