

DEVONPORT HIGH  
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

OLD BOYS  
MAGAZINE  
2004



Prorsum Semper Honeste

## School Song

A request from the Old Boys, this is the old school song which, sadly, was lost a long time ago. Sing with us! Sing with us once more with passion!

'Tis of our School, the High, we sing;  
For her we'll spend both strength and brain;  
For her our finest gifts we'll bring;  
We'll give our all and count it gain,  
So that her praises far may ring,  
With records proud, devoid of stain.

*High in name, in fame, in aim,  
High in heart and strong endeavour,  
High to answer honour's claim,  
We will fail our own School never.  
Prorsum Semper Honeste -  
Thus our motto, play the game.  
Prorsum Semper Honeste,  
The High for ever."*

And when in our last race of all,  
We round the bend with torch in flame,  
We'll hand it on and sound the call.  
We've run our race, in us no shame;  
Ne'er did we falter, fail or fall;  
We've played the game, do ye the same.

*High in name, in fame, in aim,  
High in heart and strong endeavour,  
High to answer honour's claim,  
We will fail our own School never.  
Prorsum Semper Honeste -  
Thus our motto, play the game.  
Prorsum Semper Honeste,*

# Devonport High School for Boys



## School Magazine 2004

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO  
The Old Boys Association  
Pepper Communications  
Mrs. Hayman  
Giles Smith

# School Magazine 2004

## The Editorial Team

### **Tom McMullan** **Editor-in-Chief**

He was the glue that held us together and made sure things got done. Nagged pleasantly.

### **James Turner** **Visual Director**

Designed and created the magazine and photography.  
Typed without end.

### **Jack Palmer** **Connections**

Was the public figurehead, arranging meetings and sponsorship. Brooded mysteriously

### **Harrison Nash** **Writer**

Created many of the articles and conducted the majority of interviews. Provided comic relief.

### **Ben Webster** **Resources**

Organised and gathered materials from students and teachers in the school. Smiled cheerfully.

### **Tom Ringham** **Sports Expert**

Did *everything and anything* related to sport in these pages. Remained cool.

## A word from the Editor

Firstly I would just like to say thank you to the entire editorial staff, all the pupils and teachers that supported and gave input to this magazine. During the past month or so while writing I have personally learnt a lot more about the school that I have resided in for 6 years. The history and culture has surprised the whole team and I think we have all learnt how the school has changed drastically within the time it was built. I hope you enjoy reading what we all prospered to make interesting and hopefully inform you into a glimpse of the schools past, present and future.

**Tom McMullan**

## Visual Director says ...

Continuing with this year's theme of changes and revolutions, I thought I'd change the style in which the magazine is presented. You'll find that this year's edition is much more like any commercial magazine you can buy in that the contents show much more our own characters and influences (while still presenting un-edited facts). I hope you all enjoy the results.

I would also like to commend Giles Smith on once again creating an outstanding piece of artwork.

**James Turner**

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## Headmaster's Report 2004

What a year!

I have been delighted this year to finally sense real gains for the boys as a result of our accelerating round of improvements.

Devonport people will name different improvements as their 'favourite'. The staff would, I think, be pleased with the computers with broadband internet access and digital projectors in every classroom – or would they vote for their new, large staff room with a seat each and a coffee machine? Or perhaps they are enjoying the assistance of our extra support staff that allows them to concentrate on teaching? The pupils seem delighted with the new teaching facilities, the new courses, fitness room, music room, library and the extra classrooms in Cookworthy. Our visitors are impressed by the new library and the wave of major refurbishment and redecoration throughout the school, and the PTFA, rightly, look upon our new minibus and the library furniture, that they funded, as a real bonus for 'their school'.

My favourite? The FRONT DOOR! Since my interview here in December 1992 I have sought a proper front door and reception for this prestigious school. Little did I know then that it would take 11 years and millions of pounds worth of investment in the school before 'my turn came'. I did enjoy watching the incredulous reaction as the bridge over to the gymnasium window was built. Why a bridge to a first-floor window? All was made clear six months later as the scaffolding came down and – behold – there was a front door and reception – a bright, welcoming reception that looked in upon our new library and gave access to the Hansom Sports Hall viewing gallery. And outside, a reserved place for my car! All as though it were pre-planned!

What about the sixth formers? Sadly for our current sixth form, the project to refurbish the Foulston Hall to provide an exciting setting for our 250 students, using state-of-the-art engineering and innovative materials, will not be completed until the autumn of 2005.

Beyond our capital projects I have been delighted this year with the significant curriculum enhancements that we have been able to introduce for the benefit of our pupils. After our very complimentary OFSTED report we have given priority to the ways in which we teach and how we can help the boys to understand ways of learning. The number of subjects available has increased as we work with our Link Partnership friends at Devonport High School for Girls, Eggbuckland Community College, Notre Dame School, St Boniface College and Plymouth College of Further Education. We are developing innovative new courses in Engineering and were selected to be a part of the National Pilot for the new Young Apprenticeship Scheme which we are using as an opportunity for our Able and Talented engineers. I am also delighted to see our sports provision being significantly extended by our staff and our new Sports Coordinator.

All this is possible because of the well qualified, enthusiastic and hard-working staff that I am able to recruit. Outstanding are the extraordinary range of extra-curricular opportunities that these members of staff make available to our boys – Les Miserables, China, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Wales, Carol Service, Greece, F1 Rocket Car Racing, Italy, Competitive Sports, France, Friday Choir, Dartmoor, Graffiti Art, Cumbria, Half-term Concerts, Africa ..... What a school - thank you to you all for making it what it is – a fine school.

**Nic Pettit**



# The Chairman's Letter

**All the latest from the Old Boy's Association by chairman David Cole.**

## **The Old Boys Association is ...**

President	The Headmaster, Dr Nic Pettit
Chairman	Mr David Cole
Treasure	Mr Tom Orchard
Membership / Local Secretary	Mr Peter Fielding
Minute Secretary	Mr Alan Porter

## **Internet and Website Contacts**

Use of the school website [www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org) and the Old Boys Forum website [www.dhsob.co.uk](http://www.dhsob.co.uk) continues. Two interesting letters dated 31 May and 29 July 2004 were received from George Coles, who supported the School Dramatic Society when the late Henry Whitfeld produced a variety of plays at the Globe Theatre, Stonehouse. George says "I am in the process of writing about my years with the school at Penzance from 1943".

Regretfully two of my fellow evacuees at the former Marine Hotel, Penzance, have passed away. Bryan Jane, a very enthusiastic and talented school rugby player, and a 'workaholic' in a long career in civilian life, died on 10 May. Geoffrey Barrett, MA, who had a very successful teaching career, died on 30 May 2004. Both will be sadly missed, and our sympathy goes out to all the relatives of the above.

## **Annual General Meeting 13 July 2004**

Despite few Old Boys attending this meeting at the School Refectory, several positive reports were received. On 9 March 2004 the wall plaque was installed at the new Chapter One residential property in Albert Road to commemorate the former location of Devonport High School at this site. The full evacuation period for the main body of the school at Penzance was from 14 May 1941 to 23 July 1945.

Following a meeting on 7 October 2003 between the Chairman and Sarah Nicholson, Headmaster's Secretary, and student representatives of the DHS magazine committee, the 2003 issue of the magazine proved to be a great improvement on the 2002 issue. The school editorial team deserved to be congratulated on their efforts.

Tom Orchard reported an increased membership of the Old Boys Association during the year and was pleased to again record a healthy bank balance. This has prompted an increase in sports sponsorship to the DHSOB RFC from £50 to £100 per year, which is still a modest sum when compared to the RFC running costs. Awards by the Association of annual Speech Day prizes of £50 each to two boys who have been assessed by teachers to have shown all round improvement (as distinct from academic achievement) continue to be both constructive and popular.

## **60 Years On**

Extracts from the December 1944 issue No 88 of the school magazine are reprinted in this magazine. They provide an historical background to the situation faced by school leavers 60 years ago, and illustrate the way of life at the time. House membership had more significance in 1944 than today, because boys were normally allocated to residential establishments according to their House. So Gilbert, Grenville, Drake and Raleigh boys were billeted in the Marine Hotel, Hotel Royale, Mount's Bay Hotel, Ponsodene, or Mount Prospect Hotel as appropriate.

For example, official notification that Stanley Bartlett was missing in action (RAF) was coupled with his house name (Gilbert) and the impact was understandably greater among those with whom he had been accommodated.

News of teachers who had joined the Services was of great interest. Teaching itself was held on makeshift classrooms, utilising facilities at, for example, Richmond Hall or former private houses such as one in Morrab Road. Those teachers who also doubled as house-parents at residential establishments had precious little 'free time' at all. Naturally, travel for pupils in 1944 was much more restricted than in 2004. However, those school leavers destined to serve in the Armed Forces abroad were often widely dispersed. Nowadays, school trips abroad are often commonplace, and offer wide opportunities for cultural pursuits and educational advancement. Last year, for example, an interesting Music Trip was made the school to Novorossiysk on the Black Sea coast.

*Continued overleaf*

60 years before. CERA Le Page on board the Duke of York escorting an Arctic convoy to Murmansk, took part in the action when the Scharnhorst was sunk. How times have changed!

