

CAREERS OFFICER

Schooldays came to a rather abrupt end. Although (as I have mentioned) I was not known to spend much time on the sports field, I was on the college cricket pitch in the summer of 1948 when I received the call. A message came from on high that the Careers Officer was looking for me so I un-strapped my pads and hastened to his office. In a previous interview with him, I had let him know that, despite having spent the past three years learning such arcane subjects as the resolution of a quadrilateral equation, Young's modulus of elasticity, and how to calculate the bending moment in a steel structure, I did not wish to follow his standard career advice of becoming an apprentice at Messrs J & E Hall, Lift Engineers of Dartford, nor with Vickers Armstrong Engineering Works nearby at Crayford. I sat there while the Careers Officer pored over my file containing exam results and annual school reports, no doubt noting the "Nothing good can be said of him" inscription by one master. Unfortunately, this accolade, relating to my rather adventurous behavior outside the classroom, has dogged me throughout life. Years later my children got to know about it and would recite it whenever I attempted to lecture them on their academic performance or discipline. But I had also attracted some favourable attention from the more perceptive members of the Commercial Subjects teaching staff. Indeed, Mr. Wall, the Headmaster once said in class that I had potential to be "one of the best brains in the County". Of course my kids insist that this must have been a flash of sarcasm; but I believe that in some way these two judgments by teaching staff influenced me to strive for higher ground (as it were) than lift engineering. So I proudly informed the careers officer that my elder brother, Ron, was a journalist. He was employed by a local newspaper, The Kentish Mercury, mainly reporting local court cases and weddings. I also boasted of my cousin, Ivor F. Howell, who had recently opened his second photographic shop and studio in Lewisham High Street, and was doing well at it. He was the first of our relatives to own a car (originally a Standard 7 saloon, and much later, a Rolls Royce, no less). He lived in Bromley, but was often at our house in Welling because our garden shed had become a factory where we made photo frames for sale in his shops. In fact, dad had some headed paper prepared declaring ourselves to be 'Falconwood Light Engineering Co. Ltd.', which I assume was some sort of tax avoidance (evasion?) ploy. More importantly, Ivor Howell had given me a small plate camera, which had got me interested in the photographic business.

The careers officer must have been impressed by my enthusiasm for a non-engineering career in journalism/ photography because, at this second meeting, he was able to tell me that he had managed to get me a job interview. In fact, I was to report the very next day to Mr. William G. Spice, at 4-7 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, in the City of London! I was thrilled, although somewhat worried that my education had not really equipped me for this. However, I went for the job and started right away, not even going back to the Technical College again to collect any sort of leaving document.
(happy to swap any career stories with other ODWAs)

Sid Hollands 194? - 1950

I was in the 'matric' form when we moved to Wilmington Hall in 1950 but left in June 1950 to start work at Dartford Rural District Council as an Engineering Learner.

I note from the School History that it says that Mr Wall was the only teacher to drive his car into the school and I would have to disagree with this as I know that the English teacher and Sportsmaster (the same man) also drove his sports car there. Cannot remember his name but he was very straight-backed but was quite short, and, as the photos show, there were three or four cars outside the Hall.

I remember Maggie Mountjoy, of course, who told me on one occasion "That's right Hollands, laugh your way to a failure" I have never forgotten this. As it happened I managed to be one of the 9 boys (out of 16) who passed the Matriculation Examination of London University, we all had to go to the examination halls at South Kensington over three or four days, travelling to Charing Cross by rail and South Kensington by underground.

Just cannot remember the names of my classmates apart from my cousin Philip Clarke.!!! Who was head-boy. As for being a failure I managed to become a Chartered Civil Engineer and was a member of that Institution for 50 years so always felt that Maggie's 'put down' was wholly unnecessary.

I remember J Campbell the Maths master who married about 1949-50 and we clubbed together to buy him a present. I also remember P Black the physics master whom I liked a great deal as an excellent teacher, nicknamed 'flad' by one of the wags presumably because of his bald 'flathead'.

Are there any form lists giving the names of boys?

As I am now 80 years old and have difficulty in walking I am unable to attend any reunions but I am interested about any news of my former classmates.



DARTECH AND WILMINGTONIAN

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR OLD SCHOOL

NUMBER 27

MARCH 2013



20th ANNUAL REUNION DINNER & A.G.M.
on Saturday, 11th May, 2013

Our Guest of Honour to be decided
A Dinner and of course a Licensed Bar and a
Conducted Nostalgia Tour.
All ages are Welcome.

