

The Old Dy'vorian

The Journal of the former pupils of Dynevor School

www.dynevorrevisited.co.uk



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THE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS, 2011

The symbiotic relationship between the Old Dy'vorian's Association and Swansea Metropolitan University is given practical expression each year through the medium of the President's Awards.

Instituted in 2004 in recognition of outstanding effort on the part of one Student from each Faculty, oftentimes against the odds, the awards are funded from the annual surplus of the Association. This year, a fourth Faculty had come into being, so it was agreed to extend the Award to four students, each with a cheque for £350.

In the unavoidable absence of our President, Archbishop Rowan Williams, Association Secretary Clem Williams made the Awards.

The Vice-Chancellor of SMU, Professor David Warner, CBE, welcomed the Students and representative Old Dy'vorian's to the University and thanked us for our continuing support. He introduced Kirstie Hawkins (Faculty of Humanities), Lee Joseph (Applied Design and Engineering) and Sarah Goosey (Art & Design). Khaled Alskair (Business & Finance) was unable to be present.

Each Head of Department then made a short presentation about their appointed winner, before Clem Williams offered each student their cheque. PHM

Our photograph shows 3 of the recipients, Kirsty, Lee and Sarah, with Clem Williams and Professor Warner. Khaled was unable to be present but his photograph, taken later, is included left.. (Photos- Rob Mitchell),





WELCOME to TOD20 CROESO i TOD20

Hope springs eternal from the EDITOR

As I sit down to write these words, on the 3rd day of 2012, it's tempting to follow a well-worn path of good wishes, whilst reflecting upon (wallowing in?) 2011. What of 2011? What a mess! Well, maybe, but hope springs eternal, so ... let's remember that, for Old Dyvorian's, 2011 was a good year, amply reflected in that wonderful night of wining and dining, nostalgia and challenge we enjoyed at Swansea University on 25 March. What a night, indeed!

We keep expanding – almost 600 members by the turn of the year; the spread of membership across the entry years improves, auguring well for the future; the range of activities we undertake together grows – reunions, lectures, the website, golf, past presidents and now cricket... yes! and 2011 saw our most famous old boy come to take up his year of Presidency.

'*Information overload*' is a feature (some would say the 'curse') of our times. It is good, therefore, to record that our OAD information systems are settling down to an effective and recognisable pattern. Regular Bulletins, the improving Website – www.dynevorrevisited.com - and this Journal each hold their particular place, whilst complementing each other.

As we pass this 20th issue of TOD, take the opportunity of marking in your shiny new 2012 Diary this date : **21 June – COPY DEADLINE for TOD21** and start writing!

So, WELCOME again! With Jim Waygood, my 'alter ego', my wish is that all your dreams for 2011 be crowned with success and happiness.

IMPORTANT! A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Wed 7 March 2012; 7.30pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HOT TOPICS for discussion

- Increase in subscriptions
- Appointment of new Secretary



The Old Dy'vorian's 2011 Annual Lecture

Bill George (1946)

'Surgery – Art and Science'

Our Guest speaker was Dudley Sinnett, Professor of Oncology at Imperial College. Dudley (1960-67) was School Captain in his final year. Since graduating from Charing Cross Hospital, he has become one of the world's leading authorities on Breast Cancer, specialising in Surgical Oncology. Now 'retired', he is in wide demand as a lecturer in his specialist field.



Recent excellent ODA Lectures have reminded me of many earlier contributions to the series. These include presentations by friends and contemporary pupils, including one by Ken Walters FRS.

Dynevor was a broad church. Its range of distinguished former old boys includes Theologians, Musicians, Engineers and Scientists. The latest speaker described the particular skills within Surgery. He provided a highly interesting historical account of the early development of the profession, from evidence of surgical penetration of human skulls around 10,000 BC to Babylonian references to particular procedures around 1700 BC. Hashish and wine were first used as anaesthetics on patients by Chinese surgeons around 1600 AD. In early years the staunching of blood from open wounds presented particular problems, which were met by better understanding and application of vein and artery control. Similarly, developments in general hygiene and antibiotics provided improved success in

infection control.

A fascinating historical narrative was brought up to date with an account of modern understanding of DNA and RNA associated with the human genetic code, as first suggested by Jim Watson and Francis Crick in their celebrated paper in "Nature" in April 1953. Their subsequent Nobel Prize, shared with Maurice Wilkins, has probably provoked the most celebrated scientific controversy of our time, particularly with regard to the role of Rosalind Franklin - made more poignant by her early death.

These issues were discussed in the subsequent lively question period, which was further heightened by mention of a letter in "The Independent" by Anthony North, one of the active workers in the area, which emphasised the vital contribution of Wilkins, sometimes referred to as the "third man of the double helix.

Dudley maintained the high level of contribution, reflecting his own distinguished career, in line with those of the many earlier Old Dy'vorian Lecturers.



