Welcome

Amazingly (or so it seems to us), it’s TOD issue time again. You are holding the sixth edition, yet it only seems like yesterday that we were launching the first issue. Judging by the comments we receive we appear to have been on the right track, so far, in meeting your needs. However, unless you tell us, we do not know what you feel. If you have ideas to improve the journal please write to us. All contributions will be appreciated.

TOD 5 was the first issue to have colour on some of its pages. Coupled with more professional production, this has given the journal a fresh appearance. Indeed, such was the unanimous view of your committee, in future we are to use colour in each issue.

Croeso
From Head to Professor

Meredydd Hughes was Headmaster of Dynevor School for eight years, coming to the school in 1957 on the retirement of Mr. Glan Powell (left), who, in turn had followed Mr. Bryn Thomas (right). In his final Speech Day Report in September 1965, Meredydd began by paying tribute to his immediate predecessors for their courageous and humane leadership during the difficult post-war period, when the portions of the Dynevor buildings which had survived the 1941 blitz were in a damp, depressing and deteriorating state and there was much uncertainty about the future of the school. He also paid tribute to the unquenchable enthusiasm and loyalty of the staff and boys of that time. The school, he observed, had an extremely friendly and democratic ethos, and a fine tradition of friendly co-operation between masters and boys and, equally important, amongst the boys themselves. (As one of those who came to the school in 1944 I can understand what Meredydd means. It WAS special. Editor).

In 1957 plans were already in hand to improve the school’s amenities by adding a sorely needed new Science block. Further new additions were agreed, which included a new Hall, Library, Art Room and Geography Room, and these were opened in 1960. With these improved facilities and corresponding additional staff appointments, the Head claimed that the school could offer better and more varied educational opportunities than ever before.
The growth of the school from 1957 to 1965 was impressive and substantial. There were 661 boys in 1957, of whom 79 were in the sixth form. Eight years later the corresponding numbers were 916 and 157, so the sixth form had almost exactly doubled. Twenty-one university scholarship awards made to pupils in that period included five at Cambridge and two at Oxford. Four of the awards were gained in 1964-65; Roger Evans at University of Wales, Swansea, Wynne Lewis and Roger Williams at Jesus College, Oxford and David Williams at Birmingham University. The games and athletics honours of 1964-65 included four international ‘caps’: G. Anthony and P. Stone (soccer); M. Gauge and P. Hiley (rugby).

In 1965 Meredydd felt that it was time to move on and he was appointed to a research post at University of Wales, Cardiff. This led to a chair, a headship of department and subsequently the deanship of a Faculty at Birmingham University. He also became involved in U.N.E.S.C.O. research projects and became President of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management.

John L. Davies (see TOD No.5) has sent in a recent photograph of Meredydd Hughes and this is reproduced on page 16.
The Old Dy’vorians Association

Twice recently, your editorial office has been asked to include an item in this journal on the history of our Association. Furthermore, after the informal short speech given by Viv Davies at our last dinner, there have been comments and questions as to why the Old Dy’vorians are still thriving, when the attempts of former pupils of other schools have come to nothing? The second of these questions will be dealt with elsewhere. In the meantime we would like to have your views on the matter, so that we can use the advice to ensure that we do even better in the future.

From where I sit, two people were very important influences in the process; they were George Hounsell and Iorrie Mort, both of whom gave our Association the benefits that stemmed from the thoughtful, diligent, efficient work which they did for us. Apart from the quality of their work, they provided continuity that was extremely beneficial as the school changed its focus. Thank you gentlemen.

As to the first question, the answer comes from the work undertaken by George Hounsell to provide an item for the 75th anniversary edition of the School magazine. The following are some of the key points from the paper that was published in that special edition.

To obtain the information upon which the paper might be based, was not a simple task. George found that the records of the Association had been lost during the Blitz. One consequence of this was that he was obliged to search high and low for relevant material. Happily, we can benefit from his hard work.

It was on the retirement of W. A. Beanland in July 1929 that he suggested to Llewellyn John, the new head, that an association of old boys should be formed. L.J. liked the idea and set up an organisation with a ‘virile and enthusiastic committee’. They met twice monthly, and a variety of events filled the calendar. When Hitler put an end to these meetings, the Association suspended its activities – ‘for the duration’.