I make no apologies for requesting David Cloke's article on his mining experiences as a 'Bevin Boy' to be reprinted. On 2 December 1943, Ernest Bevin (then Minister of Labour and National Service) invoked the Emergency Powers Act. With few exceptions, all conscripts aged between 18 and 25 were to be selected numerically by ballot (1 in 10) and then 'conscripted in to the coalmining industry as a compulsory alternative to service in the Armed Forces'. Although ostensibly the conscript coal miner was 'an essential to the war effort as a soldier, sailor or airman', in relative Bevin Boys were often treated as second class citizens.

Underground life in the pits was difficult and dangerous. Russell Barratt, elder brother of the aforementioned Geoffrey, suffered from chronic claustrophobia and was invalided out of coal mining after about 12 months. Derek Cloke became an invalid after serving a similar period. How's that for a gap year? Both then completed about two years more as National Servicemen in the RAF.

A debt is still owed to those Old Boys who, by their war time contribution to today's freedom, helped to facilitate re-development of the school to the level attained in 2004. Who could have foreseen in 1944 that, 60 years later, DHS would occupy a large, unified teaching complex, with its own sports-fields, sports hall and fitness suite, a new computer equipped library, refectory, a new music suite, updated secretarial and reception facilities, and even run an international study centre at Uzel in Brittany?

#### **DHS Old Boys Ties**

A new supply of high quality ties has been received. The cost per tie is £12.50 including postage and packing. Please order through the new Membership Secretary, Peter Fielding, 22 Berry Park Road, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 9AG. His e-mail address is [pete-pam@pfielding.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:pete-pam@pfielding.fsbusiness.co.uk). Please send cheques only (not cash) made payable to DHSOBA.

#### **Future Events**

Tom Orchard has been in contact with John Yates, visiting here from South Australia. We look forward to co-operating with him regarding the commemoration in 2005 of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of the main body of DHS from Penzance to Plymouth.

#### **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

Once again, grateful thanks are due to Dr Nic Pettit and Jon Starkie for their support throughout the year. Sarah Nicholson's contribution has been similarly invaluable. This year's meeting on 21 October of the Chairman and Sarah Nicholson with an efficient and enthusiastic school magazine editorial team was again very productive. Your Association's Secretary, new Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and other committee members (including, despite illness, our stalwart Dennis Rowe) have done their best to keep the DHSOBA going. Thanks are also due to Geoff Simpson as representative of the DHSOB RFC. Due to new Devon Rugby Council responsibilities, he has now handed this role to Paul Merrifield, whom we warmly welcome to the committee.

#### **David Cole**

*David Cole is an Old Boy of DHSB and attended in the years 1939 to 1947. Currently the chairman of the Old Boys Association, he is anything but inactive and continues to contribute to our school.*

*If you would like further information on the OBA, you can visit the following:*

<http://www.dhsob.co.uk/>



## What's In A Name?

Recent additions to the school come in the form of the facilities Kingsley and Ingle—Harrison Nash investigates the history behind the name of each.

### Kingsley

Charles Kingsley was born in 1819, and was the son of a Vicar. He spent his childhood in Holne, Devon and, along with the cream teas and scones, had a very religious upbringing. He was very much influenced by Frederick Denison Maurice, who believed that religion and politics should work side by side and that the church should be involved in important social laws. Following his education at the esteemed King's and Magdalene Colleges in London, he became a follower of Chartism.

Chartism was a major political movement in the 1830s and 40s proposing several changes to the political system to make it fairer, including parliamentary elections being held every year so MPs have to answer to their voters if they have not performed well, constituencies having the same population and MPs not having to own a certain value of property to qualify. Obviously a fun pastime to be involved in! Sadly though, the House of Commons rejected the movement in 1848.

Not to be disheartened Kingsley joined up with Frederick and other supporters of Chartism and formed a group called the Christian Socialist movement. The men talked about how the Church should tackle the problems the working class face in order to prevent a revolution. They may not have been as big as the Beatles, but they got a reasonable amount of coverage. It was in this group that Kingsley first developed his passion for writing, contributing several articles for journals the group published.

Charles Kingsley is best known as being a famous author though and it was in 1850 that his first novel 'Alton Locke' was published. It's quite an emotive book in which he describes the social injustices faced by agricultural workers in the clothing trade.

He carried on this tragic theme throughout his next novels, 'With Hypatia' (1853) based on the true story of a Philosophy teacher who was murdered by Christians that disapproved of his beliefs, and 'Two Years Ago' (1857) looking at how poor sanitary conditions caused an outbreak of Cholera. Oh happy days!

It was in 1863 however that he published his most famous novel, 'The Water Babies'. It was written for his youngest son, and tells the brilliant and imaginative tale of a young-chimney sweep, who falls into a river whilst running away from his tyrannical employer. He is then transformed into a Water Baby, who can live under water, and meets a variety of colourful and odd-looking creatures along the way that help to teach him several moral lessons. Throughout the 1860s he taught Modern History at Cambridge University, and, despite writing a couple more novels led a relatively quiet life until his death in 1875.

Charles Kingsley was a remarkable character. He stood up for what he thought was right, and showed his high moral values through his writing. He had a remarkable imagination and talent, and his critically acclaimed novel 'The Water Babies' is a great testimony to him and is amazing life.

### Ingle

Devonport High School for Boys has a tradition of naming its buildings alphabetically, using the names of relevant historic figures – e.g. Astor, Brunel, Cookworthy, Drake, Edgcumbe, Foulston, Gibbons and Hansom. When the new Air Training Corps 197 Squadron Headquarters were completed, as the ninth building on the school site, an ideal name was readily identified - the Battle of Britain hero, Group Captain Alec Ingle, DFC, AFC.

Group Captain ALEC INGLE DFC, AFC 1916-1999

Alec Ingle was commissioned in June 1940 and joined 615 Squadron at Drem flying Hurricanes before moving to Croydon during the Battle of Britain. He was shot down three times, but accounted for five enemy aircraft. He later commanded 609 Squadron at Manston before leading 124 Wing in 1943 flying Typhoons flying daring daylight attacks on airfields and coastal defences in northern France. He was shot down in September 1943 after his Typhoon blew up in combat with an Fw190. Badly burned, he spent the remainder of the war as a P.O.W. in Stalag Luft III. Alex Ingle was awarded the AFC and DFC.

*Continued overleaf*

After the war he had a succession of station commands, leading in 1952 to the command of RAF Eindhoven in Holland. He was then posted to the RN Staff College at Greenwich and the Far East before returning to Whitehall where he concluded his career as the Deputy Director, Air Staff Plans. In retirement he enjoyed sailing and was active in local politics and was the chairman of the local Harbour Board in Lymington.



*With thanks to Dr. Pettit for information on Ingle.*

## School History

**The story of DHSB is long and diverse, here is a brief look into how it all came about and where it is going.**

1887- Alonzo Rider, a headmaster at Stoke Public school, is reprimanded by the secretary to the committee of management of the School, a Major-General L Tripe. This gives rise Mr Riders dream of starting his own school.

1895-That dream was realised when the ailing Devonport, Stoke and Stonehouse High School for Girls decided to move to smaller premises and vacated an imposing Gothic building at the top of Albert Road, Stoke.

1896- The new Devonport High School for Boys opened there at 9am on January 16th 1896.

"The school day in those days lasted from 9am until 4.45pm with just one break, from 12.30 to 2pm for lunch. Lessons lasted for 45 minutes each except for the last period of the day, which was one hour. There was no school on a Sunday although the staff still had to supervise the boarders. The school cap was dark blue.

Almost from the start Mr Rider acquired a 11½ acre site at Keyham Barton for use as a playing field. Cricket and soccer were played on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. A second field was purchased at Penlee, Milehouse, and finally Mr Rider bought "Greatlands" at Milehouse, the site of the present Devonport High School for Girls."

1902- The Devonport Borough Council took over the school and over the next thirty years it continued to provide an individual and challenging curriculum for its boys who came from the city and in by train from the Tamar Valley and Cornwall.

1939- School is evacuated to Penzance during the war.

1945- Devonport high school for boys returns, to the site we are now all familiar with now. On the next page is a little history of this ex-military hospital building.

*Continued overleaf*



"After the success of the Royal Naval Hospital, built on the South side of the Stonehouse Creek in the middle of the 18th Century, the Army decided to build a Military Hospital on the North bank of the creek. With a work force of Napoleonic Prisoners of War from the prison hulks on the Hamoaze, the hospital was completed by 1797 and served the Army for 148 years. With a hospital on both sides of the creek the injured forces returning from the Crimea are said to have coined the phrase "up the creek" to reflect their fears as they were brought ashore for treatment. The tidal Stonehouse Creek was filled in in 1973 (with the spoil from the A38 Plympton Bypass through Saltram) and now provides extensive sports fields for the school and local community."