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Oh! HAPPY DAYS!!

Geoff Clarke (1955)

On a recent visit to Swansea, my sister told me there was an interesting website that I might like to visit, labelled www.dynevorrevisited.com .

I had heard of Friends Reunited, on which I had attempted to contact former Dynevor co-pupils, like Handel Davies, but the exciting news of a dedicated website with photos and articles about my school years was too much to miss.

Imagine my delight when I pulled up a photo of the Dynevor 1st XV Rugby team, in which I played from 1956 to 1958. This alone brought back memories of a happy time and of co-pupils I remember to this day, such as Huw (Hubert) Carroll, who I last saw in London – he'd taken up banking; Jeff Uren, who did some refereeing with me when we worked voluntarily at King George V Playing Fields at Ashleigh Road; Martin Twomey who has a riding school in Newton; Dai Charles, the fastest thing on two legs since Chris Chataway and Mr Glyn Jones, an old friend and inspiration to me. It was he who recognised that with my particular sight issues, I would play better on the left wing than on the right; from then on, I never looked back. (Sad to hear this month of his passing.)

The Hobbies exhibition was a highlight of 1955 and, whilst I do not recognise any of the 'skifflers' on the website in later years, we must have formed the groundwork for these groups with our washboards, tea chest double basses and snare drums.

I went to Dynevor in 1955 from Dumbarton, where I had managed to scrape together three 'O' levels and was encouraged by the Headmaster, Glan Powell, to take a few more and to do some 'A' levels as well. In 1958, I left to go to Aberystwyth University. Later on, after teaching spells in France and England, I taught at Cefn Hengoed, then moved into Swansea LEA as an administrator.

Teachers I remember most were Bunny Evans (History), John Bennett (English), Bryn Cox (English) and Dick Evans (who took us to Germany on an exchange visit in 1956. His insistence on safety-pinning our passports in the inside pocket of our jackets has remained a habit with me ever since!).

Even though the Dynevor buildings have become part of Swansea Metropolitan University, the school is still a shining success story, with famous pupils ranging from Harry Secombe to Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I hope, now that I have discovered the website, that I will be able to return again and again to it, to rekindle the fondest of memories that I have of a school whose motto 'Nihil Sine Labore' has inspired me throughout my academic career.



THE 'FIFTY-EIGHTERS' AND THEIR REUNION Roger Williams (1958)

Our Dynevor schooling began in 1958 after Prime-Minister Harold I had assured us that “we had never had it so good”, and ended around 1964/5 with Harold II urging us onwards towards “the white heat of technology”. In the interim, we took on science (good for white-hot technology), languages (good for the trade-balance), field sports and shove-ha’penny (good for team-spirit and competition), and finally glimpsed the swinging-sixties in dances with the princesses of Glanmor, Llwyn-y-Bryn and Mynyddbach.

Almost fifty years later the regiment of Fifty-Eighters was recalled to the Marriott Hotel. Not all members had survived, and some survivors ignored the call, but more than half turned out. We had built on the networks of Dewi Evans and the Old Dy’vorians, census searches perfected by Wynne Lewis, and the local connections of scouts like Peter Samuel (year of 1959) and the late Tony Barry, and we eventually reduced the “not found” list to thirty. More than eighty attended the reunion, including five staff of the sixties – Bob Howells, Derrick Howells, Clive John, Iorrie Mort (our 1D form-master) and Degwel Owen – and a few Old Dy’vorians friends including Noel Blows and Dave Tovey in their roles as banker and projectionist.

Reunions have not always had a good name. In 1957, BBC TV broadcast a Hancock’s Half-Hour episode titled *The Regimental Reunion* in which Hancock invited tear-away Clarence, mimic Ginger Johnson and Chalky White famous for capers and yarns. Arriving for the reunion just 12 years after the war, Ginger was morose, Clarence hen-pecked and vegetarian, and Chalky a balding clergyman. Would the Fifty-Eighters reunion almost fifty years later fall into the same mould? Emphatically not!

The reunion events opened with a golf competition at the Morriston club. It was followed by a well-attended trip around the old school site, incorporated in SMU. Assistant Dean Stephen White led us along familiar corridors now flanked with textile-printing, life-drawing and recording facilities, where form-rooms, laboratories and gymnasias had once been. The university maintains lively connections with Dynevor, naming zones Dillwyn, Grove, Llewelyn and Roberts, and a seminar room after Archbishop Rowan, perhaps as compensation for eliminating our cricket nets and fivescourts.