21st ANNUAL REUNION DINNER & A.G.M.

2014

Our Guest of Honour to be
decided

If you wish to find former School friends and
get more of your own age group together do
not hesitate to contact us, as we have the
original Intake lists and facilities to
make comprehensive searches.

Visit our Website and check out the names that we have, and if
you know any members not listed give us their details
www.odwa.co.uk email: oldboys@odwa.co.uk

Your next Newsletter is due to be published in March 2014
but to do this I need more articles and correspondence.
Comments with regard to your memories while at the School,
experiences at previous Reunions or details of your own life
since leaving will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Dennis Wells,
3 Millbro, Victoria Hill Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7LF.
email: dennis.wells1943@btinternet.com

wanted an equally excellent but less painful game then there was tick tack (if I remember its name aright). You made a small hemispherical hole and cut two sticks, one short which you placed across the hole and one longer. The boy who was in would use this to flick the short stick and the hit it again to gain distance. You could be caught out as in cricket. Instead of scoring runs the fielder would throw the stick towards the hole. A direct hit and you'd be out. Otherwise you scored the number of stick lengths there were from the hole. Although we were not allowed in the woods there were some bushes just outside that you could jump into or be thrown into without getting hurt.

A way of being thrown and getting hurt was to let people know it was your birthday. There were always volunteers to give you the bumps. These started off just like the ones you'd got at birthday parties when you were little. However the last bump ended by being let go at the highest point. Further pain could be guaranteed by playing "knuckles". Two boys put their fists together and one boy continued to hit the back of the other's hand until he missed. A miss gave the other person the strike.

Some people brought in marbles, poker dice or pocket chess. The latter was all the rage. White started as is normal chess but for some unknown reason the opposing side was red. There was also a game of chance called "owzat" based on the rules of cricket. As the two pieces were solid metal I reckon some reader will still possess this game. I might even have it in my loft. A game that required no hardware was called "towns". The first person named a town and the next person had to follow this with a town starting with the end letter of the previous town. If unable to think of a suitable town that hadn't been used before you were declared a loser. One soon found out that many towns end with a "Y" but relatively few start with one. It was always dangerous to keep forcing an opponent to find a town starting with "Y" as eventually he would say "YIEWSLEY" and by then you might also have run out of towns ending in "Y".

Returning to violent games, a good few were played in the old playground between the railings leading down to the old canteen and the buildings opposite housing laboratories and the drawing office. Hop barge was one such game. There were others, all of which involved getting from one side to the other knocking opponents out of the way. Conference pears were sold from the potting shed which ran between the two sides, thus stopping games in season. Games also ceased when people went to the popular Christian Union or Cigarette Card Club held respectively in the Chemistry Lab and the Drawing Office. Some boys devised flicking games with their cigarette cards.

Finally there was the attempt to see how far you could get into the caretaker's underground domain. You were allowed down to the entrance to claim lost property but if there was no one obviously there you attempted to go further. It was reported you could get right through to the main building via a secret passage. I never got very far but eventually I became a prefect. One of the perks of being a prefect was that we were allowed to enter the old building by the front door. Once I entered the secretary's office and there being no one there, I found the other end of that secret passage.

Ray Scott 1945-1948

I was pleased to read items from some of the older 'old boys' in the last Newsletter. I have previously contributed my reminiscences of schooldays and the (brilliant?) career that naturally followed in previous ODWA Newsletters (can't now remember which Newsletter number - I suppose it would be too difficult to produce a log of Newsletter Numbers against names of contributors - or vice-versa, editor? It would certainly be an alternative to the Annual Reunion Lunch for keeping in contact with one's contemporaries). Prompted by one of the comments about the desirability or otherwise of following one's ODWA education with employment at J&E Hall (Lift Engineers) of Dartford, I offer a further extract from my memoirs ('Scott Free') regarding my appearance before the Careers Officer in the summer of 1948.

I was also happy to note Frank Marsh's conclusion "By the way, most early references were to Dartford Technical School", whereas I distinctly remember my cap (or was it my blazer?) bearing the insignia CTCD - County Technical College Dartford, which I proudly boasted on all my future job applications: after all I had nothing else to add, having left without any qualifications whatsoever! It seemed to have been well received as I managed to land some interesting employment, as I recorded in one of the Newsletters. I was also interested to read the all-too-brief note from Frank Marsh, who was an even older old-boy than myself. I hope that he and other older contemporaries (eg. Alan Smith - (1945-1948)) will contribute some more of their memories of schooldays and their future careers and life-stories.

