

THE RED ROSE.



20 05

The Magazine of the
Old Georgians' Association

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President's Letter

Dear Old Georgians,

This is the first news letter I will have written in 13 years as Principal of KGV College and President of the Old Georgians' Association that Geoffrey Dixon will not read. I am so sorry; Geoffrey would be so proud, as he always was, of the things we have achieved this year.

It has been another year of outstanding success for the College with the best ever set of examination results at Advanced level in August 2004 and, as I write this letter, 16 students with places at Oxford or Cambridge to start in September 2005. It is most pleasing to give this excellent news in our Silver Jubilee year. We are celebrating 25 years as a College with events throughout the year from September 2004 to July 2005.

Thank you to all those of you who were able to attend the launch event hosted by Ronnie Fearn in November. It gave me great pleasure to welcome David Arnold and Geraldine Evans back to the College reflecting on the success of the College during their years as Principal. It was good to see former staff and students at the event too and to exchange memories and events from throughout the 25 years. I was also pleased to welcome guests for the Silver Jubilee Christmas Concert with marvellous performances from students past and present. I hope many more will be able to join us for the Silver Jubilee Production from 12th - 14th April at 7.30 pm, and the Alumni Day to be held on Saturday 14th May.

Something that **ALL** past and present KGV College students and staff can do is contribute to the archive already set up on the College website address. Do log on now to www.kgv.ac.uk and click on the 25th Anniversary and then select "Archive" to add to or view. A CD Rom Silver Jubilee Archive will be produced from all contributions in the summer 2005. A 25 year Anniversary booklet is also available from the College.

In this Silver Jubilee year we also held an important commemorative event for Hilary Royden by placing a plaque with a photograph outside my office. Your Chairman, Ken Edwardson, spoke of Hilary's life and contribution to the Old Georgians. Sir Christopher Hewetson, Chairman of the Educational

Foundation Trustees spoke of Hilary's work for the Foundation and of his magnificent donation made to the fund. As Principal, I spoke of how much I had enjoyed my work as a trustee with Hilary and of his interest and support for the modern College. John Rostron, Old Georgian and Chairman of College Governors also spoke in respect of Hilary's practical commitment and support and the legacy he has left, which will offer significant enhancement of opportunities for students.

Opportunities for students is the 'raison d'être' for the College, just as it was for the School. I wish you all a happy and prosperous year in 2005.

Sincerely

Hilary Anslow OBE

Chairman's Letter

The Year 2004 has been a most eventful one for the Old Georgians. Firstly, the passing of Geoffrey Dixon in his 91st year. He remained well and active up to two weeks before his death. In fact, I called to collect him and drive him to the Yorkshire Dales enjoy the annual Chairman's Weekend, hosted by my predecessor, Jim Marsh.

Geoffrey was terminally ill but insisted on sending his written apology as follows. "The Chairman's Weekend is one of the highlights of the year for me. I am desperately sorry to miss it. No headmaster of, however a famous school, could be as proud of his old boys as I am of the Old Georgians for their concerns, achievements and great kindnesses".

This was the last time I saw him; a few days later he died. His funeral was a very private gathering at the Southport Crematorium. On the 20th March, a commemoration to celebrate his life and work was presented to a packed audience in the main hall of King George V College. Many tributes were paid to him from colleagues and friends. Nancy, his wife, gave a very lucid and amusing resume of their life together speaking for more than twenty minutes without even a note!

It was Geoffrey's wish that his ashes be scattered on the highest point off the road between Little and Great Langdale. There is now a small cairn which overlies buried photographs depicting many events which he and Nancy shared during their long lives together.

Three weeks later, Nancy peacefully passed away and now her ashes are together with those of Geoffrey.

For anyone in that area, the site of the "Dixon Cairn" is just off the road by the cattle grid. There is a much larger cairn to the Great Langdale side. The grid reference is NY28947 05197. If you do visit, please add a stone to the cairn.

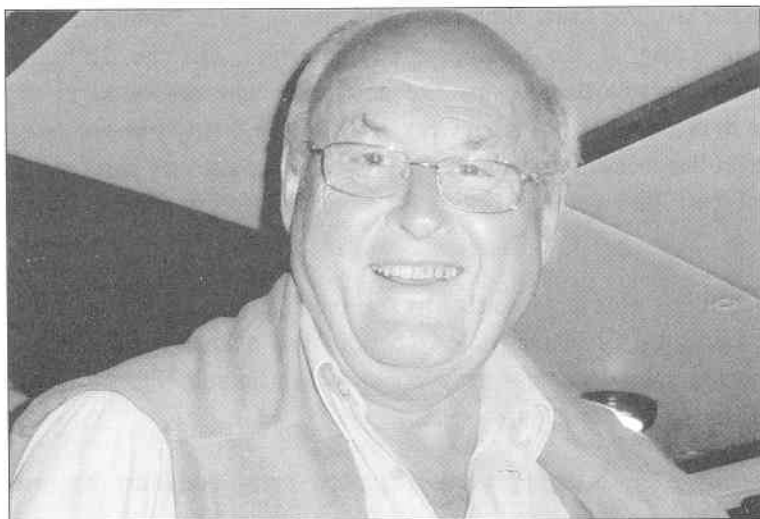
The two fund raising events, which are normally enjoyed by many Old Georgians, namely the Barbecue and the Darts and Snooker Evening, had to be cancelled due to situations beyond our control. We attempted a compromise with a Cheese and Wine Evening but sadly the support was not good enough to go ahead.

I am sure that you all enjoy reading the Red Rose, keeping in touch, wallowing in nostalgia and learning what happened to your school chums so many years ago. Alas, it is expensive to produce and post this magazine in quantity and if it is to

continue, we have to raise funds. Your Association has chosen to help students in financial difficulties through the Hardship fund and hence continue with their studies. The Donations we receive are gratefully received and help us to continue as we have done in the past.

The main source of funds is the Annual Dinner which will be held as usual, at the Formby Hall Golf Club on Maundy Thursday, 24th March 2005.

Those of us who joined the School at the age of 11 were together more or less for seven years and therefore strong bonds of friendship were forged. Although the College students are together for barely two years, I hope they will continue to support the Association as it is there to represent both School and college.



It is surprising how quickly the years have slipped by. The College has now been in existence for 25 years. On the 26th November 2004, another Old Georgian, now a Peer of the Realm, Lord Fearn, hosted a reception to launch the College Silver Jubilee celebrations.

I am delighted by the continuing academic success of the College and how it continues to maintain its very high standards. The College Concert in November was a most enjoyable event and I was impressed by the musical talents shown by the students who participated. They are a credit to the College and to their teachers. Prior to the Concert, a short ceremony was held to commemorate the

lifelong work and help given to School and College by the late Hilary Royden, whose photograph and descriptive plaque are now permanent fixtures in the area dedicated to the history of the School and College.

- A now well-established event is the Chairman's Weekend, a very informal gathering commencing at lunchtime on Saturday and consisting of an afternoon's walk in the area if one so wishes, followed by dinner that evening. The meeting ends around lunchtime on the Sunday. I have arranged to meet at the Scaffell Hotel, Rosthwaite, Borrowdale on Saturday 5th February 2005. I hope it will be well attended. You can either book directly with the Hotel, phone 017687 77208, please mention it is for the Chairman's Meet or phone me on 0151 327 2443.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the dedicated support of my Committee who steer me through it all. They have my thanks and gratitude. In conclusion, I wish you all a very Happy 2005.

Ken Edwardson

Leech's 1945-1953

Ken is the senior consultant surgeon of the Wirral Hospital NHS Trust. He is a past council member of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and an Examiner in Surgery for the Universities of Liverpool and Manchester

Editorial

Anyone reading the last four Red Roses would have the impression that the Association was thriving, its numbers rising at a remarkable rate and the functions well attended. But there is a problem which will worsen with time if we do nothing about it.

The committee has grown old together. In spite of pleas for new blood, no-one has come and stayed. I fear we seem to have formed a 'clique', certainly to those students who attended the Sixth Form College. The major cause is the fact that our ages range between 59 and 77. The increase in numbers results from students joining at the time they leave College, from people who left many years ago who attended the two reunions covered in previous Red Roses and from a few people who send me emails and want to join when they see the College web-site.

The increase takes us to around 1200 members but it has not resulted in any volunteers willing to help. It seems reasonable to expect some support from Old Georgians who left school in the period 1965-1978. There are about 45 such members in the Southport area. Stan Rimmer has willingly organised the Annual Dinner for many years but it is time for a younger member to work with him as a deputy for the future.

One idea I have had is for the ex-Collegeians to form a 'Sister' Association (possibly called the KGV Collegians Association?) This would have its own committee, its own events and its own direction, but it would be vital that its members continued to attend the Dinner in the substantial numbers as at present. All members are encouraged to send their opinions to me and I will include the results in the 2006 Red Rose.

The Guest Book introduced in the college website was very well used in the first year of 2001 with 60 entries. In 2002 there were 40 entries, in 2003 and 2004 it has settled down to about 16 per year. Of the 132 total entries, 112 are from ex-grammar school men.

However, the "Friends Reunited" website shows the number of students analysed by year of leaving, who have registered and corresponded on it, to be as follows.

| Decade | KGV Students corresponding |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 1930s | 5 |
| 1940s | 43 |
| 1950s | 144 |
| 1960s | 319 |
| 1970s | 557 |
| 1980s | 1297 |
| 1990s | 1486 |
| 2000s | 528 |

If only a small fraction of those using Friends Reunited sent something to me it would fill the News Desk chapter. The question is, why don't they? Should the existing Association try to strengthen the links with the ex-college members?

This is the third year I have been editor and I want to remind readers that when I took over from Paul in 2003, I let it be known that I would want to be replaced by the time I was 70 (2006) . Any volunteers?

In conclusion, not wishing to begin what I hope is "a good read", with a heavy message, I believe we are happy with an excellent Annual Dinner, attended by members of both college and school, the profits of which pay for the Red Rose. The Chairman's weekend brings together a few school leavers and if we have a few bob over we help the College hardship fund or similar good cause. So where's the need to change? Is it me?