The main event was a buffet dinner at the Marriott Hotel, whose amiable staff looked after us most effectively. As each group arrived, conversation exploded in a swirl of good humour. The photographer recorded informal groups and then organised us by form against projections of our 1958 selves. These photos can be purchased on the photographer’s web-site www.penumbraphotography.co.uk and on the Old Dy’vorians web-site <http://dynevorrevisited.co.uk>. Energy levels in most Andrewarthurian categories - especially heat, sound, electricity - were sustained throughout. As one person remarked, there were no Egos. Collectively, we have undertaken a variety of working roles -



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including local and central government, all stages of education, in science and technology, construction and engineering, manufacturing and services, finance, medicine, law, journalism, the police and the military, but seemingly no clergy, farmers or spies. Ron Griffiths of The Iveys, Mickey Lenihan of Swansea Town FC, Selwyn Walters twice Mayor of Lampeter, and the actor the late Philip Sayer, represented the public face of our generation. Our international diaspora included three attenders from USA, one each from Thailand and Germany. Others sent good wishes from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Bahrain.

Next day, smaller parties took to the coastal paths. We were in a mood to celebrate the victory of a Wales XI over Switzerland, and a Welsh XV over Ireland. An excellent lunch was provided by Noel and Maureen Blows and Shirley and John Thomas at their huts at Langland. The Thomases' hut is a sort of shrine, packed with Dynevor memorabilia, now including Tom James's cane (purely ceremonial, never used in anger), donated by his Fifty-Eighter son, Brian.

The final event took place that evening at the Patti Raj, an Indian restaurant established by four young Old Dyvorians. Twenty-five of the reunion party enjoyed a curry supper, at which Darrall Cozens paid eloquent tribute to the late Sam Bassett, famously supportive of under-dogs and non-conformists. It was a fitting end to the reunion events.

On reflection, there seem to be at least three features driving and motivating our reunion. First, pure curiosity - the desire to reconnect with old friends and see how much (or little) they have changed. Secondly, pride in belonging to a unique cohort who contributed their energies and talents across a broad front. Finally, to express our loyal tribute to Dynevor itself, a remarkable institution which helped us to develop and emerge into the adult world, but which vanished forever in 2002. We would heartily encourage other year groups to follow suit if they are so inclined.

1A



1C



3N



1B



1D



Individual class photos. Such lovely pictures !!



MUSIC at DYNEVOR: a CHOIR is BORN

A minor marvel occurred at Dynevor School in the middle of the Second World War.

The Music Master at the school, one Gwilym 'Bobbie' Roberts, conceived the idea of putting together a Boys' Choir, so as to perform some of the great Oratorios at no less an auspicious venue than the Brangwyn Hall.

The master stroke of this visionary teacher was, alongside the boys, who were Trebles and Altos, to utilise the services of the Swansea Male Voice Choir as Tenor and Bass singers, engage the well-known local Orchestra of Morgan Lloyd, himself an outstanding musician and finally, to bring down from London four well-known Principals.

Between 1943 and 1950, a series of concerts took place, before packed houses, on two successive Saturdays in May. My first stage appearance was in 1945, when we sang our hearts out in Handel's 'Samson'. The first concert was on 5 May. On the 8th, the War ended. When we arrived on the afternoon of the 12th for the second concert, each boy was handed a red, white and blue favour, to be pinned to his white shirt. Union Jacks were everywhere.

It is commonly accepted that a lifelong interest in (passion for?) music was sparked off for innumerable boys by membership of the Choir. The tradition of music in the school continued until it closed in 2002.

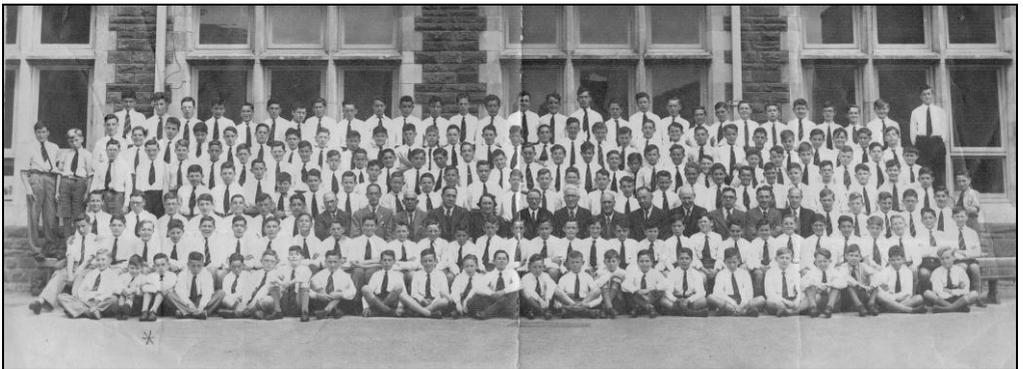
In this issue, we begin a feature on 'Music at Dynevor'. It was prompted by Professor JL Davies (1952) whose article is on Page 9. It will continue in TOD21 and, maybe, subsequent issues. We hope you enjoy reading the various memoirs and contributions. Have you any memories? Did the Choir change your direction? Let us have your thoughts - **ED**

(The photograph below is of the 1945 choir. £5 to the one who can pick out the Editor! The Teaching staff are Tim Meyrick and Dick Evans (Geography), Dai Williams, Deputy Head, Bobbie and his Wife, Dilys, a wonderful Pianist and Accompanist, the Head, W.Bryn Thomas, Myrddin Harries, Organist at Mount Pleasant Baptist Chapel, our refuge since the blitz, Dai Lab (Physics), Bill Latin, Tom Chandler (Classics), Tojo (Maths), WS 'Bill' Evans and Eric Yates (German).