And the final item in the last newsletter, referring to the opening of the refurbished Essex Road premises, reminded me that I had vowed to keep in touch with the other old boys who attended that ceremony, but have no e-mail or other contact details. I hope they will make contact rayjscott@hotmail.com and/or contribute their school and future memories to the ODWA Newsletter.

myself and others who were classmates with him for our entire time at the school. It must be mentioned that a certain Keith Richard was also a member of our class for the first three years although everyone of us would agree that he had some very strange memories of life in the school as stated in his recently published biography!

Adrian developed into a strong athlete and sportsman throughout his years at the school and at both football and cricket but in our first ever inter school 1st year football match we lost 15 - 0 and improved slightly in the second only losing 7 - 1 but results did get better over time. Adrian represented the school and his house throughout his time there and supported the old boys football club when it was formed in the early 1960s. He was among a small group of us who met at Sidcup station in the autumn of 1955 and travelled by bus to south London to watch Charlton play Burnley at the Valley. A 3 - 1 win meant that I was hooked for life and I am fairly sure that Adrian was too.

During the first winter snows, we new boys made the mistake of going up to the playing fields to mess about and play snowballs whereupon we were surrounded by much older boys and all of us were unceremoniously rolled in the snow thus returning to class freezing cold and soaking wet. Happy days and no health and safety for the school to worry about then.

Every year the boys had to endure the annual school cross country run and everyone had to participate with no excuses accepted other than perhaps a broken leg. By the time we had reached 5th form status this all seemed a bit beneath us and for some unremembered reason Adrian and myself decided to walk the course instead of running it as normal, when we would both have expected to finish somewhere in the top twenty. We strolled round the course coming in joint 77th out of about 80 runners. Our respective housemasters were not happy and to this day I cannot think why we rebelled.

Over all the years I cannot remember anyone falling out with or having a bad thing to say about Adrian. He was liked by all of his classmates and I am sure by the many teachers as well. He was active within the Old Boys Association for many years and I understand had a successful career in the engineering industry. Unfortunately I lost touch when I moved some distance from Kent for business reasons some thirty years ago although we all met up at various reunions in later years.

To all who knew him there is great sadness at his passing. He will be missed. Thanks for the memory Adrian and R.I.P.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAYED

Frank Pearson 1956-

This season Dartford were promoted to the dizzy heights of the Blue Square Premier Division. Being Cambridge United season ticket holders we (that is myself, my wife and two daughters) decided to pay a visit to the newly new Princes Park Stadium. At half time there was an announcement probably unique in football circles. We were told we could move to another part of the ground as long as we proceeded in a clockwise direction. Knowing that a pupil of the class of '57, namely Malcolm Green, is a director of Dartford FC, I went looking for him in the prescribed way. Half way round I met Malcolm coming the other way. This reminded me of prefect duty at Dar Tech where after entering the old building there was a clockwise one-way system. After a brief chat, Malcolm and I agreed to meet again at the next Annual Dinner. This conversation also got me thinking about another contribution to our magazine. I've called this article "The Games People Played". Although "Games" was a timetabled subject I'd like to recall what we played during lunchtimes and in the morning and afternoon breaks. The venue of such games was variable. It seems to me that very often we were confined to the new building's playground that was fairly , level . The one near the old building was a bit more challenging, it being near the coke bunker and outhouses. A finer area in front of the main entrance was used for a staff car park and was therefore out of bounds. At the top of the main drive there was the entrance to the school fields but often there was a greenboard with the words "OUT OF BOUNDS" chalked on it. Besides preventing access to the school fields this would prevent access to a treed area around the school pavillion. Sometimes wet weather put things out of bounds but soil erosion on the middle field could have the same effect.

When we could get to these wide-open spaces, a popular game was chain he. Whilst I have forgotten the exact rules I can remember how the game taught me the difference between ordinary speed and angular velocity. When a chain suddenly changed direction the lad on the end had to run like the clappers. If you

Old Dartechs and Wilmingtonians Association - Past or Future

Unfortunately your Association has floundered somewhat in recent years, having been reformed with a Dinner in July 1994 and when a Committee was formed in 1995 it had 11 active members, unfortunately our numbers have reduced considerably with only two of those members remaining (one not so active!) and four others, two who have long journeys to attend meetings, Dinner attendances have fallen from the 200+ at the first Dinner, to the 31 members who attended last years event. This low attendance does not constitute a viable number for a caterer to attend and unless we are able to guarantee a higher number we cannot possibly continue with this type of function. We have decided that for this years event on Saturday, 11th May we will restrict ourselves to a less formal meal of Fish or Chicken and Chips, a choice of Sweet and Tea or Coffee. This can be ordered on a number attending basis so that we will not have to pay a subsidy for our reduced numbers as we have had to in the last two years. You will find an order form herewith for the Dinner, regrettably we have to add a large amount to the meal costs to cover our expenses, which increases each year, especially when it is spread over the lower number of those attending. We have decided to reduce some of our cost by being on the School premises for less hours, and because of reduced tour numbers in recent years it is felt that we will not do the afternoon tour of the School this year, this can of course be started again in future years, but perhaps not annually.

