



# Old Derbeian Society

## Newsletter August 2015

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Dear Old Derbeians,

We are at that time of the year when we issue our annual newsletter, but hopefully those of you who have access to the internet will have been following events on our web page.

We welcome to the Society the new members who have recently left Derby Grammar School at Rykneld Road and, as is the way of the world, we have to also remember those who have passed away in the last year.

Unfortunately one of the latter was our Treasurer David Walker who was a stalwart of the Society having served as Treasurer since 1979 and also acted as Secretary for a short time in 2007. His sudden death came as a great shock to all and has left a great void in the Society, not only for his work for the Society but for his knowledge of its modern history. We shall greatly miss his friendship and dedication. See the obituary on the following page.

The Society therefore needs to appoint a new Treasurer at the next AGM, so if any OD with a basic knowledge of accountancy is willing to fill this position please advise the Secretary as soon as possible

The implementation of the members' area on the website has generated a great deal of interest particularly the Members' Directory, which is in the Members Only section. The directory is in Excel format, which enables individual members to sort the database to their specific requirements. Due to the success of this facility and the relative cost involved it is not intended to publish the membership list in booklet form again. The Rules of the Society and a list of Past Officers can be found in the members' area of the website. (See address above.) The password for this area is obtainable from the Secretary on request.

The Annual Dinner 2014 was held again at the Grange Banqueting Suite, Littleover but this year it is being held at The Engine Shed Restaurant at Derby College, Roundhouse Road, Derby. The setting and food are exceptional as shown in its Trip Advisor rating and it will be an event not to be missed. Wives and partners are also very welcome. Full details and booking form are on the last pages of this newsletter.

Can I again draw your attention to the stock of dedicated Old Derbeian items for sale - details and prices are given later in this newsletter.

Can I end by thanking all the members of the Committee who have worked and supported the Society during the past year, especially Barrie Sheard for all his work as Archivist.

Alan Draper  
Hon. Sec.

## **In Memoriam**

<b>Name of Old Derbeian</b>	<b>Years at School</b>
Roy Harrison	1944-1949
David I. Walker	1956 - 1963
R.W. Masters	1950 - 1957
W.J. Hopper	1950 - 1955
P. Daniels	1950 - 1958
A.J. Astle	1946 - 1953
W.G. Wood	1955 - 1962

## **David Irvin Walker**

Attended Derby School 1956-1963

Whilst on his way to play in an orchestra on April 25th David suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Brenda and family.

David was the driving force of the Society, having been its Treasurer since 1979 and Secretary in 2007.

He qualified as a FCA and worked for Cooper Parry in Derby before setting up his own accountancy business.

His musical prowess was well known and he was sought out to play in many professional and amateur orchestras.

He was instrumental in the formation of Derby Grammar School in Rykneld Road Derby and at the time of his death was Chairman of Governors there.

### **Remembrance Service 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The service was conducted by Revd Preb Derek Tinsley OD. After the 11.00am minute's silence wreaths were laid by The Society Chairman Russell Thomas, The Headmaster of Derby School Richard Paine and Owen Dixon Head Prefect.

After the singing of the first hymn the Roll of Honour for WWI was read by two Old Derbeians and crosses were planted to signify the centenary of the outbreak of WWI and to commemorate the fallen of 1914-18. The roll of honour for WW11 was read by two Old Derbeians. 'For The Fallen' was read by Barrie Sheard OD. The reading was by Ralph Holden OD, followed by the hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past'.

The prayers and benediction were given, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the sounding of the Last Post by Mark Mitchell, current pupil of Derby Grammar School.

Afterwards all retired to The Flower Pot for refreshments.

This year's service will again be held at St. Helen's House commencing at 10.45am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

## The 1947ers 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting , Georgian Hotel, Derby, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

The 1947ers met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the Georgian Hotel. This venue and date, the first Thursday in July, has, over the last nine years, become a fixture for members of forms 2L and 2R who first met as the new intake to Derby School in 1947. This year is the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. Over time the annual attendance has inevitably diminished but the nine present have been regulars at our reunions. We were also joined this year by Barrie Sheard, archivist to the ODs Society.

Though we only meet for a few hours annually the ease and enthusiasm of reacquaintance is remarkable. Aided to some degree by sampling the excellent range of ales available at the Georgian bar the conversation flows smoothly and the usual topics of health, families and holidays feature strongly. Naturally stories of school life and the idiosyncracies of classmates and teaching staff are paramount as these are always the source of humour and sentiment, though these can occasionally stretch credulity.