2000-2004- The school surges in growth, starting with the creation of a new Drama Studio named after the late Mr Burrows, DHSB goes on to build a brand new refectory. A state-of-the-art sports hall is then conceived from funds the school raised itself, after the success of this project DHSB applies for Engineering College status, with the generous sponsorship of the EEF and BAE Systems. This bid is successful and the school gains its position as a Specialist Engineering College, which allows brand new technology to be installed in the updated Technology Faculty. Helped by the Gleason Foundation in 2003 the school is able to expand further, freeing up money for the music facilities being moved to a new building to allow this department extended room for lessons. This in turn gave room for a new fitness suite to be built in the old music-room. Equipped with a new and diverse selection of equipment, the facility has become a very popular addition to the school. Most recently, the school library has moved into what is so far the school's newest and well designed addition of a new library made from the old E-Block gymnasium.

2005- What can we expect from DHSB in future years? The next main project the school is currently undertaking is the formation of a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form centre. Plans are currently being made and we should be able to see construction within the next half year.



**The opening of the LRC**  
(see article to the right)

## And so it opens ...

### **After half a year of development the new 'Learning Resource Centre' (a.k.a. The library) is finally open. Mrs. Simmonds gives us the tour.**

The close of the summer holiday saw the construction of the new LRC *just* finished after weeks of frantic activity. The start of the Autumn Term opened up opportunities for pupils and staff alike, to benefit from an excellent, well equipped, well-stocked LRC in a superb light and airy environment.

With one of my first duties being the induction of our year 7's Information Retrieval Program, I had a chance not only to meet our new pupils first hand but also to demonstrate to them, with a real sense of pride, what the LRC can offer them, as pupils of this school and the opportunities it presents. From the outset the LRC has instigated a policy of volunteer pupil support across the whole school and this continues.

The previous headmaster, Mr. Gavin Peck, officially opened the Edgcombe LRC on the evening of 11th October '04. A plaque was unveiled to commemorate this event. Paintings were also donated by Mrs. Da Silva, the daughter of another former headmaster, Dr. Jack Cresswell (1953-1974).

The author Darren Shan visited the school on the same evening to celebrate the publication of his new book 'Sons of Destiny'.

The completion of the new LRC is by no means the end of the story, plans for the future include providing an improved networked source of information provider and enhancing the integration of information retrieval and study skills. In this way we will expand further into the 21st century LRC which everyone can be proud of.

In the words of one prospective pupil speaking with the headmaster whilst visiting our new facilities, "This is not just a room with books, but a *real* library!"

**Eunice Simmonds**



## Perceptions of Change

**Since we came to the school six years ago many changes have taken place. Tom McMullan highlights the most significant in his eyes.**

I have been a pupil at Devonport high school for 6 years now. In this relatively short timescale I have seen a large multitude of changes happen in my surrounding environment. When I first started as a beady-eyed pupil in 1999 the school was well renowned as "a secondary grammar school of the highest quality", in looking back to this description I think residing in a single school and only having the opinion and perspective of that school doesn't allow you to fully appreciate what this statement actually means. Although our school has the same faults as most others, I believe that the environment and atmosphere between the pupils and of the surroundings has a certain quality that is not found in other schools. I am not saying that the pupils live in perfect harmony with everything around them, far from it. I am merely commenting that we actually do have a lot to be thankful for, I will not recount school prospectuses and promote our large fields and diverse teaching staff, simply that we should remember that our school does have a range of facilities that we are lucky enough to be able to have.

Putting aside the lecturing, Devonport High School for Boys has changed drastically I believe even in the short time I have been here. To pick just a few of the latest additions to the school:

- Hansom Sports Hall
- Gibbons Refectory
- Engineering college status
- Gleason Foundation Grant
- New Music Block
- Gymnasium
- Electronic Whiteboards and projectors

Throughout this magazine, we have interviewed different members of staff to gain their insights into how school life has changed in DHSB.

The members of staff we have targeted have all been in this school for a relatively long time of their career, this means that they would have been able to see a lot of changes within their time here. From what we learnt from them there have indeed been changes, not only structurally but in the attitudes that pupils have towards the staff and how teaching methods have had to be altered as the society around the school has changed.

Even from the time I started to now I have seen changes in attitudes, the world around the school has changed most certainly within the past years, we have seen the attacks of 9/11, the war in Iraq, the Bush crusades. To say that the school has been affected by these would be true to a degree, it certainly does affect thoughts of pupils and teachers. However the school can be seen as a separate society to that of the outside world, this is the beautiful thing about it, it allows a culture with a lot less of the prejudice that the outside world carries with it. Again, I am not stating that we live in perfect harmony in DHSB, only that you find people from different backgrounds together in one place, and although the ways teaching and the structure of the school has changed, this diversity amongst pupils never will.

**Tom McMullan**

# The Chairman's Letter

**All the latest from the Old Boy's Association by the chairman ... no, we're not repeating ourselves! 60 years ago the magazine was very different, here's the chairman's letter of 1944.**

## The Old Boys Association Is ...

President	The Headmaster, W. H. Buckley
Vice-Presidents	Arthur F. Treseder Sir Clifford Tozer Sir William Gick H. A. T. Simmonds
General Secretary and Treasurer	H. Ferraro
Committee Secretary	Cyril E. Gill
London Secretary	L. S. Mills

To all Old Boys we send greetings and best wishes.

Paper restrictions prevented the publication of a Magazine in July last. The present issue contains a record of news received since last February.

We were indeed glad to hear that Flying Officer K. Dolton and Flight Sergt. F. J. Trevethick previously reported as missing are now known to be safe as prisoners of war.

Mr. H. Goodfellow, who was wounded in North Africa, and who for some time was in hospital in Naples, has now be repatriated. To the disappointment of his friend Major S. Ash, he was removed from the hospital just prior to the latter's entry into Naples with the British troops. They have hopes of an early meeting in this country.

Captain Wingett, a former member of the O.B.A Rigger team paid a visit to the School. He was stationed in the locality, and has given welcome assistance to the School Army Cadet Corps. Captain E.W.R Warn has another visitor. He was wounded in July last in Italy and was sent to England. He is now making good progress. All Old Boys who attended the Annual Reunions will have happy recollections of Mr. R. J. Werry's musical programmes. They will be pleased to hear that he is fit and well. He has recently been promoted to captain.

Another old friend, Mr. L. M. Rees, has the somewhat vague address of S.E Asia. He is a Pilot in the R.A.F.

Messrs. John Simmonds and K. Rockey, two one-time senior prefects, have gone overseas, the former to France and the latter to India.

Mr. G. L. Foster is now engaged in Industrial Chemistry. He has received an appointment with the I.C.I., while Mr. J. H. Nicholls has exchanged the Chemistry of Plastics for a very interesting research on Paints.

Mr. N. E. Chaff, after a long spell in Africa, has returned home, and when last he wrote was at Dunfermline. While in Cairo and Alexandria he met several Old Boys, among them being a contemporary VIth Former, Capt. Geoffrey Barret, who is now in Syria.

The D.S.M. has been awarded to C.E.R.A.R.W.F. Le Page for "skill, enterprise and steadfast devotion to duty" in H.M.S. "Duke of York" in action of December 26th, 1943, in which the German battleship Scharnhorst was destroyed. Mr. Le Page was a well-known Rugby player and athlete in Plymouth. A number of us still remember his sensational win in the 440 yards at the Inter-School Cadet Corps Athletic Meeting in Paignton.

Pilot Officer Lyon, a former Captain of Gilbert House, has won the D.F.C.

Mr. R. Denyer has been appointed to Gibraltar. Mr. E. J. Cox, who used to give such valuable assistance to Mr. Eric E. Cock in arranging the Annual Reunions, has been at Gibraltar for over two years. He writes of meeting Lieuts. J. F. Way and C. E. Seward.

Msser. R. and C. Molland are in France. The latter went across on "D" day, and has been in the front line more or less continuously ever since.

Congratulations and best wishes to Major and Mrs. F. K. Duke. Major Duke has recently returned to England after three years spent in Africa.

Commander (E) L. F. Ingram is returning to England after three and a half years of foreign Service.

Mr. T. E. Irish, the Plymouth Albion full-back, is in Italy. His Brother, Capt. T. Irish, has been overseas since 1941, and is now in Egypt.

*Continued overleaf*

Lieut. Alan Legg wrote from India where he was on leave after some arduous months in Burma. Lieut. F. Hornbrook, R.A., is also in India. He was in the siege of Imphal, where his experiences were both thrilling and trying. He fully endorses all Mr. Lamb's teachings on the evils of the climate of Burma. He mentions the nearby presence of Lieut. Semmens.

Sergt. R. Govett has successfully completed a course of training for Pilot Officer, and is now commissioned. Sergt. Pilot R. Scott has also won his wings.

Mssrs. D. J. Hooper and A. H. Pengelly visited Penzance since the last issue of the Magazine. Both were in O.C.T.U. units, and all being well will have been commissioned some time before this Magazine appears.

Messrs. Fitzsimmonds, Higson, Bennetts and Ware also visited the School. The former was then on embarkation leave.

Mr. E. H. Semmens has completed a course in Japanese. Two recent "leavers," Messrs. J. H. Crossley and A. Truscott, are taking a similar course with the R.A.F.

Our London Branch Chairman, Mr. A. T. Brooks, will be interested to have news of a contemporary-Col. W. Treays—who is now in India. We send him greetings from D.H.S.