Although I have managed to compile this edition of your Newsletter it has been a struggle with very little copy being received during the past year. We are also finding it difficult to cover the costs of printing and postage, which last year came to over £460, and there has been a very large increase in postage cost this year. Our plans are to introduce a charge for posting, this edition will have a limited mailing, to those that have shown an interest in the past, apologies if I miss any off the mailing. We have had to decide that in the future Newsletters will be sent to all members with a current email address, they will also be available on our Website www.odwa.co.uk and then visiting the Newsletter page, where all previous editions are published. A printed copy will be posted to any member requesting it, subject to us receiving a minimum donation of £5 for three years mailing.

Colin Ridley 1956 - 1962

Though some of you know already, I am re-circulating sad news of the passing of Colin Ridley last year - you will remember him from the sixth form where he was in the Chemistry sub set for A levels and was the outstanding long distance runner of our generation at school. I was notified by his close friend Tony Carpenter - his words below:-

"Not sure how many of you know this but I picked up a bit of sad news recently. Our old school mate and fantastic runner, Colin Ridley, died sometime last year. I managed to contact his wife and send my condolences together with some memories of Colin which she was happy to receive. Apparently he died quite suddenly after 32 years of happy marriage and 2 sons. He lived in the Bristol area."

and subsequently from Tony - "I informed some time ago Bob Crighton and Paul Oakley regarding Colin's death. We were all from the same primary school - Wentworth County primary, so we knew each other since we were 5!! I also have a really ancient school photo from those days which shows us all sitting cross legged in our shorts. I sent a copy to Colin's wife, Linda, and she was happy to receive it. Linda mentioned that she met Tony Nash sometime after Colin died and he told her a number of stories about Colin. I was unaware that Colin and Tony Nash were big mates.

Certainly Colin's running prowess is what I remember most. Cross country running was the only sport I was reasonably good at and I often came a distant second to Colin. Colin was in a different league and truly ran like the wind."

The mail prompted an exchange of some memories of Colin and sports day: -

I said "Talking about Colin reminds me that I might have been a reasonable athlete at school but once the distances got to half a mile, I flaked out. Being determined to get the 'A' standard for all events in the trials, I decided on a ploy for the half mile - at the start just stayed glued to Colin's shoes. For the first lap it worked - all others in the group were left behind (we all knew Colin was much better than us), and as the second lap started Colin seemed to notice me on his tail and eased into more effort and I fell back, slowly, then faster, then hopelessly behind. However the ruse worked and he had dragged me to beat the

time for an 'A'. Thanks Colin. My other poor events were the 100yds hurdles (most of us found them big obstacles and only Tony Clarke had the bravery and technique to properly hurdle them) and high jump where the scissors jump was the style of the day - never did get that sorted! Was it John or Peter Woodward who had the good legs and coordination?"

To which Tony Clark said "Thanks for your memories of Sports Day. I had always wanted to win a medal at Sports Day, and decided my only chance was to try the 100m Hurdles, my style was not good but thought my height and speed might help me win, and sure enough it did, and I recall as I crossed the line I shouted.. 'yes'!! it is always interesting what we remember well. I've still got the medal somewhere, along with a few football medals from YMCA team and Kent Minor league, and the Old Dartechs football team which Dennis Wells helped as secretary).The YMCA team which Mick Parkinson played in along with several older Dartech boys, eg Dave French, John Marsh, Mick Jefferson and others!!"

Finally, I lived only a little further from the above friends, in Crayford, in the same direction by cycle so was also part of the group that often used to stop on the way home while crossing Dartford Heath and enjoy the hills and hollows of the deserted WWII anti-aircraft gun emplacements. These provided swoops down slopes sometimes into little jumps - if only we knew it would develop into an Olympic sport! Of course we had standard, heavyish and precious cycles so a crash from these adventures was certainly not recommended. With luck model aircraft could also be spotted. Anyone remember those events? Nowadays the school accommodates parking for students within the grounds and the road at going home time is clogged with parent pick ups. Hardly a cycle can be seen now.