This year the range of topics included two subjects introduced by Barrie Sheard. These were a meeting in September (also at the Georgian) of any pupils of the school who were members of the CCF (our archivists have been carrying out some extensive research into the history of the CCF and have uncovered some fascinating details and also established contact with individuals who had significant CCF roles), and a current exhibition at the Derby Art Gallery of work by celebrated marine artist John Stobart, a pupil of the school during the early 1940s. Many of the 1947ers had been members of the CCF, and consequently a host of memories were reawakened and numerous stories were told.

Once again our annual pilgrimage to memories of schooldays over 60 years ago and the sharing of recollections had resulted in a highly enjoyable day, which we fully intend to repeat in 2016.

H.A.R. Jones (1947 – 55)



Names l-r: Barrie Sheard, Eddie Hunt, David White, Lee Everett, Tony Moore, Viv Andrew, Brian Moulton, John Wilkinson, Peter Smedley, Russ Jones

## Sunday 21 June – Amber Valley Camp Reunion

One has to say in a year of strange weather patterns those attending this year were met with warmth and much sunshine. Numbers compared to 2014 were slightly down and several attendees not seen for a while were present. As per usual much sharing of reminiscences took place and also a few newly found photographs were handed to our archivist, much to his pleasure.

After tea and coffee our President, Russell Thomas gave a warm welcome to everyone and also hoped many would go on later to the Nettle Public House for a carvery Sunday lunch. He then introduced Barrie Sheard, our archivist, to make some announcements.

Whilst this was the last reunion organised by Elisabeth Bowden and her son Nick, he underlined that the Committee earlier this year had agreed that they would continue making the arrangements and there will be a reunion in 2016.

Attendees were informed that the John Stobart (1940-1946) Exhibition of his nautical paintings would start on Friday 26 June and last until Sunday 6 September in the Derby Museum and Art Gallery in the Wardwick in Derby.

In conclusion, attendees were reminded how much they owed for all the hard work and organization which has allowed this event to continue, particularly to Elisabeth Bowden and her son Nick for their grand efforts for over 20 plus years.

A list of those OD's attending is given below:

John Booth (42-49), Derek Bunting (39-46), Peter Evans (44-49), Gordon Lancaster (37-42), Ron Large (44-49), Alan Lockyer (46-53), Peter Lord (41-47), Jack Maiden (44-49), Ted Olpin, (36-46), Barrie Sheard (45-50), Russell Thomas (45-54), Richard Webster (44-51)

This year over 95% of those attending then drove the short distance from Amber Valley Camp to the Nettle Public House for a mouthwatering carvery lunch (if only those vegetables had been properly cooked!)



## **Class of 1950 reunion**

For the second time this year the summer reunion of “The Class of 1950” was held at The Five Lamps Pub on King Street, Derby. Unfortunately due to several being away on holiday, some with sickness or other urgent matters, numbers were down for the very first time to only eight. In alphabetical order these were Neville Barr, John Dring, Michael Gadsby, Godfrey Gamble, Rod Hunter, Geoff Neaum, Richard Turner and Vic Wright.

Two extra guests were present, namely Barrie Sheard the OD Society archivist together with one of his researchers, Andrew Polky. The reason for Andrew’s presence was because he wished to publicise both the Cadet Corps reunion on 3rd September and also his new book entitled “History of the Derby School Cadet Corps” which is due for publication very soon.

On display were some exciting previously unseen old photographs of Derby School times by some of the old boys, including the recently discovered 1940-1945 Amber Valley Camp album created by Derek Beeson and handed to the archivist by the Davies family of Belper.



**Society items available to order. Prices include postage within the UK. Orders with remittance to Secretary please, with cheques payable to Old Derbeian Society.**



A. Print of watercolour St. Helen’s House, £5 – B. Old style tie, £10 – C. New style tie, £10

D. 1554 Badge, £5.50 - E. Cufflinks, £15 – F. Lady’s scarf, £15 - G. Winter scarf, £17.50

***Offer! Buy any tie, scarf and cufflinks together for £35.00!***

## Message to all OD's from our archivist

It gives me considerable pleasure to be asked to write a few words for this latest newsletter as your efforts, helpful attitude, advice and stories of your past years at Derby School have made it all worthwhile. The latest count of photographs have now reached an amazing level, over 910 being something all of you should be proud of.

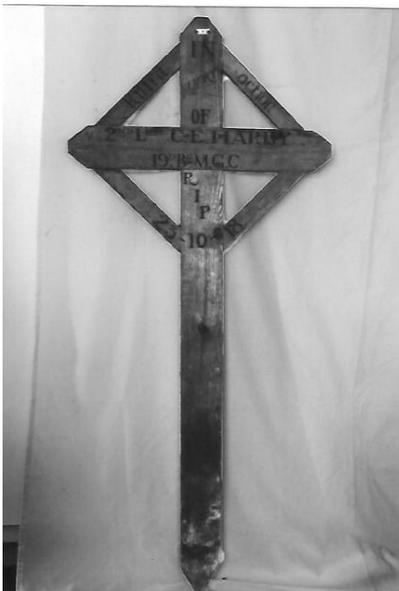
Any archivist receiving such a wealth of our past history would always be delighted. Our hope is that everyone who can give themselves time to search their own cupboards, attics, shoe boxes etc. and pass any relevant results on to me.