The first "crop" of State Bursars have now completed their training and are awaiting direction to the Services or to industry. Mr. R. Beare is now in the Navy, as is Mr. A. H. Tredgett. Mr. S. Moger, who left Loughborough with the Diploma of Mechanical Engineering, is going into the Army, while Mr. R. S. Roberts, who obtained the A.M.I.E.E., is going into industry.

Mr. Halliday, after obtaining a B.Sc. Degree in Engineering, has been appointed Experimental Assistant in the Admiralty Signals Establishment. Another Old Boy, Mr. W. Tudor, also obtained the B.Sc. (Engineering).

Mr. J. L. Deal has left Oxford with an Honours Degree, and has gone into chemical industry. His sojourn at the University was followed with keen interest by many D.H.S.ians, since he captained the Oxford Football XI for two seasons, and was also elected Captain of the combined Oxford and Cambridge teams.

Mr. J. Pickering obtained First Class Honours in the Diploma exam. (Loughborough), and is now engaged in research.

Mr. A. H. Tredgett obtained an Honours Degree in London; General. Mr. K. T. Hale, of Leicester University College, also passed the London B.Sc.

Mr. G. T. Roberts has been awarded the Admiralty Prize at the Dockyard School for the second year in succession.

There have been several inquiries as to the O.B.A. tie of late. We regret that it is no longer possible to obtain the tie. Messrs. Perkins Bros., Plymouth, will have them on sale again as soon as material is released for their manufacture.

Will members who have not paid their subscription for the current year (3/-) please help by forwarding it as soon as possible?

News has been received that Sergt. S. Bartlett, R.A.F. (Gilbert House) is missing. We trust that further news will relieve the anxiety of his parents.

We were sorry to hear that Lieut. H. Warwick, who so ably captained the Old Boys' Rigger Team, has been wounded. It is good to know that he has made satisfactory progress. It is largely due to his untiring efforts, coupled with the enthusiasm of Secretary Leslie Warren, that the team enjoyed so long a period of success.

It is with great regret that we record the death on Active Service of the following:

- Sergt. Theo Williams, R.A.F., the son of our old friend, Mr. S. H. Williams, of the D.H.S. Staff.
- Major Phythian, who, as a Territorial, left our Staff at the outbreak of war. He was killed in action in Burma.
- F/O. D. Couch, R.A.F., late of Reading University
- Alan Logan, who left D.H.S. for the R.A.F. in 1942. He was invalided from the Service, and returned to D.H.S. He died at the beginning of the Summer Term.

*Apologies to all those at the O.B.A. over the trimming of this article. Due to space reasons such an act had to take place; I hope I succeeded in retaining that which is for you the most interesting parts.*

**James Turner**

# Apology for your shivers

**In another glance into the past, here is an article taken from the 1944 issue of this magazine by the commendably enduring D. W. Cloke.**

There is nothing new under the sun, and war, followed by death, came with life. At sunrise on the first day the struggle between the various branches of Nature was taken up. Man's part in it dates from his birth. Despite his mounting determination and ability he has been unable to master her, being capable on of using the old-established ways of Nature, or of preventing her doing him harm. The donning of a coat, or the lighting of a fire, shows his puny ways, adopted because of his inability to stop rain or cold.

Man is powerless to stop Nature here in the mine, as he is elsewhere. Creaks, groans, pops, bangs, cracks, swishes, roars and trickles may be heard on all sides, each telling the story of tons of rock moving in upon the miners as they rob the Earth of her wealth. Every pit-prop is a defensive weapon, all the defence at the miner's disposal. Each sound warns him that nothing can stop nature, each is a warning that both his life and the coal, his livelihood, are threatened. Obviously it is far better to hear these sounds than those of an engine or machine, especially now that there are fewer props and more fatal noises caused by the weakened defence.

During every minute of his working life, minutes spent perhaps half-a-mile from fresh air and sunlight, the miner suffers the strain of abnormal conditions, of mental alertness, and physical tension. The coal has to be hewn; over ten tons of solid rock have to be moved, much of it breaking into small pieces, for which there is no payment, leaving six or seven tons of lumps to be loaded into trucks and taken to the surface; props must be erected, unsafe roof removed, and walls built each and every day. The miner has a hazardous task of great difficulty, requiring both knowledge and experience.

Every man in the team of workers at each mine is liable to suffer death or injury at any time, no matter whether his is at the coal-face or at the top of the shaft. The team is depleted, and many in it are inexperienced and unskilled when compared with their predecessors. The shortage of men in itself causes inefficiency, leading to accidents and loss of

production. Even with more colliers on the face more coal could not be produced, as there are too few haulers to take the coal out.

These things should be remembered when the talk is of a coal-shortage; see in your fire the blood, sweat and tears which have bathed that extra knob, see the dust-ridden air and the dim light. Remember who it is who wastes the coal however much is mined.

**D. W. Cloke, Wartime Miner**

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## Nature's Home

James Eades 10C

*The endless spray of the midnight sea  
Slowly piercing the beaches with cutting waves  
Roaring white froth invading tirelessly.  
The savage gale peeling away the watching spirits.  
The red sand swirling through the night air,  
Never Stopping.  
The dim moonlight alone in the shadows,  
The signal is made.  
Incessant muttering cuts the air  
Three dark figures emerge warily  
They roar past the red sand  
Past the invading froth  
Past the endless spray  
And home ...  
Where they belong.*



## Oriental Adventure

**Last academic year the history department headed out to China. Mr Riggs reports on what they found.**

"Sir, the plane was hit by lightning, and they are just checking for holes!"

It was the third hour of delay at Heathrow airport and some eight hours after we had left school. I began to pray that this would not be the start of a nightmare. Thankfully, it wasn't, and Huadu Hotel in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China.

We were all remarkably fresh the following morning despite our body clocks telling us that we had gone to bed at three in the afternoon and gotten up at midnight. After a visit to a Jade factory, we went to see the Great Wall of China at Juyong Pass. Like all the sites we visited, it was packed solidly with Chinese tourist enjoying their nation's cultural and historical heritage. Some of our braver souls risked the crowds, the 35 degree hit and the intense humidity to climb to the top of the wall. The experience only caused two boys to reveal how many noodles they had consumed the night before!

From there it was on to the Ming Tombs to the temple complexes and man made hills that cover the tombs proper. That evening we saw the astonishing flexibility of the school children and some adults who performed in the Acrobats show.

The next day, we were able to see a lot more of Beijing itself. Rather than the drab communist capital with millions of identical chairman Mao suit clad cyclists, we were faced with a vibrant modern city with the trappings of consumer excess. Gucci and Armani were not at all what we expected.

The vast increase in cars in China has not, however, been matched by an increase in driving instructors. We had to avoid a fight on the road to Tiananmen Square between the friends of a lady who was knocked down in front of us by a very careless driver and the driver of a car.

There were no signs in Tiananmen square of the protesting students that had occurred there in 1989. The humidity that clouded the air showed how vast the space was as the Great Hall of the people and the history museum were both clouded in mist. But rather than being full of protestors, the square was full of vendors selling drinks and food to busts of Chairman Mao and fake Rolex watches. I am sure that we all thought about the wickedness that had been done here, but the sheer number of Chinese people in the square engaging in trade and simply enjoying themselves had turned it into an impressive symbol of hope for the future.

From there we went into the imperial palace museum, or forbidden city. After a stop to replenish our fluids and to give thanks to the fact that we did not have to become Eunuchs to enter the gates, we spent a few hours visiting the palaces, courtyards and other complexes that make up this huge site. This was an exhausting experience as the forbidden city is indeed a small city and many of the palaces and courtyards are not on a human scale.

After a stop for a banquet at the top down-town restaurant, we visited the temple of heaven which many boys said was the finest building they had ever seen. It was then time for a charming tea ceremony at the agricultural institute and yet another banquet, before heading towards the rail station and our overnight train to Xian.

Beijing west railway station could probably have enclosed all of London's mainline stations, we passed through relatively smoothly part from an amusing diversion when Fei Fei, the young lady who was looking after us, was told off by a rude and picky police officer who was in turn subjected to one of the most ferocious and humiliating "tellings-off" that I have ever witnessed. We all loved Fei Fei for that!

We had been a little worried about the train journey after Francis, our other guide, had warned us that they were often lacking in any toilet paper. We need not have worried. Despite having stolen all the toilet rolls from every cubicle in the vast friendship store on Tiananmen square, our train was exceptionally clean, modern and comfortable. The piped music was torture though. It was such a shame that the Witan album was not played for everyone's pleasure!

Xian is famous as the site of the tomb of the first Emperor of China and where the Terracotta Warriors guarding his tomb were found in the early  
*Continued overleaf*

1970's, what no one really expected to find, however, was a city of over 5 million people with shopping malls and the like that will probably make even the New Drake Circus development look primitive.

After a brief stop at our 5 star hotel, we were off again for another banquet and then a visit to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and a Chinese painting demonstration. Another brief rest, and then it was time for another banquet this time containing Wentai food. All 50 of us were smiling and content after giving our Chinese hosts an impression of feeding time at the zoo.

The following day we visited the Haqing hot springs before a noodle banquet and our visit to the Terracotta army. The site has been covered over by three structures that look like aircraft hangers. It is a truly awe-inspiring sight to see the hundreds of life size, individually featured figures standing in battle formation.