Alan Bond (Edward's 1947-54)

Editor

My email address:- alan@abond.go-plus.net

College website:-www.kgv.ac.uk

Go to Homepage > College > Old Georgians

Old Georgians' Association Officers

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| PRESIDENT | Hilary Anslow |
| CHAIRMAN | Ken Edwardson |
| VICE CHAIRMAN | Jim Marsh |
| SECRETARY | John Pilling |
| TREASURER | Alan Bond |
| RED ROSE EDITOR | Alan Bond |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Mike Hyde |
| SOCIAL COMMITTEE | Stan Rimmer |
| COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE | Peter Lynas |
| FOUNDATION TRUSTEE | Paul Bagshaw |
| GENERAL COMMITTEE | Previous Chairmen plus co-opted members |

ADDRESSES

LEAVERS, OG MEMBERSHIP AND OG TIES

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RED ROSE MAGAZINE

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KGV MEMORABILIA

Paul Bagshaw, 46 Lyndhurst Rd Birkdale, Southport PR8 4JT

OG MEMBERSHIP & DATABASE

Mike Hyde, 84 Bull Cop, Formby, L37 8BZ. Tel: 01704 876734

Former Chairmen of the KGV Old Boy's Association

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1924 T P Spencer | 1925 W Beetham | 1926 R E Sanderson |
| 1927 R E Sanderson | 1928 C L Minshull | 1929 S J Hargreaves |
| 1930 A V Cunliffe | 1931 W M Towers | 1932 A V Cunliffe |
| 1933 R E Sanderson | 1935 A D Sawyer | 1936 P Slater |
| 1947 G K Bridge | 1948 D F Sutton | 1949 P Slater |
| 1951 T E Booth | 1952 G P Wakefield | 1953 L Duckworth |
| 1954 J W Lord | 1955 J Edwards | 1956 S C Wilford |
| 1957 K Rostron | 1958 J R Edwards | 1959 R A Lloyd |
| 1960 H E Nettleton | 1961 G Barnes | 1962 G Walton |
| 1963 H H Long | 1964 H H Long | 1965 M B Enright |
| 1966 H Evans | 1967 A V Langfeld | 1968 A Fairclough |
| 1969 H J M Royden | 1970 D Brown | 1971 R Abram |
| 1972 S B Rimmer | 1973 A J Chandler | 1974 J R N Petty |
| 1975 S B Fletcher | 1976 J N Rostron | 1977 C W Jerram |
| 1978 E G Cowen | | |

Former Chairmen of the Old Georgians' Association

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1979 T H Dutton | 1980 G Livesley | |
| 1981 M M Lockyer | 1982 R Fletcher | 1983 J C West |
| 1984 J J Marriner | 1985 G T Seed | 1986 M J Waring |
| 1987 R A Barnett | 1988 B M Rimmer | 1989 J R Pilling |
| 1990 P D Bagshaw | 1991 R C Fearn | 1992 E A Ogden |
| 1993 J R Elliott | 1994 R O Jeffs | 1995 M J Fearn |
| 1996 A Bond | 1997 A Bond | 1998 C Threlfall |
| 1999 M R E Hyde | 2000 G F Dixon | 2001 S L Bond |
| 2002 A D Hughes | 2003 J P Marsh | |

NEW GEORGIANS

This year has seen 41 new members joining our ranks of which 21 are those who left College in Summer of 2004 and 20 are those who left between 1940 and 2003. This takes our membership up to 1170.

To the following New Old Georgians – Salvete

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| J C Barton | Angharad Simlett-Moss |
| Natalie Ursula Bassling | Hayley Tasker |
| E J Bond | T Tasker |
| Sam Brookfield | T Taylor |
| Hannah Brooks | T Tilsley |
| Charlotte Brown | I Tinsley |
| D Carter | T Wade |
| Hannah Clowes | Nathan Walker |
| Claire Elizabeth Cowlshaw | R C Watkinson |
| Sheila Curran | Thomas George Worsley |
| Owen Davey | |
| Christopher Dickson | |
| Brett William Kingsley Farnworth | |
| H Fletcher | |
| Anthony Gerken | |
| R L Harris | |
| Amy Hilton | |
| J Barry Hoddes | |
| Laura Hoskin | |
| C Hunt | |
| Tom Lodge | |
| Rebecca Major | |
| P Mullen | |
| Laura Norten | |
| Max William Reeve | |
| A Rimmer | |
| C M Roberts | |
| Andrew Robertson | |
| D J G Salmon | |
| Helen Sanders | |
| Stuart Seabrooke | |

Where Are They Now ?

Your Association has lost contact with the following Old Georgians and delivery of the Red Rose has been suspended. Listed below are the names, last known town, country or Southport street and their final School year. Can anyone provide details of their current whereabouts?

Any information please to:-

Mike Hyde, 84 Bull Cop, Formby, L37 8BZ tel: 01704 876734 or

Alan Bond, tel: 01704 579373 email to alan@abond.go-plus.net

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------------|------|
| Abram | Ms P | Cambridge | 1996 |
| Ainsworth | R | Irton Rd | 1991 |
| Bamber | R | Salford | ? |
| Barber | F | Norbury | 1985 |
| Barton | R A | Reading | 1984 |
| Bonney | D | San Francisco | 1949 |
| Burton | M | Ross on Wye | 1976 |
| Bushe | P | Blundellsands | 1998 |
| Butlin | J | Carlisle Rd | 1992 |
| Carlisle | A | Gothenburg | 1963 |
| Dean | A T | Beresford Dr | 1983 |
| Downey | C | Maghull | 1998 |
| Evans | J M R | Sevenoaks | 1949 |
| Graves | A L | Burscough | 1996 |
| Greer | M R | Grantown | 1958 |
| Halsall | M P | Milton Keynes | 1985 |
| Henderson | Ms S | Stoke | 1996 |
| Hobley | Dr K | Leeds | 1983 |
| Hulme | Ms C | Walnut St | 1996 |
| Kapadia | C | Cambridge Rd | 1990 |
| Kersh | S | Mossley Hill | 2000 |
| Kersh | S Senr. | Mossley Hill | 1959 |
| Kirkham | S J | Stourton Rd | 1990 |
| Lewis | D B | Muswell Hill | 1967 |
| Neale | S | Woking | 1991 |
| Pearson | J E | Wandsworth | 1949 |
| Rigby | P | Coates | 1973 |

Continued/

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------------|------|
| Robb | Ms K | Dereham | 1998 |
| Ross | J A M | Holland | 1970 |
| Rutter | D | Godalming | 1986 |
| Sharples | Ms R | Appley Bridge | 1985 |
| Snook | C | Eccles | 1983 |
| Taylor | S | Easdale Dr | 1993 |
| Treadwell | P | Chester Rd | 1994 |
| Viner | B | Crouch End | 1980 |
| Wilcox | R | Sutton Coldfield | 1978 |
| Wincote | S | Gleneagles Dr | 1993 |
| Winstanley | P S | Stanley Ave | 1993 |
| Yates | Ms H | Cardiff | ? |

Dinner Guests, April 8th 2004

Hilary Anslow, John Anslow, Joe Abram, Colin Andrews, Bob Abram, Peter Aughton, John Aughton, Richard Aughton, Derek Adams, John Ashcroft, Gavin Baird, Chris Baker, John Ball, Christopher Barrett, Roger Basford, Rodney Bradbury, Adrian Brown, David Brown, Duncan Burton, Paul Bagshaw, Ted Batty, David Booth, Graham Booth, Neil Booth, Robin Bowen-Williams, Alan Bond, Molly Bond, Stephen Bond.

David Carter, Mike Chalke, Carl Cockwill, John Cotterall, Eddie Cowen, Candice Clements, Alan Davies, Mike Davies, Michael Dodworth, Peter Dodworth, Alan Dickinson, Ken Edwardson, Mark Elsen, Ron Ellis, Jonathan Elliott, Phil Frampton, Mark Fletcher, Martin Fearn, Ronnie Fearn, Rob Fletcher, Alan Fleetwood, Bill Farquhar.

Vittorio Guidi, Michael Glautier, Ed Gallaway, Mike Hyde, John Hyde, John Hoyle, David Howgate, Barry Hurst, Mike Halsall, Brian Hargreaves, Roger Hargreaves, Mick Hilton, Colin Hunt, Des Hughes.

Roger Jump, Richard Jenkin, Alan Jones, Barry Jessop, John Kendrew, Dave Karsa, Tony Kay, John Kermodé, Dave Keeley, Ian Kettle, Mike King, Gordon Lees, Catherine Lapsley, Peter Loughlin, Simon Livesey, Bob Mentha, Tony Milner, Paul Mullen, Jim Marsh, Alan McKenzie, John Mercer.

Graham Ostick, Ray Owen, Eric Ogden, John Pilling, Mike Pendlebury, Cedric Platt, Tony Platt, David Pearson, Ken Priestley, Dave Percival, Bob Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Doug Ross, Peter Rostron, John Rostron, Jocelyn Rostron, Katie Rostron, Sarah Rostron, Trevor Rimmer, Arthur Rimmer, Elaine Rimmer, Frank Rimmer, Stan Rimmer, Brian Rimmer, Stephen Rimmer, Dennis Robinson, Andrew Rawcliffe, Lucy Roberts.

Derrick Salmon, Roger Shaw, Trevor Seed, Brian Shorrocks, Chris Stitson, Ian Smith, Mark Sutcliffe, John Seddon, Geoff Stocker, Steve Tasker, Dave Thomson, Laura Taylor, Steven Taylor, Terry Tilsley, Peter Thompson, Chris Threlfall, Steve Threlfall, Brian Viner, Michael Vernon, John Wainwright, Chris Winnard, John Weber, Mike Wareing, Geoff Watkinson, Russell Watkinson, John Wood, Barrie Whittaker, Peter Walker, Stuart Wincer, Kevan Williams, Alan Wright.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

The celebrations began on 26th November 2004 with a reception in the drama hall. Brief speeches were made by all those shown in the photo. The audience comprised members of staff, past and present, students past and present, governors, dignitaries and friends. Lord Fearn acted as host and having called to mind important milestones in the College's 25 years, was followed by David Arnold who was headmaster during the transition years from 1976 to 1983. His deep awareness of the politics allied to the educational changes was obvious in his words.



He was followed on the rostrum by Geraldine Evans who had followed him in 1983 as Principal of the College. She told of her own challenges that had been faced during her term of office and her part in firming up the College structure.

Then Hilary Anslow, the present Principal spoke and her pride and enthusiasm filled the room as she paid tribute to all that gone before and all who were part of today's team. Hilary announced the addition of an "Archive" to the College website into which readers can add their memories.

Finally, Chairman of the Governors, John Rostron touched briefly on the financial management which underlies the success of the College and thanked his fellow governors for some of the sound decisions taken which have been necessary as the politics of education change and change again.

An excellent brochure was given to all who attended and it can be seen and read by visiting the College website at www.kgv.ac.uk and clicking on the "25th Anniversary" logo on the home page. The calendar of further events is also in this brochure.

25 Years ago

Taken from the Red Rose of July 1979:

From September 1979, the twelve houses will be amalgamated into four groups of three. The students in the college will be in tutorial groups – not in houses. We will not have any Second or Third Forms. This means that during the school year 1979-1980 the houses will be made up entirely of boys in the Fourth, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth Forms. There will be one housemaster for each of the new house groups, and wherever possible, the houses will keep their present house tutors. The arrangements for houses for 1979-80 is:-

| Housemasters | House | House Tutors |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Mr H T Marsh | Edwards' Evans' Mason's | Mrs M P Rimmer Mrs B Partington Mr S Peach |
| Mr L S Metford | Amer's Holland's Honeybone's | Mr R J Dollery Mrs J Metcalfe Mrs P Robinson |
| Mr R A Stitchbury | Grear's Lunn's Rogers' | Mrs P Davies Mrs A H Szczesniak Mr M B Cochrane |
| Mr M Basford | Leach's Spencer's Woodham's | Mrs F H Gould Mr B L Hubbard Miss D Woodward |

25 Years ago The Politics of Education

Last year I printed an article by Headmaster David Arnold, which he had written for the 1979 OBA newsletter. By 1980 the full effect of the change from School to College was being felt and I found another article by David Arnold in which he lays out the political history of the change. His personal opinions t make it very readable. As we are in our Silver Jubilee year, I think it is a good time for such a clear-sighted, if longer than usual, article.

In 1926 the grammar school was widely seen as a means of social mobility, a means by which a working-class boy could start climbing the steps of the educational and social ladder. The Sixth Form was its crown and glory and from there it was but a short step to university. KGV was a model of such a school. When it started it had no Sixth Form, but by the 1930's there were more than 500 boys in the school, more than fifty of them were in the Sixth Form and about ten went on to university each year. This was also a remarkably stable period when, in the seven years from 1932 to 1939 no master left the School. By 1945 the numbers had risen to over 600 and of those more than 100 were in the Sixth Form and nearly twenty went on to university each year.