John Foakes (1956-1961)

I've just received the latest news letter courtesy of Royal Mail's redirection service which prompts me to let you know my new address so I can continue to receive future editions.

Following a 5 year apprenticeship I have spent my entire working life involved with Fork Lift Trucks. Several years 'on the tools' covering the south east.

Promotion to Service Manager with several extended technical visits to Germany, Japan, Holland & Spain and I eventually became Depot Manager, All those years on the front line of the service industry does nothing to improve one's health.

3 heart attacks in 6 weeks followed by triple bypass surgery tends to make one look at life differently. We therefore decided to retire away from the rat race down here to Devon and think it's the best thing we've ever done. However our son and his family still in Kent and our daughter and her family in Australia disagree as we sold what they knew as the family home for over 30 years in New Barn. I am sure that with the beach at the end of the road we'll be seeing them almost as much.

Trevor Anderson (1957-1962)

I have been fascinated by the memories that past pupils of DTSC have put down on paper. It is only after reading these memories that you actually start to remember events and places that have for so many years been stored away in the backs of our minds.

My memories start on the first day at DTSC when we were ushered into our form room and began the process of getting to know the boys that would potentially be part of us for a few years to come. I was part of the infamous 1D which took me onto 2C which had also received a notorious reputation. To say I enjoyed my time at DTSC would be an understatement, however there were very many good times that came along. The teachers were all in a good group who were just doing their job. A few stood out in my mind, namely Maggie Mountjoy (I still remember the Lord's Prayer in French), Mr Ames, Mr (Ted) Smith, who delighted in giving history dates instead of lines as punishment, but always forgot to ask for them, Mr (Pin head) Smith who taught Geography, Jake Clare (Music) and one can ever forget Percy Black.

I recall at one stage that Percy caught a number of us playing (Two-Up) and he was most distressed at our gambling habits.

My fondest memories are those of the school sports teams, both football and cricket, and the time we spent travelling around the different schools to play. Considering we never trained as a team and most times we didn't even have a teacher with us we did pretty well.

Neil Mackay (1954-1959)

Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you at this year's Reunion again, long way from Ireland. I hope it goes off well and please pass on my regards to any of our group that are able to attend.

WALLY JAMES (Staff 1957-1989)

Thanks for the funeral information, unfortunately I will not be able to be there as I have a prior commitment that day. Please give my apologies as I would have liked to be there to say my farewell to a good friend of the Old Boys. **John Nunn (1955-1961)**

Thanks for the info. I have fond memories of Mr. James and am sad at his passing. Regretfully I'll be on holiday the day of the funeral. **Trevor John (1957-1964)**

Thank you for your email to advise me of the new funeral arrangements for Wally James. Unfortunately, at this stage I am unable to commit to attend the funeral. I have very fond memories of Wally, a great teacher - he joined Dartford Tech on the same day as I did, and for the first two years taught me English and was games master. **Andy Moore**

Thanks very much for this. I have very fond memories of 'Jesse' James, as he was known to us. He was a well respected and dedicated teacher, who once recited all of Hamlet's soliloquies while rummaging about in one of his cupboards at the front of the classroom. A class act and I fear we shall not see his like again. **Simon Smith**

Thank you for the information regarding Wally James. I was sorry to hear of his passing. He was one of my English Literature teachers (Masters) for both O and A-Level subjects. Along with Mr W Jacob, he was a considerable influence on my choice of career as a writer.

Incidentally, do you have any information about Mr W (L?) Jacob in ODWA records, or know of his passing? Sadly, we have lost touch. I still have a book, The Life of Nelson, by Robert Southey, that he gave me as a gift on obtaining a grade B in A-Level English Literature.

Although I have a business meeting scheduled for the 16th, I will try to attend. I will also write a short piece for the newsletter in an effort to do justice to their inspirational teaching. Wally James was particularly fond of Shakespeare's plays, so I will seek out quotations. **Michael Shuff**

Many thanks for letting me know. Although I had the odd run in with him as a pupil I always respected his drive to help students and it was through him that I finally got my English 'O' level at the second attempt. He was always a good sport on the soccer field despite his preference for rugby. He started at Dartford with my year so it comes home even more. **David Catchpole**

ADRIAN HATLEY - 1943 -2012

A SHORT TRIBUTE BY FORMER CLASSMATE PETER WRIGHT (1954-59)

The news that Adrian had passed away after a battle with cancer left me and I know all of his old friends with a feeling of great sadness and I am sure that this tribute will be endorsed by all who knew him during our schooldays and formative years.