That night, we adjourned to a local theatre for a performance of the Tang Dynasty show. The highlight for many was the duck man who used an ancient "Musical" device to quack for long periods, but I must admit a particular fondness for the very elegant and graceful young ladies who performed traditional dances.

At this stage in the trip, exhaustion really began to set in and we really graceful for a few days when shopping became the priority. It was fascinating and horrific to see local stores where Alsatian puppies in cages were on sale, presumably for food. We also had fun looking Annmarni fashions and T-shirts made by Viagra.

On our return to Beijing, we had our final outing to see the magnificent summer palace with its man made hills and lakes and the intricately carved and painted long corridor but the experience none of us will ever forget was our visit to the silk alley where all manner of fake luxury goods are sold. Our bargaining skills were put to the test against some of the most aggressive traders that can exist anywhere in the world.

We were all very impressed by China and its people, the sights, history and culture are truly magnificent. The people are friendly, curious and kind. We were treated like kings and ate like them too! Politically, it is still a dictatorship, but it is becoming more and more benevolent. Real progress is being made and all of us who went on the trip wish them well.

**David Riggs**



## "J'adore Tu, Madame"

**Nearly two decades in and she has been a guide and mother to us all in our early years of life. Ben Webster gets to know the real Mrs. Bowden.**

Mrs Bowden is currently assistant head-teacher and a French language teacher at Devonport, and she has been with us for 19 years. She has been able to witness the recent changes first hand and experience the differences they have made to teaching. She remembers how one of the current Religious Studies rooms has been transformed from double wooden desks, wooden floors and blackboards into a modern and effective classroom, complete with a computer and mounted projector. Changes closer to home, such as a computer lab completely dedicated to languages, projectors and computers in every room have really aided enthusiasm and learning in the MFL subjects. She also thinks the school site is also much more attractive and is much more "user friendly", making it easier for students to achieve their aims.

Of the major changes since her employment, Mrs Bowden has been particularly impressed by the new library, as it is a "brilliant resource facility" which is an excellent "aid for learning". From a French teacher's perspective, the acquisition of Uzel house has been a "real asset for the school", and is an excellent place for boys to practice their French.

When questioned on whether the recent Engineering Status had adversely affected her (as French is not one of core beneficiary subject) she smiled. "The recent grants have all worked together to encourage and support all learning within the school, as well as sustaining the school's brilliant academic reputation". When questioned on any future changes she thought would aid her subject she revealed that many of the teachers still need help using the new facilities, and that a hunky technician called Carl would not go amiss.

**Ben Webster**

*Mrs. Bowden, when not teaching, can be found mostly in her office in E-block. With her cheery outlook and eager-to-help nature she is one of the most personal and loved teachers in the school, so don't be afraid to go to her for anything!*



## Shooting in the rain

**It sounds so wonderful ... a week in Uzel, France, directing, shooting and editing various videos and short films. Except there was no sun and plenty of drizzle.**

On Sunday 31st October, I set off for the School's House in Uzel with a mixture of 22 boys and girls for 4 days of extensive media training! We were accompanied on our epic journey by Ms Wilkinson, Mr. Robertson, media expert Mr. Dobson, Mr. Sandercock and son Gawen who all ensured we were perfectly behaved throughout! We were off to work straight away, split into groups on the Ferry and given our agendas for the week. My group was the unlucky one that really had to get our noses to the grindstone as our first task was a scene set in a fast food shop, which we were filming that evening! We learnt our lines, and discussed how we'd film it with the teachers on the boat then as soon as we got to Uzel started getting things together for filming! We got our props, set up the kitchen as a state of the art fast food restaurant, got the camera rolling and eventually - despite enough mis-said lines and dropped money to fill the outtakes - managed to get enough decent shots in order to edit together what would become a moving piece of drama!

But that wasn't it for the day, as we still had to set work on recording spooky noises, for our next task, adding sound effects to a silent movie - an extract from 'Nosferatu'. We started to get some gravel footsteps, door slamming, and wind sounds (running down the road with a camera does that fine!) and adding them to the clip. We were a bit drained by then though so finished getting all the sound effects and editing them the next day, and eventually ended up with a surprisingly scary and, more importantly, well timed piece.

Each night we all sat around, huddled up with duvets and pillows for our film screening. That always proved fun, I know I had quite a few conversations about my grasp on the plot which ended up completely wrong! The teachers picked out a very good assortment of films, Sliding Doors, Chungking Express (from which our set scene were taken), A Matter Of Life and Death and finally Barberella (a suitably weird and wonderful final film for our adventure!).

Our next task was to film a music video. Easier said than done! We blind picked a 60's Summer Hits CD consisting of the likes of 'Baby Love' and 'Dancing In The Street'. Our video proved a big source of discussion - and like all 'media experts' we ended up scrapping our original idea, a completely unprofessional, surreal but none the less 'funny' montage of clips to go with the song 'Wipe Out' for a genius, and very creepy stalking/murdering video to go with the song 'Something In The Air'. And trooper I am I got covered in mud and stinging nettles in order to get the perfect shots!

The final, and most challenging task was our main project, a completely original film planned, scripted and filmed all ourselves. The theme that all the groups got was 'My First...' and we got given 'My First Date' which sounds all well and good, until we found out it had to be in a Sci-Fi genre! We had many a chat amongst ourselves and with Mr. Dobson about our ideas, and came up with a girl on a date with an Alien, a guy on a date with Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz before agreeing on Virtual Dating! And how much fun was that to film! A girl making herself beautiful for a date, meeting her man on the street before going off on a romantic, outside dinner date whilst staring lovingly into each others eyes. Although perhaps it was a little perverse seeing the same two people were the murderer/victim earlier in the Music Video that same day! The final scene though, possibly my favourite, the girl sat at a computer wearing tin-foil virtual reality glasses. Pure brilliance! But it ended up looking really good though, with Robbie and Nicole's 'Something Stupid' enhancing the romance factor!

The week came and went very quickly, and on the final night we all got to let our hair down with snazzy outfits and make-up (and that's just the boys!) for the screening of our work followed by a flash awards ceremony. Esteemed guests were there to hand out the awards for Best Group, Best Piece of Work and Best Individual Student and there were equally esteemed speeches to accompany the acceptances!

All in all, it was a brilliant week. I'd like to thank all the teachers for all the effort they put into making it such a fantastic experience. I've found out so much about filming, directing and editing and have made a whole load of really good new friends in the process! I wouldn't have changed it for the world!

**Harrison Nash**





## Musician's Final Score

**For 39 years Mr Farrow has inspired and raised musical talent in our school, and now he leaves. Tom McMullan makes him face the music one last time.**

**How much has it changed over the years you've been here?**

I'd say the main difference that I've seen is the attitude of boys to staff and staff to boys. Nowadays there's a much more relaxed manner and the staff seem to relate better with pupils. I think this is all to the better.

**Would you say your teaching methods have changed over the years?**

Yes, to a degree. There seems to be much more interaction with pupils in lessons today. There's a lot less of the traditional black board style lessons and much more reliance on initiative and ideas. Today we direct students with their learning which I think is a very positive change.

**Would you say there has been a big difference in the sixth form since you've started?**

Well, they seem to get younger every year! When I started, in 1965, they seemed to be older young men, and they had very different attitudes to the sixth form of today. Then of course it was much more severe, and they all had strict short back and side hair cuts! They seemed more serious, but this probably relates to them having fewer opportunities in the breadth of the curriculum. In my opinion the A Levels were more severe, and, particularly in music, were more demanding.

**Would you say that the standards of the exams have dropped then?**

I wouldn't say there's been a standard drop, but definitely a change. Then it used to be all exam based. In music, there was a much higher technical demand on students, specifically classical music. Students had to show their abilities, and had to memorise vast amounts of musical pieces.

**Would you say, the 'Specialist Engineering College' status the school has received has benefited the music department at all?**

Well obviously the money received from the status has allowed for the move of buildings and enhanced the quality of the department. A lot of capital input has been put into the refurbishment and equipment of the new music suite, which I am extremely proud of. There is still money needed to maintain the progress though, and I really hope that my successor can build on what we've achieved so far.

**You have had a lot of input in the hugely successful music productions the school have put on, do you think these will continue to flourish after your departure?**

Obviously it's down to the individual, and they will bring their own ideas with them, but I hope that whoever my successor is does try and sustain the productions and such like. I have always tried to encourage as many boys as possible to make music. I hope whoever takes over lets pupils identify their own strengths and allows them to show off their talent.

**Will you stay in close contact with the school after you leave and what are your plans for the future?**

Well I shan't lose contact completely! If I am called upon I will try to help wherever I can. The school has been my life for the last 40 years, so I can't just let go like that! I will do other things of course though. I have obviously gathered links with many musicians in the city over the years, which I will hope to utilise. And I will of course carry on walking on Dartmoor, and I also plan to do some travelling.

**So finally, have you enjoyed your time here?**

Absolutely, or else I wouldn't have stayed as long as I have! Whenever people visit the school, they always see the value the school has. It's had a great influence on all its pupils, and will continue to after they leave with many businesses looking to recruit boys from here. I'm very much looking forward to my free time though!