Up till that time admission had been by a mixture of fee-paying (4 guineas per term!) and the winning of free places by a scholarship examination. The Butler Education Act of 1944 changed all that. All over England the educational orthodoxy culled from the Norwood Report of 1943 was now that there were three kinds of children: those who loved learning for its own sake, who should go to a grammar school and eventually into one of the learned professions or into administration; those who found the subtleties of language beyond them but could understand machinery, and so should go to technical schools and then into "certain crafts – engineering and the like"; thirdly, those who could deal only with "concrete things" who should go to a secondary modern school where they would get a "general grounding" and not be provided with any special training for anything. In practice, everyone forgot about the second category and local authorities devised systems, collectively known as the 11-plus, to segregate children into those suited to a grammar school education and those suited to secondary modern education.

In reality the segregation depended on the size of the buildings available in any area and the whim of the local politicians. In one area only 10% of the children would go to a grammar school, in another, 60%. In Southport it settled down to 20%.

Although the theory was that the 11-plus was a way of discerning the style of education most suited to a child's education, everyone knew that it was really an exam which children passed or failed – and which most failed. Parents of those who passed were generally well satisfied. Parents of those who failed were often dissatisfied, particularly if they were the middle-class parents who, under the old dispensation would have paid their four guineas per term to send their son to KGV. Thus right from the start the new system generated opposition. By abolishing all fee-paying places in maintained schools, while permitting it in independent and a number of 'direct grant' schools, the politicians gave themselves the comforting illusion that they were promoting equality while in practice doing precisely the opposite and driving an increasing number of parents who could afford it to look to independent schools to provide a suitable education. At the same time, the fact that most children failed the 11-plus exam and were excluded from grammar schools, meant there was a built-in likelihood that when the next generation grew up they would demand a change.

Meanwhile the 11-plus was an effective device for helping to create a grammar school with high academic standards and it was at this stage that Geoffrey Dixon took over from George Millward. Over his 27 years numbers grew steadily in line with the growth in the population of Southport and academic standards to a level equalled by few grammar schools in the country. The 11-plus provided the pupils. The level of ability of these pupils attracted able and dedicated men onto the staff.

By the time KGV celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1970 there were 800 boys in the school of whom over 200 were in the Sixth Form. Figures published in the Times Literary Supplement showed that the record of KGV in winning open Awards to Oxford and Cambridge between 1940 and 1970 was unequalled by any maintained school in the north west and exceeded by very few in the country. But by this time the movement to replace grammar schools and secondary modern schools with comprehensive schools had gained momentum. Public opinion had changed a lot in the previous fifty years. In 1920 a common attitude was that it was wonderful if a bricklayer's or bus-driver's son got a free place at a grammar school. By 1940 rather more people were suggesting it was scandalous that so few bricklayers' or bus-drivers' sons got places at grammar schools. This seemed to be put right by the 1944 Education Act, which had resulted in a vast extension of free grammar school places, and by 1949, when Geoffrey Dixon came, many people in Southport must have felt it was wonderful that so many girls and boys were getting a free grammar school education.

But a further change was coming in attitudes and by 1960 or so many believed it was scandalous that grammar schools should be bastions of privilege for the clever. Equality had become a more fashionable notion than equality of opportunity. Those who once feared the power of aristocracy now began to fear the potential power of a new meritocracy – and the grammar school was seen as a breeding ground for the new meritocrat.

Grammar schools got little support in these years from either of the two main political parties. The Tory leaders had been educated at independent schools: Churchill at Harrow, Eden and McMillan at Eton. So had many in the cabinet. Many Tories resented both grammar schools and secondary modern schools as institutions to which they would not send their own children but for which they nevertheless had to pay, and they were contemptuous of grammar school boys who went to university intending to work hard and relied on their own ability to get them a job afterwards.

The Labour Party leaders were no better. They also had been to independent schools (Attlee at Haileybury and Gaitskell at Winchester), or like Bevin and Morrison, they had been to the old elementary schools and looked at grammar schools with suspicion as devices for turning good working-class boys into middle-class Tories.

Between the Scylla of Socialist suspicion and the Charybdis of Conservative contempt it is perhaps surprising that the grammar schools survived so long. One reason is that they were there. Another is that so many of them were demonstrably very good and of this, KGV was an outstanding example. Such schools with scant resources other than blackboard and chalk, well-thumbed text books and excellent staff, pulled themselves up by their own boot straps. In 1965 there were 1,285 grammar schools in England and Wales. By 1976, when Geoffrey Dixon retired and KGV got its third Headmaster, there were only 477 and many of these, including KGV were due to close.

Over the same period a passionate argument had raged over the relative merits of a selective or a comprehensive system. Those who wanted to retain a selective system proclaimed the virtues of academic excellence. Those wanting a comprehensive system took their stand on the principle of Equality. In the event the comprehenders won, for the combination of the 11-plus selection with the abolition of fee-paying places in grammar schools had ensured them an eventual majority. A nation of 11-plus failures had grown up and would not stand for having their children humiliated in the same way. Between 1965 and 1976 the

number of comprehensive schools had increased from 262 to 2878 and three-quarters of all children of secondary age were attending them.

But by this time it was becoming apparent that a comprehensive school, in order to sustain a Sixth Form, needed to be very large indeed. In 1976 there were 840 boys at KGV of whom 240 were in the Sixth Form. Since KGV took only a fifth of all the boys in Southport, that meant that it would, as a comprehensive school, need 3000 instead of 600 boys in the first five years to support the same Sixth Form.

Another was to have a school which was far too big. Another was to have several schools with Sixth Forms which were far too small. In the country as a whole the usual answer had been to make the worst of the situation and have schools which were far too big with Sixth Forms which were too small. Fortunately KGV and Southport were saved from this fate and the problem was solved by deciding to provide comprehensive schools to cover the age range 11-16 and turn KGV into a Sixth Form College.

A new Headmaster was appointed to preside over the transformation of the boys' grammar school into a Sixth Form College which would also embrace the Sixth Form girls of Southport. When I arrived in 1976 there were five Old Georgians on the staff; George Wakefield, Bob Abram, Hubert Long, David Miley and Stan Rimmer. They had between them one hundred and twenty years teaching at KGV. Over the sixty years of the life of the school it had only three Headmasters. The school began life with a staff of seven and ended it with a staff of 50. Throughout the life of the School it had retained the distinction of being the last School in the country to be named after a reigning monarch and when it was transformed into the College, Queen Elizabeth agreed that her grandfather's name should be retained in the name of the new college.

There may, perhaps, be some who look back with nostalgia to the 1930's, those years of international and economic gloom which were the hey-day of grammar schools of the 1930's. At that time KGV school was a comfortable size with about 540 pupils and was proudly established in its new building – though already it was slowly subsiding on its insecure foundations. It is some consolation to know that the new KGV College will be the same comfortable size, with about 540 students. This time it is to be hoped that the physical foundations are as secure as the educational foundations on which KGV is built.

I know what David meant when he wrote "embrace the Sixth Form girls", but somebody from the Modern stream can explain Scylla and Charybdis to this

poor science student! The fact that the college has over 1200 full-time students and not the 540 David Arnold predicted, shows how the financial and political aspects of education continue to shape the College.

Taken from the Red Rose of July 1979:

From September 1979, the twelve houses will be amalgamated into four groups of three. The students in the college will be in tutorial groups – not in houses. We will not have any Second or Third Forms. This means that during the school year 1979-1980 the houses will be made up entirely of boys in the Fourth, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth Forms. There will be one housemaster for each of the new house groups, and wherever possible, the houses will keep their present house tutors. The following are the arrangements for houses for 1979-80.

| Housemasters | House | House Tutors |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Mr H T Marsh | Edwards' Evans' Mason's | Mrs M P Rimmer Mrs B Partington Mr S Peach |
| Mr L S Metford | Amer's Holland's Honeybone's | Mr R J Dollery Mrs J Metcalfe Mrs P Robinson |
| Mr R A Stitchbury Rogers' | Grear's Lunn's Mr M B Cochrane | Mrs P Davies Mrs A H Szczesniak |
| Mr M Basford Spencer's | Leach's Mr B L Hubbard Woodham's | Mrs F H Gould Miss D Woodward |

Taken from The Georgian of 1980:

G P Wakefield

July 17th is tinged with sadness because it is the day we say goodbye to George Wakefield. He was a pupil at KGV from 1931 to 1939. He was a prefect and took many leading parts in the school plays which were such a feature of school life at that time. In 1939 he went to Liverpool University to read English. From there he went into the Army and was wounded and taken prisoner in the fighting in Italy. The legacy of that period is the instantly recognisable "Wakefield Walk". 1945 saw him return to KGV as a member of the English department in a "temporary" capacity. As we are aware, this became very permanent indeed. He was promoted to Head of English dept in 1950. It was during this time that the school play reached a standard both in quality and range never equalled before or since. In 1969 he succeeded Leslie Hargreaves as Deputy Head, a post he has filled with distinction. He has handled the problems this position entails with tact and courtesy but when the occasion demanded, he was capable of making people aware of how many beans make five in no uncertain manner.

Probably his greatest achievement was his involvement in the purchasing and development of the Hostel at Sedburgh. As Chairman of the LongRigg Management Committee he has taken a major role in making it the fine place it now is. We will always be grateful to him for that.

R.Abram

News Desk

Dear Alan,

In the 75th Anniversary magazine I wrote how my masters had inspired me to study French at university, despite strong parental opposition and headmagisterial doubts. However it looks as if my decision has been rewarded. In 1991, Clifton College, where I was Head of Modern Languages, sent me on a sabbatical to Montpellier. There I decided, with the encouragement of Professor Gerard Gouiran of the Association Internationale d'Etudes Occitanes, to resume my Old Provençal (now renamed Occitan) and 21 plus published works later, I am deep in the heart of editing manuscripts. In 1992, I took early retirement and was immediately invited to join the University of the West of England which, on my final retirement, made me Visiting Senior Research Fellow and has always encouraged my research. At the same time I am still attached to the AIEO and an Associate Fellow of Birmingham University where I work closely with my old friend Professor Peter Ricketts.

Imagine my surprise, however, to receive this year a letter from the French Prime Minister telling me that I had been appointed Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques. This is the second oldest order in France (dating from 1808) and is the academic equivalent of the Legion d'Honneur. The ceremony took place on November 2nd at l'Institut Francais, London, and was carried out by the Conseiller Culturel and Directeur de l'Institut, Olivier Chambard, who presented us with our medals. Nine of us were honoured. Apart from the pleasure of such an award, it was particularly uplifting to have the French Government recognizing nine English men and women. The Entente Cordiale is not dead!

I wish the Association every success and feel very close to it as I grow older. I have to tell you that Clifton College rewarded my retirement by making me an honorary Old Cliftonian. I had great pleasure in writing to turn this down, stressing that I could not be an O.C. as I shall always be an Old Georgian.

My best wishes to you and please give my very best wishes to the Dixons.

Dr Cyril Hershon (Spencer's 1948-55)

Nov.15th 2004

I wrote to Cyril telling him how proud Old Georgians will be to read of his award. Sadly, I had also to tell him that both Geoffrey and Nancy had passed away and sent him the Service of Commemoration booklet.

Attention all leavers and joiners of 1979!

If you hadn't noticed (ignoring the grey hairs, balding look, groaning bones in the morning etc) time has rolled by and we are currently in the midst of the 25th Anniversary celebrations at the college and getting involved.

So that means **YOU**. For all the guys who left that summer (Clenehan, Day, Dransfield, Fearn, Merone, Mercer, Parkinson, Threlfall, Trotman etc) and the ladies who joined in September (I can't name them as I am too polite to recognise the years going by – come on Di, Catherine and Lindsay), the Dinner is a great opportunity for us to get together again to point fingers, have a laugh and go home on the floor of a taxi (again).