Connected with the War Memorial research is the fact that our delving into the past using the internet and other 'Find my Past' websites has established that for reasons we cannot answer there are two names that have been missed off the Memorial. For World War One – **Lieutenant Joseph Cass** (at Derby School 1891-1896) and for World War Two - **Major Kenneth Robert Smith Moorley**. Arrangements are in hand for two additional small slate slabs to be suitably engraved and placed onto the Memorial, hopefully in time for this year's Remembrance Sunday Service on 8th November.

On an entirely different theme I thought you may be interested to read what can unexpectedly turn up. It is all connected with **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Charles Eric Hardy** who is commemorated on our War Memorial and who was killed on one of the battlefields in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918 – just 18 days before the cease-fire. Suddenly in June 2015, completely out of the blue, we heard that at St. Mary the Virgin Church at Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex, had been discovered, stored away, an original wooden cross used by Charles' comrades to identify the position where they had laid his body over in France. Our research team are discussing further findings with Roger Butt in Shenfield as they arise.

That a cross now 97 years old is still in such good condition, I believe you will all agree, is certainly an amazing find.

Can I repeat that as archivist my door is always open either via an e-mail, a letter or by a telephone call? Contact [jbhygiene@supanet.com](mailto:jbhygiene@supanet.com)



## Sun 28 June – Annual OD Society Cricket Match vs Derby Grammar School 1<sup>st</sup> XI

Thankfully whilst under threatening skies this year's match took place without a drop of rain, but oh that westerly wind! So much so the normal gazebo couldn't be erected.

Whilst billed as a 30 over match, the main umpire Chris Whitworth decided it should be reduced to a 20 over match due to the inclement weather. The toss allowed the OD Society team to bat first starting at 11.30 a.m. By the end of 20 overs they had reached **121 for 6 wickets**.

After a refreshment break DGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted and reached the total of **69 for 8 wickets** in 20 overs.

Man of the match was certainly Gazzard with 49 not out for the OD's and to bowler Richardson for the OD's with taking 2 wickets. For the DGS team Bielby needs a mention achieving a good score of 17.

The Alan Sanders Cup was kindly presented to the winning team by President Russell Thomas who thanked both teams for an excellent and entertaining match. Since this Cup was inaugurated in 2009 the scores are now

**Old Derbeian Society Team .....4 wins;**

**Derby Grammar School 1<sup>st</sup> XI .....2 wins;**

With the 2013 match declared null and void due to the rain and wash-out conditions.



## **2014 Annual Dinner**

Last year's annual event took place on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at the Grange Banqueting Suite, Burton Road, Derby. A most convivial evening took place in a lovely private dining room which helped to make the occasion most enjoyable. Arrangements were made in the reception room and bar area for the whole of the photo archives (available up until that date) to be shown on a slide projector and this certainly caused a lot of interest amongst diners. In addition, on display were the three finished volumes relating to our newly completed War Memorial Research of all the names on our war memorial outside St. Helen's House, for the record for WWI (69 names) and for WWII (48 names). Normally in our newsletters we do not pick out any specific ex-pupils, but due to the unprecedented time and labour they had put into this research it is felt right and proper to mention them. So for Maurice Cass and Andrew Polkey (who were both at Derby School from 1961 to 1966) we wish to publicly thank them very much.

One table (table E) was particularly welcome that evening as it held seven new OD's who had attended Derby Grammar School in the recent past before qualifying for and/or attending University. All seven had had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and hoped to attend again this year. Perhaps further tables of new OD's would like to organise themselves for Saturday 7th November this year? Reserve your places with the Secretary.



## **Friday 26 June and Saturday 27 June**

### **John Stobart Art Exhibition at Derby Museum and Art Gallery**

This world renowned maritime artist who has lived in the USA for over 50 years made a special visit to Derby and on 26 June opened his own special Art Exhibition at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. The event commenced at 5.30 p.m. with a special invitation-only opening event where John was officially welcomed to the museum by Mr Jonathan Wallis, Curator and was invited to address the attending special guests.

The Exhibition actually started on Saturday 27 June and will last for just over two months until Sunday 6 September. A special Exhibition catalogue has been printed and this is available for £8.00 at the Museum. It contains copies of all the original paintings and drawings on display in Derby.