*Currently in his 40th (and final) year at DHSB, Mr. Farrow has, and continues to, be that love-able chap in the new music building. Everyone be sure to check out his production of the musical 'Orpheus' this Summer!*

## Why we hate soap

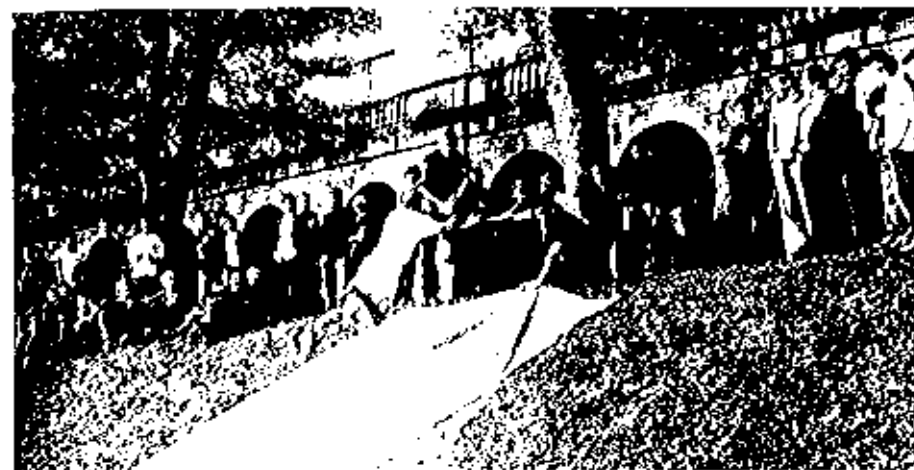
**Want to raise some money for charity? Want to make it fun for all those involved? Want to run up a soap-covered bank in cold weather? Er, wait a minute ...**

In the summer term, the council put forward a proposal for a sports week to tie in with the BBC's Sport Relief. However due to the hustle and bustle of the summer term with exams, enrichment week and study leave we were unable to carry this idea forward. Yet, during the summer holidays, Chris and I put together a plan for a charity week in the early part of the autumn term. Because we didn't want to infringe on lesson time, we planned the events in lunchtimes. By September things were all set and our plans cleared by relevant staff and the headmaster.

The week began with the first round of the It's a Knockout tournament, which although the weather was very cold, the event was quite successful. We had planned to have a teachers' team, but numbers steadily dropped as the event clashed with lunchtime clubs. Therefore we were left with four teams- the VI Form, and three other teams built from the various houses. Each team competing for the points, which might change the scores in the rundown towards speech day. The games were simple in structure and required both brain and brawn to gain the best score. One of the favourites was the soapy bank, where teams had to run up a soapy ground sheet attached to the bank and collect a sponge without slipping over. As you can see from the photo it was fantastic to take part but even better to watch as players attempted to defy the soap.

On Tuesday and Thursday we set up a fair-trade stall in the canteen to raise awareness of the advantages of buying fairly traded goods. Over these two days we sold over £60 of coffee, tea, chocolate, orange juice and cookies, which was a fantastic achievement. We also set up a charities stall with information to raise awareness of the important work of both international and local charities.

On Wednesday we had fantastic weather for a great finale for the It's a Knockout tournament. The VI Form helpers and those playing really got involved, and Marc Luscombe in particular should be praised, for allowing himself to be pushed down the groundsheet several times. A piece of entertainment that probably boosted donations by about £20 and gave everyone a few laughs as well!! Although we had another day to go, I certainly felt this was a fantastic finale for the week- "I love it when a plan comes together!"



£55 was raised from donations from it's a Knockout spectators, added to the money raised throughout our term as council chairmen our total for charity was £1423.99. We have split this amongst four charities- Mayflower Children's Fund, The Chestnut appeal, Contrasting Horizons and Sport Relief.

I feel that the charity week was a tremendous success, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council Rep's, the VI Form helpers, Mrs Mintoft, Mr Butcher, Mr Orkney and Mr Faulkner. Yet the success is certainly due to the support of staff and students, leading to a fantastic amount of money raised for charity.

For more information and pictures of the event please visit:  
[www.dhsbcouncil.co.uk](http://www.dhsbcouncil.co.uk).

**James Houston**

*James Houston is the current School Council Chair and was the reason for this whole crazy adventure which a few people would rather forget. Not us, we love showing embarrassing photos (see above)*



## Thou didst teach me!

**27 years and more lessons on Shakespeare than is possibly healthy, Mrs. Sandercock remains one of the greatest assets to the school. Tom McMullan finds out why.**

**How many years have you been a teacher at this school?**

27

**You must have seen a lot of changes in your times as a teacher at this school, have your teaching methods had to adapt to the different learning environment, if so explain how?**

That is a very long question, but yes it has when I first started teaching we had O-Levels and A-Levels and we didn't have KS3 and KS4. To start with the introduction of GCSEs was very different because it involved coursework and then they introduced coursework at A-Level. That meant that despite the fact that I always believed in child centred education it became even more child centred. I think coursework always encouraged our pupils, particularly when it was 100% coursework particularly in literature that saw a huge change in the uptake of literature at A-Level. With the KS3 strategy everything has changed with the introduction of ICT, it's a completely different animal than it was in 1978 when I started teaching you came in you taught your 3 books for O-Level, your 9 books for A-Level everybody had to learn it, you didn't have open text examinations all of which has meant 3,4,5 revisions of teaching strategies and nothing stays the same for 2 or 3 years together.

**There also have been a lot of structural changes around the school such as the sports hall and canteen, which in your opinion do you believe to have had the most positive impact on the school environment?**

In the school environment we've been crying out for years for a sports facility. Personally I would like a swimming pool as well, I think that would improve my environment, the sports hall has allowed the P.E. department to move on in the area it wanted to. The old canteen was disgusting and the new refectory is a much nicer facility although staff still don't like doing canteen duty.

**Which of these additions to the school do you think have had least impact, does anything not justify the expenses?**

I've got to learn to use the ICT, clearly other colleagues are relishing it and in English the newly trained teachers see all the advantages of the ICT and want more, and that does justify the expense. Dr. Pettit has got a lot of vision and of the opening of the new school library it was nice to see the old headmaster, who appointed me, and Dr. Pettit clearly enjoying what he has managed to fund and facilitate for the school and his vision of having a theatre as well, which he wants to achieve before he finishes. All of those things are justified in their investment because that means our technology status has provided lots of money but there's also money going in other areas. It's a big vision you must not look at one small thing.

**With the school recently gaining engineering status a lot of funds has been diverted into technology and the sciences. How do you think this has affected your department and the arts departments as a whole?**

The money that has come in for engineering has gone to those departments but it has also freed up money in the budget that would not otherwise go to other subjects. In actual fact the money that paid for the ICT in all the classrooms has come from the engineering grant; the rest of the budget has been allocated where Technology, Maths and Science are separately dealt with so it has freed up money for other departments.

Everyone always wants more but with curriculum development funding, which is part of managerial roles, it has been allocated to other departments more generously than it has to engineering and these departments have been supporting us in other ways. They have their own technicians and their own curriculum support assistants paid for out of that budget so the curriculum support assistant for the other departments get more of the centrally funded things so it has bought in a lot of money for the engineering things but other money goes into other departments.

**What do you see for the future of the school? What changes would you like to see in the next few years?**

It would be nice to slow down and take stock of where we are and with the publication last night of the latest set of exam proposals which we've been aware of if that is taken slowly enough then that will be positive, if we move towards a system, I know it will be more work for teachers, which isn't testing, testing, testing at the time I think that could be positive and I the international baccalaureate is a good example of that.

*Continued overleaf*

### **Would you suggest more coursework?**

That certainly is what the latest report hints at, in its wider prospective its suggesting that perhaps that at GCSE one major project which cover a range of skills would be used rather than so many GCSE students scrambling to get coursework for 8,9,10,11 subjects it would take something of more a holistic idea. I'm not sure on all the details but if that's introduced slowly that would be fine. I do still regard the A levels as the gold standard but I would like some more security in the AS-Level exams.

### **There's been a lot of talk about exams becoming a lot easier and literacy levels dropping, is this true or just speculation?**

Its not true at all, I described the first part as I came in and taught 'Julius Caesar', Betjeman and 'Merchant of Venice' and that was O levels, there's a much greater demand on GCSE students now. I applaud the inclusion of multicultural input but I feel there is an imbalance of poetry still at KS4. there is no doubt in my mind that exams are harder it seems that in English they are requiring a much higher level of personal engagement, wider knowledge, it is hard I do not believe it is easier. I know earlier I said you had to learn 9 books for a level but it was far more on recalling and coming up with names and dates and things than actually understanding literature.

### **Has increased technology and ICT had an affect on your teaching?**

On a personal level, I am still struggling. I have discovered to get on the internet and I am beginning to understand exactly what to do. I do see that its got advantages as yet I do not see how to use it I do want to be able to use pupils' essays and project them to give an indication of what standards are like. I stand back in awe and watch the way Mrs. Nally and Mrs. Johns use ICT and I need to know how to do that.