I have asked Stan Rimmer to reserve a special table for us at this year's dinner, so please get in touch with me if you can make it and want to be part of the celebrations. You can write to me at home (2 Beresford Drive, Southport, PR9 7JY) or email at jonelliot@hotmail.com. If you've not been to a Dinner before, We can dispel the myth of boredom and alcoholic stupor...well, the boredom at least!

Jonathan Elliott

Grear's 1973-79

Donations to the Association

The Association is as ever, most grateful to those who gave financial help for our activities. This year we received £344, about half the sum we received last year, but still extremely generous. Our thanks go to :

Ken Edwardson, Mick Enright, Ron Gautrey, Cyril Hershon, Harry Howard, Ray Jeffs, Tom Lodge, Mr & Mrs A W G Martin, Michael Massam, David Max, R.Owen, Sam Perry, David Pearson, J K Ross, Bert Richardson, Brian Rimmer, Brian Whittle.

The Chairman's Weekend

The location I chose in March 2004 was Askrigg in the Yorkshire Dales. When I began to assemble the party at the start of the New Year, no-one was more enthusiastic than Geoffrey Dixon. Although he had not been in the best of health his optimism was infectious. Yes, he said, he would definitely be there, in spite of a mildly irritating back pain. It was a real disappointment therefore, when he rang me a few days later and said he didn't think he could make it after all, though I was to keep his room available, just in case. All 17 of us who gathered at the King's Arms that weekend were genuinely touched by the message he sent. He was sorry

to let us down but insisted on paying for our wine on the Saturday Evening and so we drank a toast to him at the meal. Imagine the shock when, just one week later, I learned that he had passed away. None of us who were there that evening will forget him or his generosity. Though tributes are appearing elsewhere in this Red Rose, I wish to record my own. He was a fine headmaster and a remarkable man and I am so sorry he wasn't able to share the weekend with us.

The weekend went well. Rain threatened but never came and after gathering for lunch at the King's Arms on Saturday, one party set off for a 6 mile trek along the foothills of Addleborough, while another group opted for a slightly shorter walk up to Mill Gill and Whitfield Gill, Askrigg's pretty waterfalls. In the evening we had an excellent dinner, followed by a Chairman's Snooker challenge, where once again I failed to impress the Old Georgians with my cueing power. Nevertheless, I doubt anyone present can remember the details or even who emerged as winner. My thanks go to all of the Old Georgians who supported me. It was a highlight of my year as your Chairman and I hope to be invited to many more gatherings in future years.

Jim Marsh

(Mason's 1954-1961)

Roll Of Honour

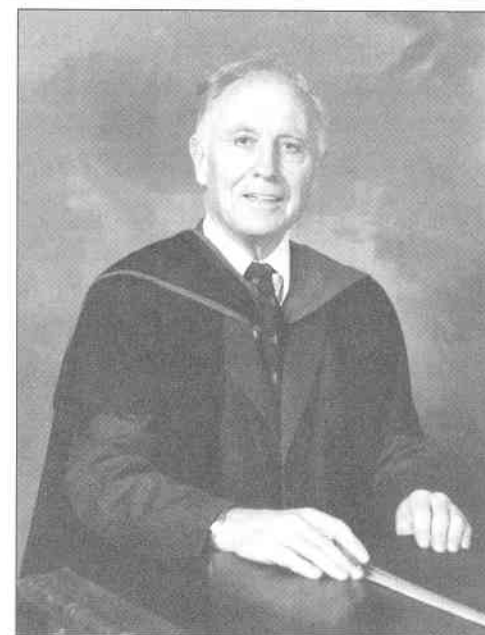
I have received an email from Arnold Charnley (Froggy's son) who lives in Michigan and is recovering from heart surgery. He tells me that the Slatters remain active – Brian in Warwickshire and Ken in the Wirral. He raises the question as to why Ronnie Rogers, son of J.W. Rogers the Housemaster is not listed on the Roll of Honour. He believes Ronnie was killed while serving in the RAF. He knows Ronnie was a wireless operator and enlisted as such. Ian Livesley who compiled the Roll of Honour has searched the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but cannot find Ronnie listed there.

I asked John Edwards (son of Teddy, the Housemaster), if he could throw any light on the matter. John recalls that Ronnie had a brother Arthur and they were both slightly older than him. They would have left school in the mid 1930s. Arthur was a pilot in the RAF and went down with his burning bomber allowing his crew to bale out. There is no mention of Arthur on the CWGC website, and neither of the brothers appear in the Southport War Memorial list of names. John tells me there were no other siblings and so we have drawn a blank. I have emailed Arnold with John's information and await his reply. Can any anyone add any information about Ronnie and Arthur Rogers?

Ed.

OBITUARIES

Geoffrey Dixon Remembered



On 20th March 2004 the life and work of Geoffrey Dixon was celebrated at the College. Members of his family addressed a packed hall with their personal reflections. They included Nancy, his sons Oliver and Paul, Philip his grandson and a message was played from his son Stephen. Then more memories were recalled by his colleagues and friends, namely Royston Furley, his golfing partner, Colin Graham, fellow member of Southport Rotary Club and the Phoenix Club. Then, words from Brian Seed, successor to Geoffrey as Chairman of Southport Bridge Club; Ken Edwardson, long standing friend and climbing companion and then a very moving message from Geoffrey read by Paul Bagshaw. Finally, Principal Hilary Anslow closed the event with her own tribute.

A small booklet was given out to those attending and the distilled writings of Hubert Evans, George Wakefield and Paul Bagshaw which were included in it, are reproduced overleaf.

On March 12th 2004 the death of Geoffrey Dixon signalled the end of an era for very large numbers of men who received their secondary education in Southport. As pupils at King George V School from 1949 to 1976, they experienced a quality of schooling amongst the best in the country. As Headmaster, Mr Dixon led a team which, as far as any school can, brought out the best in the majority of boys who passed through KGV at that time, and their subsequent careers and achievements testify to this success.

Geoffrey Dixon, educated at Worksop College, won an Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences to New College, Oxford, where he gained an M.A. He came to KGV after teaching for a considerable time at Uppingham, commissioned service as a Major in the Royal Corps of Signals during the war and a short period as a civilian instructor in charge of science teaching at Sandhurst Military Academy. Without first-hand experience of the state education system he took over a school which, during twenty-nine years under its first headmaster, G.A. Millward, had established a reputation as one of the country's most successful grammar schools.

From the very start in 1949 Mr Dixon brought a fresh approach to the life of KGV. He believed in the importance of scholarship, yet expressed a comparable interest in games and outdoor activities, often leading by example. As an experienced mountaineer he led innumerable climbing and fell-walking expeditions and founded the Thornley Society to encourage boys to share his enthusiasm and to develop leadership skills. As principal cellist, he was a valued member of the School orchestra, participating in the many choral and orchestral concerts undertaken by the school during his period of service. In the mid-1960s Geoffrey was invited by the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, to join the Royal Commission on Medical Education.

If any one feature stands out amongst Geoffrey Dixon's many achievements at KGV it was that of Long Rigg, an outdoor pursuits centre established in the late 1960s near Sedburgh. This project, pioneered by the headmaster, provided facilities for curricular and outdoor educational opportunities as well as boarding experience for boys, well beyond what might be achieved in school-based learning. Many Old Georgians look back with affection upon times spent at Long Rigg, which added social learning to academic study. The centre was opened officially in the summer of 1970, the year of the

school's Golden Jubilee. When KGV became a Sixth Form College and educational priorities began to change, Long Rigg was sold and the capital transferred to the Educational Trust which, to this day, provides support for students of the College in pursuit of their academic ambitions.

Geoffrey Dixon was keenly aware of his duty to the school he led for twenty seven years. His insistence on the importance of scholarship played a decisive part in the academic success of so many of his pupils in the most competitive fields of education in the country. It was for his imaginative leadership that the community remains deeply in his debt and much of the excellence of King George V College today represents an uninterrupted continuation of this tradition, led by David Arnold, Geraldine Evans and since 1992, by Hilary Anslow the present Principal. He was immensely proud when the Geoffrey Dixon Lecture Theatre was inaugurated in his name.

1976 marked the retirement of Geoffrey Dixon from headmastership, but not in any way from activity. Over the past twenty eight years he participated vigorously in a number of enterprises as a member of Hesketh Golf Club, of Southport Rotary Club, of the Phoenix Club and of the committee of the Old Georgian's Association, who appointed him their Chairman in 2001, the 75th Anniversary of the opening of KGV. He was also a member of Southport Bridge Club and played at county level. He approached golf, even at the age of 91, with the skill and ruthlessness of a man who could never contemplate 'doing things by halves' and up to until two weeks before his death, was planning to join the Old Georgians on an outdoor pursuits weekend in Yorkshire.

Geoffrey Dixon, right into his nineties, was keen to keep abreast of developments in Information Technology and was a regular communicator by e-mail. He also joined the Alpine Garden Society and his rockery displays this interest. He died after a short illness and will be greatly missed by his sons Oliver, Stephen and Paul. In the 2001 Anniversary Red Rose Geoffrey wrote a summary of his years at KGV. This is his final paragraph:

"The true worth of a school can only be gauged many years after the pupils leave. A member of Liverpool University once said to me: ' We like having your boys. They are such good citizens' One of my greatest pleasures is to read

the achievements of Old Georgians in the Red Rose. So many of them have not only followed successful careers, but have made major contributions to the culture and life of their neighbourhoods. They have been 'good citizens'. No school can hope for more."

Nancy Dixon (nee Litt)

1913-2004

Nancy Litt was born on January 23rd, 1913. She spent much of her childhood abroad – in Hong Kong during the Great War, and in Haifa after the War, where her father was a judge under the Palestine Mandate. She attended St Paul's School for Girls and from there went up to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in 1932 to read chemistry. It was at Oxford that she met Geoffrey, a fellow undergraduate from New College and they married on August 1st, 1935. It was the start of a quite remarkable partnership full of activity and achievement that was to last over 68 years.

In the early and middle years of her marriage, Nancy operated mostly as mother and home-maker, but always maintained a keen interest in the life of KGV where she played a strong supportive role to Geoffrey. During those years, her outside activities were restricted although she did teach chemistry part-time including a short spell at KGV, and belonged to the Southport Inner Wheel, of which she was twice President, and the Hesketh Golf Club, where she served a term as Lady Captain. It was in retirement that her talents really blossomed. Her first love was painting, which she had set on one side when she went to Oxford rather than to Art College. Nancy went on a number of painting holidays and exhibited widely at local art clubs and also made exquisite pieces of furniture. For many years she wrote a witty and diverting annual pantomime for the Inner Wheel, full of topical references.

Latterly, her enthusiasm was directed mostly towards literature and poetry classes. Together with Geoffrey, she was a keen bridge player and enthusiastic solver of abstruse cryptic crosswords.

After Geoffrey's death on March 12th, Nancy had her ups and downs, her good and bad days. Although quite frail, her mind was as sharp as ever. As a couple, they had resolutely remained in their own house, but Nancy now accepted the need to go into residential care. It was characteristic of her that one of the last things she ever said to me was to ask my advice on the choice of a computer suitable to take with her so that she could continue with assignments for her literature classes, and to write her memoirs.

In the event she never moved. She was taken ill on the Tuesday before she was due to go, and died in the early hours of Friday, April 23rd just a few hours after being admitted to hospital. She is keenly missed by her three sons, seven grandchildren and four great grand-children, and by her many friends from the School and from the town.

Oliver Dixon (eldest son)

Herbert Tyson

1908-2003

Herbert Tyson, who died in Manchester on December 28th at the age of 95, began his eventful life in Southport.