I first met Adrian a couple of weeks short of my 11th birthday in September 1954. We were part of the first ever intake of eleven year olds to be admitted into the hallowed grounds of Wilmington Hall known as Dartford Technical School for Boys. Prior to that year, boys would have sat the 13 plus exam to gain entry and thus we were in the uncomfortable position of being 1st years and the next age group being 3rd years, with us having passed the 11 plus and opting for a technical (or agricultural) education rather than grammar school.

The school in those days comprised of the old Manor House and some outbuildings housing workshops, the Hall / Canteen, a couple of labs, and a toilet block wherein we would have to shower after games under a suspended bucket with holes drilled in the base and a cold water hose inserted in the top (you couldn't make it up). However the magnificent grounds and playing fields made up for everything.

Adrian was part of a group of about 25 boys who were placed into form 1B on the first morning. We were told that the placements between forms 1A and 1B were purely alphabetical to start with but strangely in the intervening five years there was no interchange until we entered the 6th form. As the years went by, Adrian became close friends with several of us including Dave French, Stan Frith, Dave (streaky) Laken,

I'm sorry to hear you appear to be having difficulty getting a quorum for this year's Dinner. In my case, I'd been planning to come along again this year but have had to put it in second place after a family occasion on the same day. Please offer my apologies for absence.
Hope to see you next year. Regards **Colin Fradd (1959-1966)**

Thanks for the reminder, unfortunately I'll be in The Lakes walking with 7 other friends.
I hope it goes ahead, and if so, have a good time. Best wishes **Tony Clark (1956-1963)**
PS I see the national press last week had photos of Keith Richard and Mick Jagger at Wentworth Primary School!!

I guess one big factor is the expense involved. It would cost me £25 in petrol + the meal cost! If you decide on a cheaper option, let me know **David Edgington (1955-1958)**

I am sorry to hear about the poor response to the 2012 dinner. My attendance has been very regular over the years, I just cannot make the date this time. I did reply with a donation towards funds because I wish to support the continuing existence of the Association. Sorry again for my absence this year.
Yours sincerely, **Alan Russell (1959/1966)**

I normally attend the dinner but this year I have a clash of dates with my holiday abroad. Sorry about this year but I will be up for future events as usual.
Regards, **Mike Sutton (1956-1962)**

I have attended several dinners but won't be coming to this year. I live in Italy so it's not always possible to dedicate a trip just for the dinner although I have in the past.
My main reason for attending the dinner is to have a chat with my old class mates. I joined the school in 1956 and over the years we have had some good turnouts of the "Class of 56".
Hope the evening goes well and pass my greetings on to any of those present who know me.
Regards **Tony Carpenter (1956-1963)**

The reason I am unable to attend is that Jackie and I go abroad every spring and autumn i.e. May and June plus September and October. If the dinner was held in any of the other months we would be delighted to attend. In the hopes that it will assist with the funds for the old boys I have sent a cheque for £20.00 payable to you as I do not remember the bank name for the old boys.
Best regards and good luck with the Dinner, **Alan Gregory (1953-1957)**
Thanks for your e-mail re. the dinner. This year the dinner date corresponds EXACTLY with my wife's birthday, whereas other years the dinner is one or two days away. This is why I feel that I cannot come. I'm sorry that the response overall is so low, rather disappointing for the committee. I don't know what the answer is. **John Mummery (1955-1961)**

You asked for former attendees to let you know why we have decided not to attend this year. I have been to the event twice (being a part of the 1956 intake), but have no desire to attend again:

1. It is a long way for me to travel from Wiltshire and I could only attend by deciding to also stay overnight;
2. There is a dearth of clean, comfortable and reasonably-priced accommodation in the vicinity;
3. I have been disappointed that most of my old school chums have not attended when I did. Consequently I remembered few people and likewise few recalled me;
4. The second time I attended was rather repetitive of the first and the novelty therefore wore off;
5. I moved away in the middle of my 5th year at the School and did not therefore attend the school for the 6th Year. It is my observation that long-lasting relationships seemed to have blossomed in the 6th and therefore I felt rather out of it at the reunions I went to.