It was in 1949 that the Association resumed its activities and in considering the material that was available to him, George was able to summarise his findings
The 75th Anniversary tie

Photographs – Geoff Kimmings

The Anniversary ties are available from Stuart and Robert at the price of £8.00 (additional £1.00 postage to be added for orders outside UK). Why not order one now and collect it at the Annual Talk?
Mam’s Sage Advice

Kevin John, a colourful old boy of the school, has many talents and almost as many strings to his bow. For example, he hosts a daily radio programme for Swansea Sound, he is the ‘ring master’ at the New Stadium for the Swans. One part of his job is to help keep the crowd informed and amused during the interval and prior to the match; he is also the club’s padre. Kevin is a regular member of the cast of the annual pantomime at Swansea’s Grand Theatre; he is an ordained Minister; and writes a regular column in Swansea’s business paper. In addition there are those who believe he works for MI5 and is a part-time rocket scientist, although this has yet to be proven. Mind you, if you were to confront him with this list of activities (real and imaginary), he would only smile and leave you wondering what he had up his sleeve? That reminds me that, as ‘Clown Kev’ he also entertained youngsters with magic shows.

Having got to know Kevin reasonably well, I was not surprised to find that his columns were interesting and that, frequently, they provide food for thought whilst still amusing the reader. That refered to here is indicative of his observations, and it seemed to me that many of our readers will be able to relate to his home-spun philosophy.

Kevin wrote:
‘No country in the world can match the influence of mothers in Wales. Despite a fine education in Dynevor, it was from my mother that I learnt most of life’s great lessons.
My Mam taught me Religion : “You’d better pray that the stain comes out of that carpet!”
She taught me Logic : “Because I say so, that’s why!”
She taught me Irony : “Keep laughing and I’ll give you something to cry about!”
She also taught me about Stamina : “You’ll sit there until you finish your tea!”

Do you remember similar ‘courses’ run by Mam? Write and tell us about them. We’ll publish the best and, if nothing else, it might be a useful guide for Old Dy’vorian parents or grandparents among our membership. Perhaps someone could also write a piece about the matriarchal society in which we grew up and compare it with today.
The 1952 ‘Hand-over’ – Glan Powell picks up
the reins from Bryn Thomas – were you there?
The M.C.C – Iorrie Mort

May I inform the Old Dyvorians of the existence of the M.C.C. I do not refer to that august body that meets at Lords but to a group of old members of staff who meet every Monday at the Monday Coffee Club.

It all began in 1974 when Mr. Graham Gregory, Mr. Cecil MacGivan and Mr. Bill Evans (French) retired in that year. It was Gregory’s suggestion that they should meet and they decided to invite Mr. Myrddin Harris and Mr. Tom James, who retired the previous year, to join them for coffee every Monday morning in Woolworth’s, High Street. These were the 5 Founder Members. Over the years the number increased. Mr. Ossie Morris, Mr. Graham Jones, Mr. Tom Chandler, Mr. Sam Bassett, Mr. Harold Richards and Mr. Emlyn Evans were faithful members of the M.C.C. They were joined by two who were not ex members of staff Mr. Edgar Rees, a prominent Old Boy who lectured in the Technical College on Mount Pleasant and Mr. Harold Charles, an ex Swansea Headmaster. By the time I retired in 1984 there were always 8 to 10 present in the staff meeting. By this time Woolworth’s had closed and they had moved to Littlewoods. This move was not without controversy for some wanted to go up-market and meet in the Dragon Hotel.

Besides discussing various topics of general interest especially the present state of education we always looked forward to receiving a letter from Mr. W.S. Evans in New Zealand. These long epistles were read and reread and someone had the task of replying. It was W.S., who else who refer erred to us as the M.C.C. Needless to say the main discussion afterwards was on the state of Glamorgan County Cricket Club and the Welsh Rugby team.

Inevitably numbers have dwindled but one founder member Mr. C MacGivan still comes so also does Mr. T.H. Chandler (both of whom are now in their 90’s). Now five regularly meet, the above two, Mr. Hubert Davies (a former Headmaster of the School), Mr. John Bowen and myself. Occasionally Mr. Bob Howells joins us and very occasionally Mr. George Hounsell.

Fortunately some ex member of the Office Staff or an Old Boy will spot us there and come to join us. Recently an Old Boy who now lives in Cwmbran came with his wife to join us only to find out that he used to be in the same form as John Bowen.

Therefore if you are in the city on a Monday morning between 10.15 and 11.15 why not reminisce with us. I think it speaks volumes for the camaraderie of the staff that the M.C.C. was originally started and that it continues to flourish after 34 years.
THE CHANGING FACE OF SWANSEA CITY CENTRE
AND HOW WE SPENT OUR LUNCHTIMES - Steve Way (1965-1972)

I recently attended the AGM and witnessed Ann Jordan’s excellent presentation on the redevelopment of Dynevor school. This set me thinking about all the changes to Swansea City centre over the last thirty years since I first stepped across the threshold of the school.