Born in 1908, he attended St Phillip's Junior School. He went to the Woodlands School and in 1926 was one of the foundation pupils of KGV Grammar School. After finishing his education Mr Tyson had an eventful career as a Marine Engineer serving with several lines before becoming Chief Engineer on board Llangibby Castle, an armed merchant Cruiser.

Herbert had to stay calm under pressure when the stern of the ship was hit by a torpedo in January 1942. By varying the speed of the two engines he helped steer the ship to safety, first to the Azores and then to Gibraltar, while evading prowling u-boats.

After the war Herbert became an engineering executive and when he retired in 1973, he was responsible for several plants in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Outside of work, Herbert had a passion for photography and submitted freelance work to the *Daily Mail* and *Lancashire Life*. He married Kathleen Davenport in 1937. She passed away in 1989.

Raymond Gann

1920-2003

Raymond was a pupil in Evans' House from 1931 to 1938. On leaving KGV he took up Articles with a firm of Solicitors in Ormskirk and was admitted as a Solicitor in 1943. He commenced his Local Authority career at Bebington as Assistant Solicitor, moving to Bolton in 1947 as Senior Assistant Solicitor.

In 1948 Raymond was appointed Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Peace at Burnley, where he was to stay for a further 22 years. In 1970 he returned to Southport as Deputy Town Clerk. Upon Local Authority reorganisation, he became Head of Admin. Services at Sefton Metropolitan Borough.

Raymond took early retirement in 1977 and moved to Folkestone. There he

took up another career within the Lord Chancellor's Dept as Adjudicator in the Immigration Appeals Court in London, finally retiring in 1992. In his later years he returned to Southport. He loved all sport having played cricket until he was in his 70's and been a lifelong Everton supporter. He died peacefully at his home in November 2003.

Raymond is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Diana and stepdaughter Daphne .

Vernon Roberts

1931-2003

Vernon passed away on October 30th 2003, aged 72. He had suffered from Bowel Cancer. He was a Chartered Insurance Practitioner in the Vernon Roberts Insurance Company in Chorley and had only retired from the business one month before he died.

Brian Steele

1922-2003

Brian Steele spent two years in the RAF after leaving school and then took an engineering degree at Birmingham University. He spent a few years in industry and developed a life-long interest in fuel cells. He then joined Imperial College, London as a lecturer in Materials Science. He was a world expert on the development of the solid oxide fuel cell and held the Schoenbein Medal for SOFC research and the Kroll Medal of the Institute of Materials. In addition he was awarded the MBE in 1995 for services to materials science. He retired after fifteen years as Professor of Materials Science in 1994 and died in 2003.

Geoffrey Barnes

1919-2004

Geoffrey died on March 27th, 2004 aged 85 years. He was a lifelong and devoted supporter of the Old Georgians and was the association's Chairman in 1961-62.

Geoffrey was a gregarious and popular figure at the annual Dinner, whenever he and his wife, Phyll, were not indulging in their passion for travel. At KGV College he was a member of the committee which administered the Mason's Trust.

During a successful career in banking, he became Manager of Barclays Bank in Birkdale until his retirement in 1977. As a keen member of Southport Lions Club, and eventually as its President, he enjoyed the ultimate distinction of becoming the Chairman of the Council of Governors of Lions International.

He loved cricket, playing for many years for Southport and Birkdale, becoming the Club's Chairman and subsequently, its President. As a member of the M.C.C. he was a frequent visitor to lords.

Geoffrey is survived by his wife, Phyllis, son Bruce, daughter Judith, five grandchildren and now, three great grandchildren.

Louis Fletcher

1917-2004

Dr Louis Fletcher, Evans 1928-1934, died on the 8th November 2004. After qualifying as a doctor at Liverpool University, he served in India during the war, marrying the Colonel's daughter. After the war he ran a practice in Huddersfield for several years, followed by a short period in Public Health. Heart problems caused an early retirement to Formby, where he lived quietly for 35 years. He is survived by his wife for 61 years, a daughter and son and 5 grandchildren.

John Moorman

1933-2005

John left school in 1951 and after working at AV Roe in Manchester, took a Degree in Mathematics at Liverpool University. He began teaching at Harris College Preston and retired from full time work shortly after it became the University of Central Lancashire in the late 1980's. John never married but worked hard for several organisations. He led the Scout Troop in Ainsdale for many years, took part in the Church Dramatic Society and latterly assisted the Church with the "Meals on Wheels" project. He was an excellent Quiz Team member in the Merseyside league, winning several trophies and was Treasurer for the League for many years. His great passion was classical music and attended all the Liverpool Phiharmonic concerts. He died at home, of bronchial pneumonia on January 7th, aged 71.

College Life

April 2004: Alan Johnson MP, the Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education visited the College and saw a number of students from different course programmes. Unfortunately his visit was the day after the vote in the House on higher education fees and, of course, students were keen to make their points of view known against the proposals. The press concentrated on the university fees issue, but Alan Johnson did say he had visited because KGV is one of the best colleges in the country.

May 2004: Students and Staff are currently preparing for the AVCE, AS, A2 and GCSE exams which commence on May 17th. A musical concert has been given, showing off the talents of the music students. Also, a very robust, modern version of "Bouncers and Shakers", a student interpretation of two John Godber plays was produced. What fun!

The College staff were shocked when Peter Comfort suffered a heart attack. He was discharged from hospital just before the Easter weekend and is at home recovering. Jan Regan, Head of Payroll and Personnel, has taken on Peter's examination role. Peter Lynas is the staff representative on the Old Georgian's committee.

August 2004: The college celebrated its best ever Advanced level results with a 98% pass rate including 22 subjects with all students succeeding. 70 students gained three or more A grades. A significant amount of building work has been undertaken during the summer. Work has started on an annex to the Sports Hall, including a new multigym. KGV Challenge was run in the summer term as part of our response to the Government's Citizenship Initiative. The college is one of the pilots for the Learning and Skills Development Agency. The group that won last term's competition won a visit to the House of Commons and the House of Lords hosted by John Pugh M.P.

September 2004.

Each year the Helena Kennedy Foundation provides a small number of bursaries to students across Britain who have faced barriers to entry to higher education. Student Maleeka Bokhari has won this award which will make a substantial contribution to her first year costs. This is the second time a KGV student has won this award in the last three years.

November 2004: The college Music Concert was of the usual excellent standard and was well attended by Old Georgians. We did not, however, present any gifts as we have done in some previous years. Prior to the concert, a plaque in memory of Hilary Royden was unveiled by Anthea, his sister, in the ante-room which contains the Roll of Honour and other important memorabilia.

Alistair David Malcolm and the Tirpitz raid

In May last year I was called by a researcher from the BBC Timewatch series of programmes. They were making a film about the actions of the Royal Navy mini-submarines, or X-craft, on the giant German battleship, Tirpitz. They were trying to contact relatives of the crew members to get background material and were tracing one member of X-craft, known as X5, named A.D.Malcolm from the War Office records. It transpired that he had been at KGV from 1934 to 1939, in Mason's. Mary Pilling the wife of our secretary, John, had known him as one of her group of friends at the outbreak of war. He had joined the Navy and she remembers him as a dashing young man in his uniform, as the photo from Mary shows. I phoned all the Malcolms in the Southport book but no one claimed to be related. The programme was broadcast in September and the incredible bravery of the sailors involved as well as the huge military success, was vividly shown.

In 1941 the Tirpitz was based in a steep sided fjord in northern Norway beyond the range of our bombers. It attacked the convoys from Britain to Russia and to prevent it and her sister ships, Scharnhorst and Lucknow breaking out into the Atlantic and attacking the convoys going from USA to Britain, the Home Fleet could not move far from its base in Scapa Flow. Churchill wrote "If she were only crippled and rendered unseaworthy the entire naval situation throughout the world would be altered and the naval command in the Pacific would be regained"

To achieve this end, the X-craft four man submarines were designed. They were 50 feet long by a mere 6 feet beam, weighed 27 tons, moved at 5 knots but carried two 3,750 high explosive charges clamped to each side. By September 1943, after limited testing in a Scottish loch, it was decided they would have to be towed by full-size subs the 1200 miles to northern Norway. Midshipman A.D. Malcolm was a member of the crew of X5. The six mini-subs, X5,X6,X7,X8,X9, and X10 sailed on 11th Sept aiming to arrive in the fjord by the 25th. Mishaps occurred on the voyage; the tow ropes for X8 and X9 broke and X9 and her crew were lost. X8 had to jettison her charges due to air leaks but one charge detonated and X8 was so badly damaged she had to be scuttled. X10 developed a series of electrical faults which prevented her taking any part in the raid and she too was scuttled.

On 19th Sept X6 cut its way through the nets, one man using breathing apparatus leaving the sub and cutting the wire ropes manually. It dived under Tirpitz, got snagged again and had to break surface to free itself. It was sighted and fired on from the ship. It dived again, released the charges but had been damaged enough to make it surface. It was scuttled and the crew taken prisoner. X7 cut through the nets and released its charges and was trying to escape when the charges exploded damaging the sub and sending it to the surface. Two of the crew escaped but it sank so quickly that the other two were drowned.



What happened to X5 was the mystery that the Norwegian divers employed on the programme only partially solved. They found pieces of X5 close to where the aerial photos from the RAF had shown Tirpitz to be, found one charge unexploded but not the other, and found no bodies of the crew of which David Malcolm was part. In German archives found after the war was a report that "as a result of the successful midget submarine attack, Tirpitz has been put out of action for months". In fact she did not move until April 1944 after extensive repairs, from Ka Fjord to Tromso Fjord where she was at last within the range of the heavy Lancaster bombers and was destroyed in November 1944. Much more information can be found at website "British Submarines of World War Two"

The Lieutenants in charge of X6 and X7 were awarded the V.C. and their crews the D.S.O. Because the part played by X5 was unknown, its crew received no awards posthumously. In reading the various articles on the internet, I found considerable protest at the alleged unfairness of this, but the Association can nevertheless be mightily proud of this Old Georgian.

Ed.

Bookshelf

Although I know books have been published by OG's in the last 12 months, I have only received information from that epitome of industry and wit, Paul Bagshaw about his latest work, for which I thank him.

Ed.

Buy This Book? You have to be joking!

Writing a book is one thing, making a widescreen feature film is quite another. Attempting both in the same year is impossible, as I discovered in 2003. For this reason, the third part of my autobiography was postponed in order to work on the producing of '4 Days'. In 2004 Dave Town and I, for some unaccountable reason, decided to embark upon a second film - *The Mirror*- although we had learned to avoid the mistake of trying to complete the project in just 10 months! We plan a premiere for December 2005.

The only chance I had of writing a book last year was to choose one that was to have been number five, after completion of the autobiography. 'Buy This Book' was relatively easy to write and will, I hope, be just as easy to read because it consists of humorous anecdotes interspersed with Victorian engravings carrying modern captions.

Much of the book's content consists of material used in after-dinner speeches to Rotary, Probus and other organisations so I will have to devise something new for future engagements. The couple of extracts below give some idea of the book's personality, and may act as a warning to those who might otherwise be tempted to buy it!

"That wall is nowhere near ten yards from the free kick. You wouldn't want referee Mr Frisk measuring your living room carpet, would you?"

Mark Lawrenson, BBC Sport-Euro 2004



OK, You play "Give peace a chance", then we'll rip their guts out!"

Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends,

12th May 2004

All at Queenscourt would like to thank you sincerely for the generous donation you sent us recently in memory of Nancy Dixon.

Your donation will help us to care for patients and families at a difficult time in their lives and we very much appreciate your support of our work.