Sorry to tell you this, after you and others work so hard to make these reunions a success. However, I hope this feedback helps you consider the future.
With every good wish **Roger Russell (1956-1961)**

Bruce Timms (1954-1959) Unfortunately I will be on vacation May 8th to 15th so cannot attend the dinner etc. May or September are the 2 months we go on holiday every year.
My best regards to yourself and all my old school friends

I left DTSC quite early in 1962 to take up a position with P & O Orient Line in London. After a short time I decided that to enjoy life I needed to see the world. I trained and joined the Merchant Navy and sailed on passenger liners throughout the world. On one trip to Australia we also did a cruise around the Pacific Islands which is where I met my wife who was a passenger on the cruise with her parents. After another 18 months I decided that it was time to leave England and venture 'down under' to Australia. Having already met a beautiful girl I didn't need any more incentive.

I arrived in Sydney Australia in December 1964 and began work in a number of industries until 1967 when I received an opportunity to work for a major American Construction company. I commenced work with them as a Purchasing Clerk and over the years have gained sufficient experience to maintain the role of Contracts Manager on multi million dollar projects throughout Australia. After 44 years in the industry I still get a buzz from my work. It has taken me all over Australia and I have lived in just about every state. I am currently in Perth Western Australia working on a new mine processing plant in the Pilbara Ranges. I am still married to the same lady and we have two sons and one daughter that will carry on the family name. Although I am now 65 I still enjoy working and with the Lord's blessing I will continue to work for a few more years to come.

It is my intention that at the end of this Project (2013) I will take 2-3 months off work and take a long awaited trip to England and Europe. (Apart from business trips throughout the world I have never been home for a holiday). My current Project appears to be timed such that it could possibly fit in with that year's reunion. If there are remnants of the 1957-1963 pupils still able to attend then I would love to catch up with them. Of special mention would be Peter Liddle, Stuart Hall and Graeme Mole as these three actually went through Primary School with me and that takes me back even further.

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me and would like to catch up. In the mean time I look forward to making at least one reunion in my lifetime.

Ray King (1951-1955)

Thanks Dennis for the Newsletter. I apologise in advance for not coming to the Dinner, quite a long way for an old 'un from Solihull! As usual there is little news or contact from my group of the 1950-56 era. Maybe it will jog a memory if you would print the attached photo of the 1952-3 season Junior football team. I have been in touch recently with Andrew Prewer who also lives in the Midlands.



The names are L to R Back row - Doug Barden, John Snell, David Franklin, Andrew Prewer, Bob Pert, Ray King (ME), Kevin Burnett, Fraser Nicol.

Front - Headmaster LV Wall, Mike? Forsdick, Bobby Hesleden, Roger Bush (with ball), Tony Sanctuary, Francis Hester, Eddie Edwards

This was taken in my 2nd year, entry being at 13.

The Old Boys Good Deed

Since its inception the ODWA has sought to provide some tangible gesture of thanks to the school. Your donations have enabled us to provide various items of equipment over the years.

Recently, we have borne the cost of the provision of Honours Boards at the back of the School Hall. These record the names of those leavers who have gone on to University.

At approximately £200 for each Board and over £300 for all the lettering, we urgently need your donations to enable us to continue this worthwhile project.

In the last nine years, the generous donations made by many of you have totalled almost £5,000 and we are very grateful for every penny. £1,725 has come from very specific donations from just a few members and it is right that we very publicly thank Garry Barker, Michael Browning, Colin Boucher, Richard Jessop, Terry Rooke and Alan Whiteland for their generosity.

It is not only the costs associated with the Honours Boards that have to be met from your donations. Those donations also have to meet the costs associated with the annual newsletter and the website. Costs that now exceed £500 a year.

We hope that readers will continue their generosity and your treasurer would welcome your cheques. Please make your cheques payable to OD & WA and send them to Keith Potter, 11 Thirlmere Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 6PU.

OBITUARY - We have been advised of the passing of:

Roy Carter - 1938-1940 Please could you remove my father, Roy Carter, from your mailing list as he passed away last month.

I think he may have been your oldest old boy. He attended the school between 1938-40.

He had many happy memories of that time.

Regards, Teresa Jacobs

Michael Weston - 1952-1955

Colin Ridley - 1956-1962

Lewis Walmsley - 1961-1966

Dudley Jackson - 1948-1951

David Elliott - Old Dartechs C.C.

Thank you for the latest old dartechs newsletter. Unfortunately my husband died in November so I would be obliged if you would remove his name from your mailing list.

He never actually went to OD but played cricket with Clive Stringer and Peter Sulway, Graham Bennett amongst others. His name was Dave Elliott of Calidus Cottage, Bicycle Arms Road (Although you may have had High Cross) Rotherfield TN6 3QE.