### **Do you think it will affect your teaching?**

It's got to. I have got to do it and every indication is that pupils will respond better but I'll have to learn, it's a slow learning curve for me because I am scared of it.

### **Do you still enjoy working at the school?**

Its been my life, its my friends, my family. In the classroom fine, but the administration, target setting and all that sort of thing is wearing, and new things and strategies which your are not always sure about- but no one is going to employ me! I need to pay the mortgage!

## **The road to glory**

### **The path of victory is a hard one, and things don't always end up morally sound. Former Head Boy Raphael Pour-Hashemi (1997) explains.**

After leaving DHS and its glorious Arcade behind me, I decided that the only way to further my travels down the path of Hollywood domination was to take a Film & Television degree at Aberystwyth University; more commonly known as bleakest Wales. The course offered production and theoretical advice on the industry, but you were never fooled into believing that a degree in anything media-related would actually help towards a 'real' job, and I knew that my only realistic chance would be to live somewhere within commuting distance of London.

Upon graduating, I was very lucky to have been offered a job as a Presentation Clerk at Carlton Television in London and within a week I was promoted to scheduling level. My job was to prepare ITV transmission schedules for the London region, and I stayed for a year before moving within ITV to become a Sales Research Assistant. The job involved researching audience and advertising trends on the ITV channel.

Another year at research sparked a desire to try a different challenge, and so I left the terrestrial world of ITV and joined Sit Up Television, a company who own shopping auction channels such as Bid-Up.TV and Price-Drop.TV. My role as Presentation Scheduler involves choosing which promos and on-screen graphics are used, as well as co-ordinating which products are to be filmed for on-air selling. It appears I have sold my soul somewhere along the way.

**Raphael Pour-Hashemi**



## After the ship sailed

**Their debut album took the world (school) by storm. Now moving on from boat, they come to sing about medication. Confused? Ben Webster will clear things up.**

### Vocals, Drums

Mr Robertson (History)

### Rhythm/Lead Guitar, Piano, Violin

Mr Adams (Physics)

### Bass

Mr Riggs (History)

### Rhythm/Lead Guitar

Mr Fremlin (Former Student)

### Occasional Songwriter

Mr Jessop (Religious Studies)



Blues, Rock, and even Country music have been fused into the wonderful creation that is "Dr Willson's Pink Pills for Pale People", the latest offering from an institution which, not only unites our school, but provides vital entertainment; the school band: The Witan. Championed by Mr Robertson, Mr Riggs and Mr Adams, The Witan has gained cult status around the 'campus' with its continuing ability to create music that the school can be proud of.

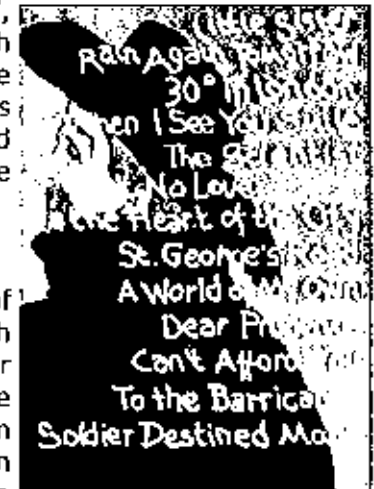


The new album (which has quickly replaced money as the leading currency in the playground) reaffirms the status of The Witan as a real asset to the school; by dispensing of the bland and dreary music usually accompanied with "teacher" bands, the Witan continues to break from conformity. Stand out tracks include the heartfelt (and

beautifully sung) cover of "The Scientist", "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City" with its moody blues and enchanting riffs, and the albums opener, "Little Sister" which evokes the laid back rock of "The Eagles" and "Lynyrd Skynyrd" and will have even the most silent of pupils singing along.

The band also forms the essential function of improving student-teacher relations. Both staff and pupils are united in their appreciation for the Witan, meaning that the educational atmosphere is that of enthusiasm and appreciation, something sorely lacking in other establishments. It also helps to explode the myth that science and history teachers are one-dimensional characters interested purely in their jobs! By showing they are people with other interests, respect and reverence grows, something very few bands (or teachers!) enjoy!

**Ben Webster**



### An Extract from 'Riding the Storm'

Joseph Barlow 10C

...  
Then, suddenly, a streak of white against the dark background.  
Huge, fitful flaring,  
Even the man on his boat stares in wonder.

Slanting rain, savagely beats the boat.  
This trinity of almighty power, sent from the spirits  
Old memories,  
Roar with delight  
Marvel at the wild beast, escape death once more.



## Guide, Hero, Friend

**The man who for many has had the largest impact on their school lives they have ever known, Mr. Starkie is leaving us after this term. James Turner spreads his final message.**

Sitting opposite across from me in his small office is the teacher I have come to respect and admire the most during my time here at DHSB. He smiles cheerfully, knowing full well that in just a few weeks that office will not be his own, nor will this school be his home. For 8 years he has provided a service to this school rivalled by few.

*"When I first came here Dr. Pettit approached me with the task of changing the sixth form".* Our headmaster wanted a 6th form "worthy of the 21st century". At the time, only year 13 had a common room, and there was no 6th form (or pupil, for that matter) school council. He saw this as a starting point for his revolution.

His first action was to integrate years 12 and 13, creating a unified 6th form to help promote a more friendly environment. He then went on to set up the 6th form school council. This allowed his ideal for a school to be spread, which can be best explained in his own words:

*"For me, a school isn't a building for learning; a school is the people who come to learn."* To further help those who make the school, he suggested the revolution of the Foulston hall into the 6th form common room, which also in his view is a change that is only just truly starting to take place with the proposed new designs. He soon became known for buzz-phrases like "us culture" and "we don't do to, we do with".

Over the years, Mr. Starkie has noticed a gradual change in how teachers treat the students. It is slowly becoming a more relaxed and friendly environment, something he sees only as a good thing—for him students aren't just students, they're clients.

*"I believe the school is here for the students, not the other way round"*

It's not just a change in the staff, however. Pupils develop during their time, becoming more mature, well-rounded, life-ready individuals.

*"When year 7's come into secondary education, they are very much little fish in a big pond. I feel many secondary schools mis-judge just*

*how mature year 6's are."* He feels that they come in mature, but end up going "crazy" due to the various stages of teenage life. This immaturity can even continue into year 11, a critical stage in a person's education. This is where the leaders of 6th form step in ...

*"When they (pupils) enter into 6th form, we have a mission, a mission to help develop the children into adults. There is a fine line to tread—you have to treat them with more respect, but still realise they're still in 'school-boy' mode'."* He seems to have mastered that line perfectly, for it is thanks to him that so many leave this school ready for life.

It is with great misfortune to the school that he is leaving on a career break with his family, though he certainly deserves it and we hope he enjoys every moment of it. He goes on to explain exactly where it is he's going and doing.

*"First I will be travelling for two months with my family, visiting California, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Thailand and Japan."* After this vacation he is going to think about where he is career-wise. He is hoping to qualify for headship, and then possibly go on for a master's degree. Aiming to do his best as always! And will we be seeing him again? He plans to be back in mid-July (as a visitor), so look out for him then.

And was there anything else he'd like to add?

*"To all pupils, staff and friends at the school, thank you so much for making my time here as enjoyable as I could want. I wish the new head of sixth-form, Mrs. Davidson, all the best for her new position. Our styles are not always the same, she will have a different approach to me, but I know it won't be a wrong approach and the sixth form will benefit under her leadership."*

**James Turner**



## Sports

**And now we welcome Tom Ringham, resident sports ... person, who will tell you of all the latest developments activity-wise.**

Well, what a year for sport! Boys from across the whole school in every year have participated, helped & performed extremely well in their chosen sports, further promoting themselves as very skilled individuals and the school as a prestigious and excellent facility to leap from. A force certainly to be reckoned with!

We hope and wish for as many victories for achieving an even more prosperous sporting year for DHSB. Good luck and have fun!

### Rugby

Last year proved to be a good year for rugby as a whole for the school, as all the teams put in a powerful and promising performance against many formidable opponents. Although its popularity may have subsided slightly the years before with the completion of the new sports hall and the introduction of new sports such as badminton, it soon regained this and has returned to be one of the more popular sports we participate in.

Starting from the bottom end of the school with the year 7 rugby team, two teams had been entered into the West Devon Cunningham Cup at Estover where they provided an entertaining but promising performance throughout the day. The A team eventually finished third out of 16 teams to finish a very commendable competition.

The year 8 team did have difficulties in finding fixtures last year, only playing 2 matches against John Kitto and St Boniface, who they won away & lost at home to respectively. They also competed in the West Devon 7 a side tournament but were unsuccessful as they lost all three of their matches.

The year 9 team did very well last year by only losing to Kelly College out of all their matches. With a few close games against Tamarside and some crushing victories versus Plymstock, and a pleasing performance in the West Devon 7 a side tournament, they will be a

side to look out for in the future.

The year 10 team last year maintained a steady progression throughout the season, losing to Plymstock narrowly 19-12, & in the West Devon 7 a side competition beating St Boniface and Eggbuckland, but losing to John Kitto and of course Plymouth College.

The 1st XV played only one game against Estover last year, who they beat by 52 points to 12. Congratulations though to two members of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Miles Franklin and Ryan Shahin, who were both in year 11 at the time, who represented an England President's XV to beat Gloucester and Avon schools team by 26 points to 15.