Ann Throp (Hospice Administrator, Southport)

Dear Alan,

An old school mate of mine gave a copy of Red Rose to his mother. She gave it to my father who showed it to me! My name is in it as a "lost soul". I therefore email you to re-introduce myself, should anyone be interested! (address enclosed) I am a Veterinary Surgeon in Colwyn Bay. Incidentally, my father J. Raymond Barton, who preceded me at KGV by a generation, might be keen to receive the Red Rose- he is more historically minded than I!

John C. Barton (1968-1975)

John, your soul is saved. I will write to your Dad and tell him you've been found in the Welsh jungle.

Regards, Alan

Dear Editor,

My friend Ivor Galkoff (1949-1954) from time to time hands me his Red Rose which I enjoy reading – looking for those I remember or have forgotten. For nostalgia increases proportionate to ageing as you will no doubt discover... and there is more time to write to Magazine Editors. It is nice to be reminded of school and Southport of which I am very proud.

Not all memories are pleasant to recall however. Certainly not standing – more like quaking – outside Mr Dixon's study having been sent there by Mr Thompson (and by the way, I would never dared refer to him as Geoffrey Dixon as you do in your Magazine), which came as a real shock as he was one of my favourite teachers. Fortunately "Geoffrey" was out so Harris escaped "Six of the Best". The Red Rose refers to David Max a fellow Solicitor with whom my firm has just had a transaction and I will send him a copy of this email. I used to be sent Red Rose, am I not up to date with my subscription?

Lionel Harris (Woodham's 1949-56)

Northwood Middlesex

A few things, Lionel. Having left in 1954 I've already become nostalgic but I find nostalgia is not what it used to be. Secondly, being on the Association committee with GFD, he instructed me to call him Geoffrey and addressed me as Alan. So there. Thirdly, the subscription you paid back in 1956 is for life but feel free to contribute at any time. Your address is on the database so you should be reading this in February.

Best Regards Alan

Dear Alan,

2nd April 2004

I'm an ex-KGV student (1989-1991). I now teach/research economics, with a special focus on education. At the moment I'm doing some work on the effects of school reorganisation in England – the move from grammar plus secondary modern to a comprehensive system. One thing I'm looking at is whether comps that used to be grammars are doing better than those that used to be secondary moderns (it seems they are). I often wonder in this context where the KGV grammar school used to be. If you know where the grammar school used to be situated, I'd be very interested to find out. Many Thanks

Damon Clark

UC Berkeley, California

So I directed him to the college website and the KGV History section of the Old Georgian's pages and the two aerial photos there.

Dear Alan,

4th April 2004

Thanks for the information. The colour photo is incredible – I would never have guessed I parked my car where the grammar school used to be! I would love to know why the school was demolished – most former grammar schools just became comprehensives. Anyway I'll look into that in the future with a view to writing something for the Red Rose. Right now I need to finish this project and get a job, so it may have to wait until 2006 edition!

Thanks again,

Damon.

It seems sad to me that one could spend two years at college and not know about the history of the place, but better late than never!

Ed.

Hello Alan, Sept 1st 2004
I moved up from Churchtown school to KGV in 1947 along with yourself, Peter Griffith and Gerald Sumner. Academically I developed later on in life and retired as Manager of a Key Site Branch of what was the Midland Bank in 1991. I had a brother Michael who was a year ahead of us at School and if I recall correctly, he was friendly with Stan Rimmer. I have read "KGV Remembered" with great interest but nowhere does it mention running through Kew Woods. Is my memory deceiving me? I used to go to "Teddy's Club" and may well be able to add a name or two to the photo shown briefly in the video.

Unfortunately I am unable to "freeze" the video, can you help me here? Next time I make it to Southport I shall make the effort to look at the site of our old school. It had much going for it. It gave us a sense of responsibility and pride. As time passed, one realised it had given us ambition and the desire to listen and help others. Was this KGV or the results of living in an austere age?

Regards

John Mileson (Grear's 1947-1954)

*Hello John, Sept 1st
One name you will be interested in is Frank Ball, a classmate of mine, as he lived near you. He qualified at Manchester as a Civil engineer, worked for British Rail engineering, then as a Railway consultant, has retired and lives in Warrington. I will ask Paul about the video. He is making his second film now to follow "4 Days". The "new" College is a great place. Life is very different to ours, though. Students are only there for 21 months and have many exams so that the traditional, time-demanding sports of rugby and cricket have no place. However, there are excellent hockey teams and good badminton players.*

Regards, Alan

Hello Alan, Sept 2nd
It's funny hearing about Frank, my mother always set him on a pedestal and if I wasn't getting the results she expected, then Frank's name was always mentioned! My brother Michael worked for BR until they lent him to affirm in Australia. They were building a railway through the Blue mountains in the early 70's and he never returned to the UK. I moved around the UK during my working life and it was a disappointment to me that my daughters were

unable to settle at any one school for long. The longest stretch was at Queen Mary School Lytham, which I always thought had a very similar outlook to KGV.

I have a son who attended Sedbergh school. He left in 2003 after A-levels but was dogged by the need to take far too many exams. I mention this partly because of your comment about the pressures on students in the college and partly because of the connection with the Sedbergh area that developed through Long Rigg. Best Regards

John Mileson

Hello Alan, Sept 26th
Speaking to my sister Valerie, who lives in Cheshire, the other day I mentioned Frank Ball and yourself. Val was a great friend of Frank's sister Vera. Many years ago Val worked in Southport Library and recalls a young lady employed there who married an Alan Bond and who later gave birth to a baby boy. Could this have anything to do with you?

Just a little- the baby boy was the Association chairman in 2001 ! Tempus fugit

I also recall a wet, dark miserable and windy Saturday, probably in 1951, when the front door bell rang and it was Brian Knowles. He was looking for company on a cycle ride to Hightown! I agreed to go with him and set off covered with one of those huge wind-catching capes, which collected a lap full of rain within minutes. Anyway, our mission was to call at the house of Bernice, or was it Bertice?, who lived with her parents and was the love of Brian's life.

We made it there, soaking wet and freezing cold, were invited in for a quick cup of tea, a small piece of cake and then sent on our way back home. The return journey took something like two hours, battling against the wind which caught our capes and acted like sails. An afternoon leaving a lasting memory and an even greater lesson- never cycle past Woodvale Aerodrome when it's wet and windy and never accompany Brian Knowles on any trip which promises a "really good tea and a nice easy ride".

Wishing Brian all the best, wherever he is.

Regards, John Mileson

Brian lives in Dorchester and I bet he has a rosier memory of the incident which he will no doubt present in due course.

Ed.

Here follows a little series of letters and emails. It started with Imogen's email of 3rd July 2003 printed on page 61 in the 2004 Red Rose. My involvement as the link gave me considerable pleasure.

Dear Secretary,

Have just read the 2004 Red Rose and, after a few crocodile (we call them alligator) tears, I decided to send you a cheque to cover postage and future editions. I wonder if I'm the oldest O.G. still vertical? I'm 86.

Tell Imogen Pennell that I remember her Dad and Follett very well. We played rugby for Southport RUFC on occasions. They were threequarters, I toiled in the pack. Big doings at the public swimming pool too! I remember Sam Perry too. He and I competed for the same girl. Remember Megan?

I served in the RAF, 39-45, mostly overseas, then was a Midland Bank rep. on board the Q.E. and Q.M. Crossed the Atlantic 83 times by ship and then settled in the USA. After working for GTE and Johnson & Johnson as Materials Manager, I formed a company marketing medical devices. Now semi-retired.

My most pungent memories of KGV are being whacked by Hank Higham with a Bunsen burner tube on my guilty rear and Bud Payne's stern dictum "Lodge, one day you will swing". So far my crimes remain undetected. To Old Georgian octogenarians, my email address is peckyl@aol.com

Tom Lodge (Leech's 1929-35) Watertown, Connecticut

*Hello Imogen, April 17th
Your email of July 2003 has just had a response! I've attached a copy of a letter I received today. I will reply to Tom Lodge and tell him I've spoken to you. I'm sure you will correspond with each other and hope there's a story for the Red Rose. Best Regards, Alan*

Hello Alan, April 18th
Many thanks for sending me Tom Lodge's letter. It was kind of you both to contact me. I trust Tom won't mind me e-mailing him in response, despite being neither an octogenarian or an OG!
With Best Wishes,
Imogen

Hello Tom, April 18th
Thanks for your letter. I am interested to know how you came to read a Red Rose in the USA when your name isn't on the database. Thanks to your generous donation, you are now a life member and you will receive your own Red Rose. The internet has been the cause of a lot of "Old" Georgians who never joined on leaving or who changed address and never told us, rejoining after fifty or more years. (Bud Payne might dispute the construction of this sentence, but you get the drift). As for being the oldest, I am delighted to tell you that you have a long way to go. Rev Bill Holden left in 1926 as Woodlands closed and Geoff Stocks left in 1928. I have listed those leavers who you may recall and wish to contact.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------|------|
| D.Spalding | 1934 | Harry Howard | 1935 |
| C. Ince | 1935 | F.M.Hentschel | 1935 |
| K.Jowett | 1935 | P.Slater | 1936 |
| K.G.Hall | 1937 | J H Marshall | 1937 |
| R A Champion-Smith | 1938 | John Edwards | 1938 |

*I have sent a copy of your letter to Imogen Pennell.
Regards, Alan*

Hello Alan, 21 April
Thanks for your response, wish my debtors were so prompt. I'm searching my sieve-like memory for clues to the leavers you listed, but I did know Geoff Stocks. The Red Rose was sent to me by my brother-in-law Ernest Howorth of Ainsdale (Mason's 1930-35) which he scrounged from some local OG.
Best Regards **Tom Lodge**

Dear Alan, April 25th
I am the wife of Chas (Charlie) Martin who is an OG. I was reading his latest Red Rose and recognised many of the boys' names. It brought back many happy memories of my adolescent years in Southport. However, what did catch my eye was a letter from Imogen Pennell (page 61). I attended Brentwood school where there was a Patricia Pennell, older than me and from Africa if I remember correctly. My father said he had a Follett Pennell in his squadron during the war who was killed and he wondered if they were related. It turned out he was her uncle.
Now this seems too much of a coincidence for it not to be the same person

Imogen is asking after. We had no idea he was an ex KGV boy. We have all my father's photo albums (he died 10 years ago) and I remember him showing me a picture of Follett. I recall he was very good looking, tall and blonde. If this is the person Imogen is looking for, I should be pleased to send her a copy. Please pass on my email and my email address to her.

Chas so enjoyed the dinner he attended in 2003. As you can appreciate it's hard to attend regularly from New Zealand! At present he is working in China. We shall be in the UK in August 2004, where we shall meet up with a lot of Old Boys who remain good friends. I hope you do not mind me emailing you, but I owe it to my father to check on this matter.

All the Best,

Norma Martin (Charlie Martin 1954-61)

Christchurch N.Z.

Dear Alan,

16th July

It was recently pointed out to me that I got a double mention in the 2004 Red Rose. These were by Ernest Pickthall who was fullback in the rugby team that beat Cowley almost 70 years ago, an event so unusual that the school was given a half day holiday, and by Imogen Pennell, the daughter of Monty Pennell, another contemporary and one of the few Old Georgians to become a Fellow of the Royal Society.

I would very much like to get in touch with both, particularly with Imogen for I knew her father well, both at School and at Liverpool University. I have rugby team photos of her father and his brother Follett, copies of which she might like. I would appreciate their addresses if you have them. You can assure Imogen that I am still out there, but only just as I am 86.

After 45 years in Birmingham my wife and I have moved to Pembrokeshire. I return to Birmingham from time to time as I still collaborate on a research project with colleagues in the medical school.