From 1965 until 1972 I spent many a happy lunch hour wandering aimlessly around the town centre and became familiar with many of the local shops and cafes. Of all the places where we used to get our lunch only the Windsor Cafe in Craddock Street remains and that has had a facelift. Eynons, also on Craddock Street, The Newmarket Cafe and Peter Jones on Lower Union Street and Belli’s chip shop in Nelson Street have all long gone. There were no McDonalds or Pizza restaurants in those days. Woolworth’s in High Street with its upstairs restaurant is now Argos. Woolworth’s was also well worth a visit because you could buy a pound of broken biscuits for a penny.

The equivalent of a school tuck shop – Price’s on the Kingsway is now a chemist. Much of our dinner money was spent in there - I was particularly fond of the tip-tops. There was another sweet shop that we used to frequent next to the Albert Hall but the name of it escapes me (Ed. – Lovell’s I believe). This too is long gone.

We spent many a lunch hour visiting record shops, looking through the LPs and getting some of them played for us in the booths provided. We would listen to Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple & Black Sabbath amongst others. No record shop has these booths anymore, indeed there is a paucity of record shops in Swansea these days compared to the late sixties. Boots and W H Smith are still with us, albeit in different locations, W H Smith used to be in High Street and Boots on the corner of Oxford Street and Princess Way. David Evans, although only recently closed, lost its record department many years ago. Also gone are the Co-op, Menzies and Duck, Son and Pinker on Oxford Street, Holt Hi Fidelity on Portland Street and Picton Music in the Picton Arcade. All are sadly missed.

The shops where we used to purchase items of school uniform have also all disappeared- Sidney Heath is now Yates wine bar, Wildings on the Kingsway is now part of Eleo’s. Also gone is the only place where you could get a sixth form tie, again I’m not sure of the name, but it was next to the YMCA . Other well-known shops to have vanished over the years include Eddershaw’s on St
Helen’s Road, John Hall Tool’s and Calders on the Kingsway, Lewis Lewis in High Street, C & A (originally where Mothercare is now), A R Way (a distant relative I think) in Craddock Street, Lipton’s, Curry’s, John Collier, Van Allen and Hodges to name but a few!

There are no city centre cinemas any more though the buildings are still with us. The Plaza had been knocked down by the time I attended Dynevor and the Odeon was being built in its place, but that has gone the same way as the Castle and Carlton cinemas.

The saddest thing has been the disappearance of the No 10 pub in Union Street the scene of many an end of term celebration (after we were 18 I hasten to add)

It is not until you stop and look back that you realise just how much places change. For those people who have moved away and only return occasionally then the changes are readily apparent but for those of us who have spent most of our lives here the changes have crept up on us gradually and not all for the better. I appreciate that these changes appear somewhat minor compared with the changes that occurred as a result of the damage caused by the last war but to those of us without these terms of reference they are still significant.

No doubt there are other ex-pupils who have their own thoughts and memories of changes in Swansea and how they used to spend their lunch hours.
Extracts from School Magazine No. 61 - 1935

We are grateful to Syd James of Bournemouth for the following extracts from the magazine recalling some devastating bowling performances of the Cricket XI that year. You may recall Syd’s earlier photograph in for TOD 2 when the soccer XI beat Oxford Street School 4-0 to win the 1933 Hospitals Cup.

On July 6th. We played our return game with Gowerton C.S. After having been dismissed for a meagre total of 47, we anticipated a second defeat, but good bowling saw Gowerton back in the pavilion for 33. S.R. James taking 4 wickets for 8 runs and H.E. Mort 2 for 14.
The return game with Carmarthens G.S. at Townhill was nother phenomenal game. The visitors were all out for a total 4, S.R. James taking 4 wickets for 2 runs and H.E. Mort 6 wickets for 2 runs. The School scored 33 for 6 wickets before stumps were drawn.
We have been very unfortunate with regular fixtures this season with Ystradgynlais C.S. (2) and Port Talbot C.S. having been cancelled. We hope to complete our fixtures Cyfartha Castle C.S., Glanmor S.S. and Port Talbot C.S. before the end of the season, while we look forward to our end of term games with the Old Boys and the Staff.
Colours have been awarded to S.R. James, H.E. Mort, E. Thomas and J.W. Walters, and dates for the present season to D.M. Knoyle, J.I. James, D.S. Jones T.J. Wells, B. Harries and T.W. Hopkins.
The Committee desire to record their appreciation of the interest shown in the team by Mr. Ll. John, Mr. W.S. Evans, Mr. E. Yates and Mr. L.L. Abraham
J.I James & T.J. Wells

Syd was also in action in another sport that year besides cricket and soccer:

FIVES
The Annual Tournament has been rather long drawn out; the Seniors not yet having completed their event.
The Junior Tournament was won by R.C. Pike who defeated C.W. Williams 15-12 in the Final.
The last eight amongst the Seniors are: G. Edmiston, L.R. Frost, S.R. James, E.W. Jones, L.C. Jones, R. Roberts, A.G. Tasker and T.J. Wells.
Jeffrey Lewis (1963 – 1970) sent in this magazine to illustrate the early dramatic aspirations of one Rowan Williams in a production of ‘Our Town’ by Thornton Wilder. Unfortunately the name of the author of the article is not recorded.