### Football

Football proved to be, as always, a very popular sport among the boys so there was plenty of participation in each of the teams across the years. Although not as successful as some of our other sports, last year's effort was very encouraging in both results & participation throughout the training, with 15 or more boys turning up to every session.

First of all the year 7 U12 team attended the 'Central Venue' 7 a side football sessions during the whole of spring term to much success. Despite mixed results throughout the sessions, due to emphasis on trying new teams each time to maximise participation, the boys enjoyed them very much, and look promising for the years to come.

The year 8 U13 football team competed in the 7 a side 'Central Venue' league which proved to provide some very mixed results! Although they ended up in the middle of the table, their results were encouraging to show what possible potential this team has, with many of the players regularly playing competitive football.

The year 9 football team (U14) unfortunately had quite a disappointing year with many of their fixtures against other schools being cancelled, although they did find their only win against Parkside to be good boost for morale! The participation in training has also been evident with 15-20 players for every session, proving that interest is still there.

The U15 year 10 football team unfortunately had a disappointing season when they lost both their games 4-2 and 1-0 to John Kitto and Coombe Dean respectively.

## **Basketball**

Basketball last year proved to be one of our most successful and increasingly popular sports in the school, as the ideal new court in the Hansom sports hall has enhanced training and the level of playing in matches to a higher level. The fact that it does not involve getting wet or muddy must of attracted some of the players too! Despite this though, there is evidently a fair amount of skill throughout the school from the excellent results.

The year 8 U13 team had a massively successful year by winning all of their eight games throughout the season for a 100% record to win the league very comfortably. This victorious team were coached by Dan Taylor (now year 13) and Jamie Davies (now year 12), who are both players in the Tamar Valley Cannons teams.

The U14 year 9 basketball team competed in the 'Central Venue' league to achieve a relatively sound success against the other teams with an encouraging performance. They finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the tables by the end of the season.

The U15 basketball team made up of year 10's were reasonably successful with only 2 defeats in the whole season to finish in runner up position overall by the end. Training was regularly attended in large numbers with the chance of representing their school.

The year 11 U16 basketball team completed another successful year with a 100% undefeated record for the second year running to complete the season at the top of the league again. With outstanding performances made by both the team and individuals, they represented the school very successfully and in an exemplary manner.

## **Cricket**

Unfortunately cricket still seems to be fairly unpopular after the introduction of many other sports, with the opening of the new sports hall, so only the most devoted and faithful members of the sport continued to train throughout the later part of last year during the quiet cricket season. Things this year however are set to change with cricket practice opening up to the whole of the school & the indoor nets training to commence every week, we could see a rise in popularity again at the beginning of the season!

## **Badminton**

With the building of the new Hansom sports hall completed, the popularity of this previously extinct sport has catapulted over the past few years as the new facilities have made badminton one of the more favourable, and now possible, sports to compete in. So much in fact that a league with regular fixtures had been structured to allow these boys to compete and have fun in a sport now open to them. There is a lot of skill spread throughout the school which tends to go unnoticed, but this should soon change when the season starts again for this great sport.

## **Hockey**

Last year, hockey unfortunately seemed quite unpopular with little interest from the boys throughout the year and was only a sport participated in games lessons. Although there was some interest spread between the years, nothing compromised throughout the year apart from the odd training session attended by a few skilled players. This will hopefully change with the new sports hall where a new games group should be set up to provide the boys with some training and possibly some competition.

## **Tennis**

The same applies to tennis as it did to hockey, except there was a bit more interest in the summer months to allow a regular training session to occur on the outdoor courts in front of A block. The sports hall should however hopefully change things with two indoor courts available for use, which should encourage some unknown talent to emerge.

## **Fencing**

Fencing still proves to be a popular extra curricular sport and activity with a regular club training the school team and new individuals on Tuesdays, where several of the boys are proving themselves to be very talented. Lets hope this continues!

## **Athletics**

DHSB is lucky to be praised with such talented runners, jumpers and throwers who are given the opportunity to regularly compete against other schools, and in some cases, given the chance to compete at both regional and national events at the highest level. With the athletics club run regularly during the summer, where the boys are lucky enough to train at Brickfields, these opportunities should boost our successes even further.



And for some reports from the new and upcoming sportsmen of the school...

### **Football Headlines**

'C' Team versus Stoke Damerel 'C' Team

*By Ryan Bickerton*

Seven strikes from DHSB 'C' team secured a high-scoring game with a final score of 7-3. The match started with a few problems as Stoke Damerel were two players short, consequently, two of the DHSB substitutes were volunteered to play for the opposing team (which *definitely* didn't have any effect on the score—JT).

The game started well for DHSB with an early goal. About five minutes later they made the score 2-0. Then the Stoke Damerel defence became stronger, holding off about ten shots, but after continuous pressure, DHSB got a goal just before half-time to make the score a fabulous 3-0.

At half-time, the two DHSB players who had played for Stoke were switched with two other players. The second half started much like the first with DHSB continuing their good form. They made the score 5-0 about ten minutes into the half. Another brilliant DHSB set piece was started and yet again ending in another goal. Suddenly Stoke Damerel created a burst of energy and made their first goal. This made the score 6-1. Stoke controlled the game for about five minutes, during this time Stoke proved that they had some bounce-back-ability making the score 6-3. During the last couple of minutes DHSB finished the match in style with a goal making the final score 7-3.

### **Year 7 Rugby**

Match round-up

*By James McFarlane 7S*

The year seven rugby team had a mind-blowing start to the season at their central venue tournament, without conceding a try in any of their games as you can see from the results below, with impressive wins over every team they played with at least a ten-point advantage.

The teams scores from each week at the central venue tournaments:

Week 1, they beat Eggbuckland 35-0 and Tavistock 25-0

Week 2, they beat Eggbuckland 35-0 and Tavistock 25-0

Week 3, they beat St Boniface 10-0 and Tavistock 20-0

And I am sure they will carry on their winning ways later in the year.

### **Under-13 Hockey**

Progress report

*By Jon Allsop 7C*

The under-13 hockey team have made a great start to their campaign with two wins and a defeat in their first three matches. In their first matches Wednesday, 10th November they played twice in a mini-tournament at Brickfields. First, despite a good performance we lost 1-0 to Sir John Hunt, but we picked ourselves up to beat Parkside 3-1. In our latest match we played Stoke Damerel in a big friendly, winning that one by one goal to nil. The under-13s are playing at Brickfields every Wednesday until Christmas now with fixtures against Plymstock and another game with Parkside on Wednesday the 24th.

### **Year 7 Football**

Cup-Match versus Stoke Damerel

*By Craig Harris 7S*

This was expected to be a tough replay after the first game was a hard fought, scoreless draw on our home pitch. Once again both teams were determined, showing great desire and contesting every tackle. We took the lead when a shot from the edge of the box by Matcham was only parried by the keeper and Photiou quickly followed up to chip the loose ball over the keeper.

Early in the second half our lead was extended when Harris scored from the edge of the penalty area with a fortuitous shot. Even with a two goal lead we knew it was far from over and we proved right when first Stoke Damerel pulled one back with a well taken penalty, then a long speculative shot that deceived our keeper, giving them an equaliser with just a couple of minutes left. We were obviously gutted but extra-time was soon upon us, but no further goals were scored so the dreaded penalty shoot out took place. After willing volunteers came forward we scored four out of four penalties and ended up winning the shoot-out 4-2, Matcham, Photiou, Creber and Brady being the successful spot kickers, so we progress into the next round.

This was a very good team performance and all of the squad played a part, even the sub who didn't get onto the pitch—they never stopped encouraging and cheering the team on.

And finally ...

The Fitness Suite is also now up and running fully with £17,000 worth of equipment installed to provide boys with top facilities to maintain their fitness levels. The new equipment includes:

- 2 step machines
- 2 rowing machines
- 2 exercise bikes
- 1 treadmill
- 1 cross trainer
- 8 strength machines, including free weights

These excellent new facilities are now open with regular sessions operating throughout the week before school, at lunchtimes and after school for a very small price.

### Tom Ringham



**'One Chance To Strike'**  
*James Turner*

## Best of the Rest

### All the information we could not fit elsewhere in the magazine

Mr. Bygrave is now leaving after a two and a half year service to the drama department. Tom, Harrison, Ben and James, among many others in the school, wish him all the best with working with an animal charity.

Mr Faulkner will also be leaving after this academic year as he retires. We thank him for his massive contribution to the running of the school over the past decades and hope he enjoys his 'holiday'.

Plans for the new VIth form centre are being finalised and pushed forward. Dr. Pettit has described the design as "radical" - here's hoping they live up to that title!

Harrison Nash's organised 'wild tie day' was a general success, raising an astonishing (and surprising) £30 for Christmas decorations in the VIth form common room.

DHSB was recently ranked the 8th friendliest school in the country by Friends Reunited. Quite frankly, we cannot see why it took them so long to realise.

Finally, do any of the Old Boys remember Crump? This "Private Eye" satirical magazine caused a stir in the 70's and we would like to see if there is an interest in its return.  
Thank you, Tom McMullan