Sincere Regards,

Sam Perry (Grear's 1929-1936)

Newport

Dear Alan,

April 19th

Thank you for your rapid response to my inquiry. I have emailed Imogen and look forward to hearing from her. I knew her father Monty very well as we played in the same School and University teams. I did not see him very often when he left university but after an interval of about four years we met up quite unexpectedly in North Africa early in 1942. I was taking a convoy of 25

pounder tractors to join my regiment at the front and pulled in for the night at a transit camp in the desert on the outskirts of Alexandria. To my great surprise I met Monty, who was with the Royal Signals, in the mess. We had a great time discussing old, more relaxed times.

I shall write to Ernest Pickthall. He and I must be close to being the oldest surviving Georgians for I was 86 a few days ago and he will be of a very similar vintage. It seems to me that the OG society has taken on a new lease of life in recent years. You, Paul Bagshaw and the other Officers deserve a deal of credit for this.

Very Sincere Regards,

Sam Perry

Re: Letter from E B Hunt 14 Nov 2003, published in the Red Rose 2004 (p 62).

As a newcomer to the Old Georgians' Association, inducted at the David Charters September 2003 reunion, it has been fascinating to catch up on the news of 'old boys' through the free back-copies of the Red Rose since the 2000 issue, given out at that event.

I was in Grear's from 1958 to '65 and as a 'Newt' was on Grear's 1 dinner table under the eye of Little Taff and prefecture of Bill Farquhar, so Bill's name caught my notice as did those of Charlie Martin, Didds Grimes (Head Boy) and Roger Basford in the 2004 Red Rose letter on p62.

I write to confirm that the concrete foundations laid by Charlie, Roger, E Bruce Hunt and others gave rise to the finest observatory of its time at any school in the UK, housing a 12.5 inch Newtonian reflector telescope. The telescope was donated to the school, I believe, by the Southport firework manufacturers, the Bradley family through the good offices of Mr Moss, who taught maths and was an astronomer himself, - but he could only throw underarm (contemporaries will remember!).

Between the years 1964 and 1968, Pete Molyneux, Phil Dufton and I spent many clear Friday nights at the Observatory in our anoraks, sometimes accompanied by Nick Taylor, Dave Sinclair or 'Bernie' Winters. We all supported the Astronomical Society, which met regularly in those years.

The 2004 Red Rose recounts how Rubberneck left an impression in many ways and here's another. Phil Dufton, in the second year class 3X was a competent, middle of the road student, in the lower set with Rubberneck for maths. Rubberneck was not noted for his subtle charm, but in his own unique way, and this is acknowledged by Phil, he switched Phil's cerebral lights on, so that from then on he excelled, to gain a scholarship to St Catharine's College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences where he took a first and PhD. Although Phil couldn't attend our reunion, I discovered by dint of Dave Charters' research that he is now Professor of Astrophysics at Queen's University in Belfast.

In early March 2004 I met Phil for the first time in over 38 years in his department at Queen's. He lives in Belfast and has been over there for the past 30 years through the worst of the troubles. He's presently studying hot stars like those in the belt of Orion, as we often did visually and without the maths 39 years ago!

It's clear to me, and others I'm sure, that a career and body of research, as well as an Observatory, were built on those foundations. My thanks also are due to the labourers, for the enduring interest in Astronomy that I have retained from those years at KGV.

A sad footnote: the Observatory fell into dereliction in the early 70's, a sorry sight as I used to drive past on Scarisbrick New Road.

Peter (Jake) Jackson. (1958-65). Burnley.

May 6th

Dear Mr Bond,

July 15th

I am trying to find a photograph of my late father, John Makinson, who left KGV in 1934. I understand that you publish a magazine and was wondering if my enquiry could be included in one of your editions. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E McCutcheon.

I searched the "Old Georgian" copies in the library but couldn't find a photo of John. Are there any of his contemporaries out there who may have one?

Ed.

Dear Alan,

We are both OGs having left in 1944 to join the armed forces. We were never in touch until 12 months ago when we found our names as the only two listed on Friends Reunited as having left KGV in 1944. We made contact and as a result, have enclosed a brief summary of our memories of the 40's. We think the accounts of our trips around the NorthWest reflect something of a teenager's life at that time, particularly how we scraped by on pennies and ha'pennies!

THE CYCLIST'S HEYDAY

Today's cyclist, equipped with a crash helmet, and ready to encounter cars by the thousand, lorries by the hundred, and possibly thinking he should have worn a flak jacket, must view the 40's as the halcyon period. In retrospect, that is what it was. In wartime there were almost no cars on the road, the only lorries were in the control of the Navy, Army or Air Force and were infrequent, and cyclists had a clear road. Such was the situation for us 17 year olds, and we made the most of it, cycling most weekends and evenings.

"We" were Gordon Marsh, David Harrison and Stuart Wilby in our sixth form days at School. At the time we all kept logs of the journeys we undertook, but with the passage of time these disappeared, except for one lot kept by Stu Wilby, and he stored them in his loft. And how, you will ask, did these see the light of day once more?

You will have heard of Friends Re-united, whereby people from the same school are able to contact one another. Soggy (with a name like Marsh, his nickname was inevitable) died in 1952 sadly, leaving Dai (again, inevitably so called after David) and Stu. One day recently Stu took a look at the Friends Re-united web site for 1944 where he found only one name was recorded, that of David Harrison (Dai). What a coincidence! Could this be the Dai Harrison with whom he was last in contact some 60 years ago? He sent an e-mail enquiring whether this was the Dai H. who had spent a cycling holiday in the Lake District at Eastertime in 1944 with Soggy Marsh and Stu Wilby – the answer came back "I am he!" We came together and Stu unearthed his logs.

You will note that, as you read these, we were never content to stay road-bound, but invariably climbed hills and mountains, our feet shod not in the familiar walking boots of today but in shoes with the soles reinforced with

Blakey metal studs since wartime shortages and the lack of adequate financial resources compelled us to make do and mend as best we could.

Attached is a photo of the trio en route to the Trough of Bowland .



Kind Regards

Stuart Wilby and David Harrison

March 17th 2004

Summer 1979

As an x-streamer at the end of the grammar school years, I had just managed to gain four A-levels, but had not achieved the grades for my chosen degree course. Rats, what were the options? Tech? no chance. Work? Not sure Wayfarers would extend my Saturday job that far. Anyway, I needed to save face as Uni was expected of me (and to be fair, I expected it of myself). So another year at KGV? No competition, the obvious answer. I'd had six great years. Newt bashing, Longrigg, Jack Clough's chalk bullets, full rugby colours including a tour to Paris at Easter. Senior 'D' House Captain for four terms. I'd managed to stay out of Geoffrey Dixon's office and more latterly, David Arnold's, unless it was for reading at assembly. So what was there to look forward to in September? More rugby...seeing who else didn't quite make it, finding out which part of the building was now out of bounds?

But hold on, something had changed that I hadn't truly reflected on. The title of KGV grammar school for boys had been amended. I recalled David Arnold and his open discussion enquiring on my thoughts about the coming changes. At the time I didn't think it was going to have any effect on me, but now... The name board outside School (which I also noticed on the letter head kindly inviting me back in September) had changed to KGV College. I recall the head mentioning it in his colourful conversations around the perimeter of the School field. Not sure what it had meant, I probably just said "yes sir" and hoped no-one had noticed the special attention he had afforded me. New buildings, yes I'd seen those going up (right across the U12 rugby pitch but we didn't have an under 12 year never mind a team, any more). New staff, for some reason we seemed to have gained more female staff (including Mrs batman) in recent times-more company for Molly Sanderson and Ma Blod. And something else. Quite definitely another notion of change. What was it.....ah yes. Got it! Replacements for the disappearing newts in years 2, 3 & 4.....Women!

So off I went in September to happily face the daunting task of admitting defeat in my academic attempts the previous June. Great to see familiar faces (yes, I wasn't the only one returning) of friends and staff. The new building looked as if it was safe to wander in the corridors without the danger of a chunk of concrete falling on your head or a hole opening up in the parquet tiles under foot. New lockers - hey! Somewhere to put your possessions and know they would still be there at the end of the day and not soaked in cola or festering along side a mouldy sandwich. Mr Arnold sweeping down the corridors, smiling at all and welcoming them back or anew. But this time the greetings were a little more polite than previous years. The pitch of the voice wasn't quite the same, a little higher perhaps. And in the days well before Becks (but slightly after Marc Almond), skirts were worn.

The ladies had arrived but sadly most were interested in academia (well, at first) and were better at it than the male students floating about. This was quickly recognised and to be fair to us chaps, the girls were soon taken on board as equals and not just objects of teenage desire. The great change had happened. KGV had metamorphosed (sorry T.B., never could spell)

And twenty five years on, all the better for it! Yes, we miss the ways of the all boys grammar school. Yes, some parts of it were a better method of education than the current system. But KGV had flourished through a succession of

fantastic leadership and management. I've been fortunate to stay involved over the years through the OGA and I still have great friends (both male and female) from those years. I meet and chat with old adversaries from the teaching staff.

Most importantly, KGV was a part of me and I part of it. When my kids come home mumbling about something that has gone wrong at school, I try to relate to incidents in my time and they usually end up having a laugh at my expense because, surely, the "olden days" couldn't be anything like today's modern school days. But to us, the olden days are still part of today. KGV is still going and going extremely well. Congratulations to all who have sailed in her. And hey, Mr Arnold, my idea of asking the ladies along turned out OK didn't it?

Jonathan Elliott Grears 1973-79. M1 1979-80

Extracts from the Old Georgian's website Guest Book

I live in Harrogate now. Brother Ken and father Walter are both Old Boys. Not sure if I paid my £5.

Ian Milne (1954-1961)

23rd Feb 04

(Yes Ian, you are a paid-up Member)

Found the web site via the Red Rose-good to see the site is now much more user friendly. Have fond memories of geography- just as well as I have been Head of Geography at a Staffordshire 11-18 school for the past 5 years. Sad to hear about Mr. Gale – he was a great laugh – I enjoyed Unihoc no end!

Jo Edgar (nee Ball) (1986-1988)

21st Feb 04

Still living in Southport, married 36 years (to the same one!). Three daughters and seven grandchildren.

I took early retirement in 1989 from West Park Grammar School where I was Head of Maths. We now spend our spare time looking after grandchildren and travelling round the world

Roger Rothwell Leech's 1950-1958, Staff (For my sins) 1962-1968

23rd Feb 2004

Got my Red Rose today. It brought back many memories. Must try to get to OG's Dinner. Is the David Turner who has just joined, the brother of my old school friend, J.Glyn Turner? I have lost contact with him and would like to meet up again. Living in Truro. Greetings to all who remember me.

Bill Jewell (1954-1961)

23rd Feb 2004

I was born in Belfast in 1940, raised in Southport from 1943- 1958 and now live in Virginia, USA. I was sorry to hear of Eric Gale's death. He was a friendly, supportive P.E. teacher. I thought he arrived earlier than 1957 because I have distinct memories of half a dozen of us trying to tackle him at rugby. I think we were 14-15. Is 1955 nearer the right date or is my memory awry?

Jim (then Jack) Adams

27th Feb 2004

Originally from Ainsdale and now live in Massachusetts, USA. I was in Woodham's 1967-1971. Cross-country- anyone remember me?

David Oliver

April 22nd 2004

I come from Southport (a long time ago) and live in New York City (now and probably for evermore). Hitting the KGV/Old Georgians website was like hitting a time warp, albeit a rather nice one. Didn't expect to see any names I would recognise, but saw at least half a dozen from my time there in the 70's. Lots of memories....