I have purposely left mentioning Rowan Williams as the Stage Manager until now. I do not think everybody appreciates the importance of this part in the play. The timing has to be faultless: the gestures have to be rigidly disciplined, the tone has to be appropriate, varying from Prologue, to Chorus, to angry old lady, to Minister of the Church, to the voice of Fate itself, and finally to genial Epilogue bidding us all ‘have a good rest too’, this soothing us after the emotional strain of the final scene, and seeming to assure us that ‘All is best’. All this Rowan Williams did with command, dignity, and sincerity. His performance inspired confidence from the very first. and this confidence was not mis-placed.

The production was a combined Glanmor and Dynevor presentation (see TOD No.1 page 11 for background) and Mr. Graham Davies and Miss Jean Evans were its co-producers. The play was performed on January 31st, February 1st and 2nd 1967.
Rowan Williams kneels in the front row, 5th from the left and Jeff Lewis is 3rd from the right in the second row.
William Watkins DFC

Many Old Dy’vorians were saddened to hear of the death recently of Bill Watkins, aged 82 - Wily Watkins, as he was known to his school friends.

He enlisted in the RAF at the age of 18 and trained as a pilot. He flew 31 missions in his Lancaster bomber during the Second World War. His gallantry was acknowledged in 1945 when he was presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross by King George VI.

After the war he returned to Swansea and continued his career as a metallurgist, working for British Aluminium and Alcoa.

He was a gifted athlete and all round sportsman during his Schooldays-representing the School in Athletics, Rugby and Cricket. He played schoolboy rugby for Swansea. After the war he played for 14 seasons, as opening batsman for Swansea Cricket Club-Those were the days when 7 or 8 of the team were Old Dy’vorians. He also played minor county games for Glamorgan Seconds. In 1950 he played 1 first-class game for the county against Hampshire at St. Helens. He also had trials with Wigan Rugby League team. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family

We were very sad to learn of the passing of THOMAS HAYDN CHANDLER earlier this year. Tom was a very highly qualified (Firsts in Latin and French) member of the Dynevor staff for many years following the last World War and was held in high esteem by both his colleagues and pupils. Very many of us have cause to be grateful for his constructive, disciplined and kindly approach to his teaching. He was a thoughtful mentor to many a young teacher and was always interested in all aspects of his profession.

He forever held fond memories of his time at Dynevor and kept in contact with his former colleagues by becoming a regular member of the Monday ‘Morning Coffee Club’ right up to the end. We were delighted to see him present at the last Old Boys Dinner, when he was overwhelmed by the friendship and gratitude shown to him by dozens of those who attended.

His outstanding professional qualities were duly recognised by his appointment as Deputy Headmaster at Cefn Hengoed and, two years later, at Olchfa School. Such was the vital part he played in the opening of these two schools that he made a successful application to become Headmaster of the new Morriston Comprehensive School. He was held in great regard by all who served him.

Tom’s contribution to Dynevor will long be remembered. The kindness and friendship he showed to former colleagues and will not be forgotten. All Old Dy’vorians will join with us in extending our sincere sympathy to his family.
Here is Meredydd Hughes with fellow professors of Higher Education and Educational Administration, Robin Farquhar (left) and John L. Davies (right).

**Reminders**

1. The Association’s Annual Lecture will take place on Tuesday 4th October at 7.30 pm. in the Education Lecture Theatre of the Swansea Institute of Higher Education – Townhill Campus.
2. Please do not forget the Dynevor School archive. If you have material relating to Dynevor in your attic, filing cabinet or whatever, why not consider depositing it with the County Archivist – 01792 636589.
3. Back issues of TOD Nos. 1 to 6 are still available at 40p each from Dave Tovey (see below). Contact him for further details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to get and keep in touch:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Stuart Winks 53 Westland Avenue, West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5NR, Tel: 404316 E-mail – <a href="mailto:s.winks@btopenworld.com">s.winks@btopenworld.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Robert Howells 40 Swansea Road, Llangyfelach, Swansea, SA5 7JA Tel: 01792 773358 E-mail – <a href="mailto:roberthowells@supernet.co.uk">roberthowells@supernet.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editor:</strong> David Farmer 3 Rhyd yr Helyg, Derwen Fawr, Swansea, SA2 8DH Tel: 01792 204531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Webmaster:</strong> David Tovey 43 Cecil Road, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DF Tel: 01792 873334 E-mail – davetoveyonetel.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>