John regaled the invited guests for over an hour with his life story from being a school boy at ten years of age at Amber Valley Camp in 1940, to his return in September 1945 to St. Helen's Street, his entrance into the Derby Art College on Green Lane in September 1946, his winning of a major scholarship to the London College of Art, National Service in the RAF from 1954-1956 until his emigration, first to Canada and eventually for the rest of his working life to the USA.

His life has always been surrounded by ships, boats plus sea and port landscapes always carried out very, very professionally and in his inimitable style.

On the Saturday John held a special hour's question and answer session entitled "In Conversation" led by Jonathan Wallis, Curator, regaling the attending audience with his detailed life story and also telling us why he had chosen certain paintings for display at the exhibition. Arrangements have been made for a copy of the new Derby Catalogue to be placed within the OD's archives.



## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June - PTA / DGS Summer Fete**

The PTA of Derby Grammar School held their Summer Fete on Friday 19 June on a glorious late afternoon and evening. Hundreds of guests including parents, DGS pupils, plus pupils of several local schools attended along with many local families. The weather was very kind with long periods of lovely sunshine.

The school jazz band played throughout the fete and put on an excellent show. The PTA ladies had a mouthwatering selection of cakes, pastries and similar foods plus much appreciated teas and coffees on sale this year, within the Michael Bishop Hall. Outside a pig roast took place and from personal experience the pork cobs with stuffing and apple sauce went down exceedingly well. The modern dance display with dozens of young girls was the highlight of the evening and enjoyed by the attending crowd. Certainly a very well organized event and one not to be missed next year!

The OD Society were present selling OD promotional items and showing a slideshow of archive photos.

## **Saturday 14 March - Derby Grammar School and PTA Food Fayre**

The Michael Bishop Hall was filled to capacity with food stalls of every type (Derbyshire cheese, wine, cakes, ice cream, Indian foods, pastry products and also baker's products being much in evidence).

Through the kind co-operation of the PTA, the OD Society were again invited to attend their Food Fayre with our special stand, pop-up display and various items from our sales outlet.



## **Annual General Meeting 2016**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at The Grange, 457 Burton Road, Littleover **at 7.30pm.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015.
3. Matters Arising
4. Hon. Secretary's Report
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of President
7. Election of Chairman
8. Election of Hon. Secretary
9. Election of Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Committee Members
11. Honorary Membership
12. To receive other propositions requiring Notice of Motion\*
13. Any Other Business

### **Committee Members**

President	Russell Thomas
Chairman	Martin Tunaley
Honorary Secretary	Alan Draper
Honorary Treasurer	Vacant
Committee Member	Ralph Holden
Headmaster	Richard Paine
Deputy Headmaster	Mrs Lesley Reynolds
Senior Master	Paul Hilliam
Committee Member	Sacin Sharma
Committee Member	Bob Dowling
Committee Member	David Zydzenowski
Committee Member	Barrie Sheard (Archivist)
Webmaster	Ryan Holmes

### **Accounts**

Due to the untimely death of our Treasurer the annual accounts will not be available until the AGM.

# ANNUAL DINNER 2015

at The Engine Shed Restaurant, Derby College, Roundhouse Road, Derby, DE24 8JE  
Tel: 01332 387487

SATURDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2015

The Reception will be at 6.45pm for 7.30pm. The price of the meal will be £27.50 per head.

Dress for gentlemen will again be lounge suits and members are reminded that their personal guests are more than welcome to attend this main event in the OD social calendar. In recent years approximately half of the ODs in attendance have been accompanied by their wives or partners.

There is ample car-parking in the College Car Park.

Please remember that early reservation by means of the enclosed application form, together with payment, will greatly facilitate the efficient organisation of the event and will be very much appreciated.

## MENU

Selection of artisan breads to start

.....  
Leek and baked potato soup, chive crème fraiche

.....  
Breast of chicken with a black pepper sauce or chicken gravy  
or

Roasted vegetable wellington, blue cheese and chive sauce (Vegetarian)  
Served with french beans, carrot tower, honey roasted parsnip, roasted new potatoes

.....  
Fruits of the forest meringue

.....  
Cheese board

.....  
Tea or coffee



**OLD DERBEIAN SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL DINNER 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

At the Engine Shed Restaurant, Roundhouse Road, Derby

**APPLICATION FORM**

Member's Name: ..... Years at School: .....

Current Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Telephone No.: ..... e-mail: .....

Name (s) of Guests: .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Total places required ..... @ £27.50 = £ ..... No of Vegetarian main courses.....

If possible, I would like to sit with the following:

..... Years .....  
..... at .....  
..... School .....  
.....

Please return with full payment (cheques payable to "The Old Derbeian Society") to:

Alan Draper, 11 Elmdale Road, Earl Shilton, Leicester, LE9 7HR  
Tel: 07769 321167

**as early as possible please!**