Keith Williams (1973-1979)

2nd March 2004

Working as a Paramedic at Southport Ambulance with fellow Old Boys, Andy Thornton and Geoff Wright

John Ormandy (Rogers 1975-1979)

March 29th 2004

On leaving KGV joined the Royal Navy for 22 years. Worked at Vosper Thorneycroft for 22 years. Retired 13 years ago. Married for 53 years with two sons, four grandchildren (15 years to 27). Have fond memories of the School and particularly the wartime education given to us by recalled teaching staff. Anyone from my era still remember me?

Ron Stead (Rogers 1941-1946)

April 3rd 2004

Just been to my first OGA Dinner and met old friends from many years ago. Living in Warrington. Now I have given my email I expect some of you b*****s to correspond and not wait another year before we all get in touch again. Great to meet Bob Abram again – I wish I looked as well as you! John Rostron and Jim Marsh- thanks for getting me back in touch.

Eb Hunt –Apparently there is only Dids Grime that has not been traced now from the 1961-2 team. I noticed another website with stuff about 1964 times including a photo of the masters from 1961ish – worth a memory jog. Try www.southportforums.com/forums/forumdisplay.php

Bill Farquhar

April 8th 2004

I'm from Crosby-Southport-Bristol-Formby-London-Southport-Liverpool-Exeter-Littlehampton-Bangkok. I never really kept in touch with anyone apart from Malcolm Thomas and we seem to have lost contact. There comes a certain time in life when some start looking back at all that got left behind. This is the time!

I was in Mason's 1970-1977 and if anyone recalls me and wants to meet up for a beer when passing through Bangkok just get in touch! If you don't know me but are passing thro the Big Mango you're still welcome to get in touch.

So sad to hear of the passing of Geoff Dixon. I have a fond memory of going to see him to discuss which A Levels I planned on doing. This was just before he retired! I had got six out of seven O Levels and a wonderful unclassified in French. In all seriousness I asked GFD if he thought I should retake the French. I was given a pained look;

“Frankly with that grade I wouldn't waste the time”.

Sound advice so I stuck to science. Fifteen years living in Thailand and I am still hugely proud to say I have not mastered this language (apart from ordering a beer) or any other for that matter.

Nigel Hywel-Jones

April 26th 2004

Originally from Southport and now of Preston. Head of Biology, Hutton Grammar School (11-18 boys Comprehensive with co-ed 6th form), Preston, and starting to imagine retirement. Married with a son and daughter. I am now a dedicated recorder player and euphonium player with Rossendale Valley Sounds Concert Orchestra.

Fond memories of one of the finest assortment of talented and eccentric schoolmasters to take up chalk. Cliff Fleming, one of the kindest of men; Harry Smith, the best sergeant major in the business, who got me through Maths O Level; Hubert Long, who eventually taught me to plane wood; Patrick Wilson, who with many mild expletives gave me a lifelong love of music; Elsie Hargreaves, who encouraged my Chemistry; Cliff Davies, who made a biologist of me; to name but a few. Saddened to hear of the deaths of Eric Gale and Geoffrey Dixon, both great stalwarts.

Neil Edwards (Leech's 1964-71)

June 25th 2004

I was born in Iceland, brought up in Southport and settled in Glasgow. I have fond memories of David Arnold (who I met again in Horsham, Bob Abram telling me to get my hair cut and Keith Matthews being the kindest and zaniest music master you could wish for! I was one of the last classes to come up through KGV Grammar School and experienced the first years of the College. It was a very difficult time for me, and the College were very supportive and understanding. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me.

Fridrik (Frikki) Walker

Sept 6th 2004

I'm currently part of the editing team of the college magazine 'The Voice' at KGV College. This year is the 25th year of KGV as a College and this has been beneficial to those of us looking to find out the history of our college. Also we have old copies of the Red Rose and it is very interesting reading.
Many Thanks

Rebecca Flusk

Oct 12th 2004

(Hope they say the same about the new issues in 25 years ,Rebecca)

I live in Hayward's Heath, Sussex. Was a founder member of Lunn's House. Complete waster at School, if truth were told. My biggest claim to fame was getting Wordsworth poetry published in my name in the school annual. Happy memories of introducing the sheep in Sedburgh to the glorious sounds of Pink Floyd. Sad that the original building is no more; I still have a piece of the original parquet flooring (with engraved plate) from the demolition in 1982. Must get back for a look-see some time

David Morgan (1969-1974)

Dec 16th 2004

Another complete waster at School, so I suppose it was just as well I left when I did! Retired from the Royal Navy following a fantastic 23 years and stumbled on a recruitment business in 1996. Now settled in Kirkintilloch on the northern outskirts of Glasgow trying to scrape together an honest living running my own company. My website is "fm people". Interests still include rugby (I coach a youth side at West of Scotland) and, of course, the odd beer or two! If anyone out there feels the need to get in touch, then you're more than welcome.

Bob DGLISH (1967-1972 Grear's)

Dec 21st 2004

Annual Dinner

Maundy Thursday, 24th March 2005

Formby Hall Golf Club, Southport Old Road, Woodvale

Tickets £21 Dress- lounge suit. AGM - 7pm Dinner- 8 pm

Guest Speaker: Sir Miles Irving (Evans' 45-53)

Chairman of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust; Honorary Colonel, 201 Field Hospital; Governor of Newcastle and Northumbria Universities.

Guest Speakers at the Annual Dinner

1993 David Massam (Grear's 45-50) Director of Prescriptions, Code of Practice Authority.

1994 Peter Brunt (Evans 50-54) Physician to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. Consultant Physician at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

1995 Brian Viner (Woodham's 73-80) The Mail on Sunday.

1996 David Lonsdale (Spencer's 73-80) TV and theatre actor.

1997 Alison Tarpey (85-87) Granada Television News.

1998 Derek Holden (Edwards' 45-52) President of the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs. Former Captain Hesketh G.C.

1999 Alan Davies (Holland's 74-80) Human Rights Observer

2000 John Hyde Rogers' (47-54) Telecommunications Business

2001 Trevor Williams (Evans'49-56) Hon.Professor at the Universities. of Sussex, Capetown, Wisconsin and the LSE

2002 Vittorio Guidi (Woodham's 74-80) Sergeant Major,Royal Marines

2003 Darrell Farrant (Edwards' 48-50) F.R.S.A. Headmaster in Canada and Derbyshire

2004 Peter Aughton (Evans' 1951-58) Author and University Lecturer

The O.G. Association accounts for 2004

At the time of going to press last year the Association accounts for the calendar year 2003, (which is our financial year), were incomplete. The accounts for that year, now kindly audited by Duncan Burton, together with my unaudited accounts for 2004, are shown below.

| INCOME | 2003 | 2004 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Life Memberships | 380 | 121 |
| Donations | 720 | 344 |
| Profit on Annual Dinner | 1282 | 1040 |
| Sales of Photos, Prints & Ties | 292 | 163 |
| Sales of Video | 15 | 26 |
| Profit on Barbecue | 328 | 0 |
| Profit on Snooker & Darts Evening | 25 | 0 |
| Profit on Golf Event | - | - |
| TOTAL | 3052 | 1694 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| KGV Projects | 1150 | 570 |
| College Music Evening | 38 | 33 |
| Production and Postage of Red Rose | 601 | 988 |
| Printing, postage, stationery | 38 | 120 |
| Gratuities | - | - |
| Donations | - | 50 |
| 30 Vintage O.G. Ties | - | 500 |
| TOTAL | 1827 | 2261 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | 1225 | (567) |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash at Bank | 2484 | 1871 |
| Cash in Hand | - | - |
| Stock of ties | 144 | 611 |

Using my as yet unaudited figures, I can report the following. In calendar year 2004 we had a nett income of £1694. It can be seen that all sources of income are down on last year. The Life Memberships were abnormally high in 2003 thanks to a large recruitment from those attending the Reunion of the 1958 intake. A few large donations were made in 2004 which swelled the final total, but it is still gratifying to receive the amount we do. The Dinner is still the major provider but the profit was somewhat lower. This year, in the face of increased costs, the ticket price is increased by £1 to £21. The absence of the Barbecue from our calendar also had a negative effect which we tried and failed to replace.

Regarding the expenditure, the Red Rose had 70 pages compared to 52 in 2003 and we had 1200 printed compared to 1100 in 2003. This had the double effect of putting up the printing cost from 36 pence to 56 pence each and the postage cost from an average of 19 pence to 27 pence each, not helped by the Royal Mail increasing their charges in this period and in spite of all Southport and District copies being delivered by hand. My introduction of photos increases the cost because they take space and increase the number of pages and therefore the print setting up costs and also the weight of a copy. This year, the font size is reduced from 12 to 11 and there are fewer photos, resulting in a 60 page magazine.

The increase in other printing and postage costs is probably due to the fact that Mike Hyde and myself, (as pensioners) have been reimbursed for Jiffy Bags when sending ties and videos, printing ink for our PC printers, whereas Paul Bagshaw probably absorbed some costs in his business. I still don't charge for my time on the Internet.

Finally, we purchased the second batch of 30 "Vintage" ties, the minimum quantity possible and we have sold 5 so far.

The reduced income resulted in the Association giving considerably less to KGV Projects although we did give £400 to the Student Hardship Fund to help with some emergencies. The other £170 went in replacing 6 trees that had died amongst the larger batch we provided in the College grounds in 2002.

Alan Bond (Treasurer)

Memorabilia

The items below are available at the Annual Dinner or by post from:
Red Rose Memorabilia, 46 Lyndhurst Rd, Southport, PR8 4JT
Tel: 01704 565075 Fax: 01704 550710 All items are post free
Please make cheques payable to 'Old Georgians Association'

- 'King George V School'** oil painting by Nancy Dixon,
wife of G F Dixon A3 colour print (42cm x 29.7cm) £10
- 'King George V College'** pastel drawing by Paul Bagshaw
A3 colour print (42cm x 29.7cm) £10
- Aerial photograph of King George V School**
Black and white print (29cm x 14.5cm) £5
- Aerial photograph of KGV School and KGV College (1980)**
A4 colour print (29.7cm x 21cm) £5
- Facsimile of King George V School Prospectus 1930** £3
A5 Black and white booklet (21cm x 15cm)
- *KGV Remembered** video featuring reminiscences of OG's
interspersed with photos covering 1920 to 1979 (81 mins) £10
- *King George V College promotional video** featuring aspects of
the College in the year 2000 (20 mins) £8
- *75th Anniversary Dinner** (50 mins) £10
- *75th Anniversary Red Rose.** Copies of this book are available free of
charge to existing and new members of the Association £7.50
- Old Georgians' tie** £9
(Black, 2 red and white stripes and a red rose)
- 1930s vintage Old Georgians' tie** £18
(Mainly silver with red, black, similar to the Colours tie)
- *Also available from Broadhursts, Market St, Southport

Calendar of Events 2005

Old Georgians' Events:-

February 5th & 6th: Chairman's Weekend. Information from Ken Edwardson.

March 24th Annual Dinner & AGM.

Formby Hall Golf Club. The AGM starts at 7pm prompt and all are welcome. The dinner follows at 8pm. Dress is lounge suits. Tickets are available at £21 from Stan Rimmer, 361 Liverpool Rd, Southport PR8 3BT. Tel: 01704 576713. Please send cheques in advance to Stan, payable to "the Old Georgians' Association".

By doing this, it enables Stan to enjoy the evening instead of chasing late payers round the room.

College Events:-

April 12th, 13th, 14th Drama Production
7.30pm College Drama Hall
A cavalcade of the last 25 years.

April 19th Spring Concert

May 14th Alumni Day

November Music Concert

December Christmas Concert

Please confirm November and December dates, with KGV on 01704 530601, or look on the College website.