Dave died in November 2011 almost three years to the day from being diagnosed in Nov 2008 of a most terrible of conditions. The most well know people to have this were Dudley Moore and Nigel Dempster, Daily Mail columnist. It is still fairly a rare condition called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

Yours faithfully Margaret Elliott

Brian Titterington (Headmaster 1991-2006)

Many thanks for inviting me to be Guest Speaker at the Dinner on Saturday. It was good to see so many faces that I had not seen for a while now as well as the developments at the School. I really enjoyed the evening.

I do think it would be worth considering a 2pm Lunch for next year. The timing might be better for those who have a distance to travel, as our colleague from Liverpool said. I had lunch on Monday with a friend who is an Old Boy at a school in Coventry and they are experiencing exactly the same problem of lack of numbers at Old Boys' Dinners. So we are not alone!

Let me know how things progress.

Peter Samson (1958-1961)

Just a quick email to say thanks very much for all your efforts in organising this years reunion. Very enjoyable, despite the lack of numbers. However, as Brian stated in his speech, at least there was quality, if not quantity, in those attending!

Alan Whiteland (1953-1956)

Thanks for a great day!!! I enjoyed the walk around and then the evening was vefry memorable for me. Everybody was younger than me of course but it was good to talk about the "old days" with everybody. The food was good also. Thank you again. And thank you for taking me to Bromley.

Here is the email I want you to use from now on. With Goglemail there is no problem with large mail. So of course the News Letter and everything can come and I can keep it.

Getting ready to see the Queen tomorrow in Bromley, Hope it is not raining. Then I go back to Finland Wednesday at 7am.

Some of the apologies for this years Dinner

Thanks for your message and your efforts in general in relation to the OD & WA.

I wont be attending the dinner, but wish you all the best in maintaining interest among the current and old boys and girls. Regards **Robert Barlow (1970-1975)**

Thank you for your invitation and I am very relaxed in responding. Unfortunately I am extremely busy at weekends as I work in IT my weekends are full due to working out of hours to prevent mainstream downtime.

I hope your evening is a success. **Robin Wilson (1963-1971)**

I've been hanging on 'till the last minute in the hope that I would be able to make it to the Dinner this year but because of other pressing issues I shall not after all be able to be there. I would still like to make a contribution as it would be such a shame if ODWA was unable to survive, particularly as you all put so much work into it. I shall pop a cheque in the post to you today and hope that you all have a great day on the 12th - I shall be with you all in spirit if not in person. Keeping my fingers crossed for next year!

Kind regards, **Peter Wright (1953 - 1957, NOT the other Peter Wright!)**

I have never been to the reunion dinner as I never went to the new location.

I very much appreciated the opportunity that you provided earlier this year to visit the new/old Dartford Tech building and will get in touch with the other 2 old boys who also attended that event. At present I am just out of hospital after a minor op. and happy to get back to work in my veggie garden - long may it rain! Best wishes **Ray Scott (1945-1948)**

Sorry for not responding earlier. I am unable to attend the dinner this year as I have a family birthday to attend. It is a 50th so will not happen again. I am looking forward to being there next year. **John Yelding (1961-1967)**

Love to be there but it's a long way to come from Australia for a night out. Regards **Robert Alexander 61-66**

I regret that I cannot attend the annual dinner again this year.

In the foreseeable future I will not be able to attend since I am presently trying to establish myself and wife with a second home in Thailand and spend up to 3 months there each year usually commencing around the beginning of April. At present the annual dinners are held in May.

Should things not work out as planned, then clearly my availability could change.

In the meantime, please keep up the good work, I always enjoy hearing stories of the old DTHS.

Trevor Cross (1958-1964) PS Its beautifully warm here with little rain. Oh how I miss the English weather!! I urge you to keep up the good work, presently I am in Nicaragua, but might otherwise have been in London (we live in Vancouver) and would have attended.

No suggestions on new format, other than to ask if more would attend if the event were at another location (even a function hall)? Regards, **J Terry Staples (1956-1961)**

Sorry to hear about the poor numbers for the dinner. I am unable to attend as I already have another commitment on that day.

However, I believe the problem could be that you have the dinner too often - every year is too often. We had the same problem with my old school in Cornwall - the committee tried to have a re-union every year. It just didn't work. We now have them every 3 years and numbers are much higher.

Just a thought. What about an annual raffle ticket book to raise funds each year?

In haste **Terry Moyle (1966-1972)**