VICTORY CONCERT

Handel's 'SAMSON'

1945





RANDOM SNIPPETS

Graham Davies (1944)

We begin our feature, appropriately enough, with a contribution in two parts. It comes from former pupil and teacher, Graham Davies. He is uniquely privileged to offer a broader perspective than most. Joining Dynevor in 1944, where he was placed in Form 2c (Welsh), he read English at Swansea, before doing National Service in the Education branch of the RAF, where he was commissioned. He then taught English and Drama in Dynevor from 1963 to 1968. Part Two of Graham's memoirs will be in TOD21.

Part One : 1944-51

Under Gwilym Roberts ('Bobbie'), there were no Music lessons as such. From September until May, every lesson was a rehearsal. We were graded in respect of our voices; I was classified 'C' on the grounds that my voice was too 'breathy'. I remember that the star Soprano was a boy called Dewi Rees.

We knew the Oratorios off by heart, so we could sing the choruses without texts, even in Latin. Several of the Principal Artistes commented on this!

After the Easter holidays, rehearsals would begin in the Gym, accompanied by Bobbie's Wife on the Piano. These were followed by bigger rehearsals with the Tenors and Basses of the Municipal Choir (plus some members of staff), finally the Orchestra. We only met the Principals on the day of the Concert. What a rush there was for autographs afterwards!

I have always been grateful to have been touched by greatness and genius in respect of music. How lucky we were. I've been to the Proms. in the Royal Albert Hall. I've attended and sung in concerts such as Handel's 'Samson' and Verdi's 'Requiem'; they remain part of my musical life. That quiet opening of the 'Requiem', followed by the thrill of the explosion of sound of those resounding beats of the 'Dies Irae' – terrifying drama, indeed. Then, in contrast, the final chorus of 'Libera me', ending almost in a whisper. As the final words 'libera me' are sung, a moment of silence, drowned by the roar of the audience's overwhelming, crashing applause!

I still recall with pleasure the final Soprano solo from 'Samson' – 'Let the bright seraphim of burning gold', followed by the chorus 'Let the celestial concerts all unite'.

And we owed it all to Bobbie! These were unforgettable moments, with our parents sitting proudly in the Brangwyn Hall. Some of the concerts went out live on radio. We sang with world-famous Soloists, Joan Hammond, Elsie Suddaby, Hedde Nash, Nancy Bateman, David Franklin (he who likened us to the Oxford Bach Choir) and Norman Walker. What a remarkable achievement by this Teacher.

I can still see him, waiting to make his entrance at the beginning of the Concert, his face drained with nervousness and tension. That he should go through that for us! OK – so I was never taught to read music, but Dynevor, through Bobbie, provided me with some unforgettable experiences and an enduring love of music.



MUSICAL REMINISCENCES

John L. Davies (1952)

Before I ever set foot in Dynevor, my mother impressed upon me that it had an enviable musical reputation and that I had jolly well better get immersed in it. With bated breath, she spoke of a legend by the name of Gwilym ('Bobbie') Roberts, who could attract the likes of Kathleen Ferrier to sing at School concerts – wow! By the time I started, however, Bobbie had left and "Spider" Webber occupied his stool.

His School Choir was a pretty select bunch, which never seemed to do very much. The haughty and unapproachable Spider scared me to death (I got 10% in music). One day, he unveiled in lordly fashion one of his "own compositions"; I subsequently discovered it was by Orlando Gibbons. He attempted to get some boys into the newly formed, post-restoration St. Mary's Church Choir. "No way", said my Dad, a redoubtable pillar of Calvinism, "it's Church of England!" So much for ecumenism!

Then the genial "Porky" Richards arrived. He was full of fun, good spirits, enthusiasm and inspiration – a splendid change (I was soon up to 70%!). He could even play the piano standing up. The choir expanded significantly to about 80 boys and sundry masters, notably Ossie (a very fine basso profundo), Derek John (who later escaped to Nigeria), Tojo, Huw ("Fuzz") Lloyd and Bryn Cox – a very sincere and agreeable tenor with plenty of *agitato*, but with a tendency to excessive *rallentando* – which caused Porky frequent consternation. I was greatly reassured to discover that even our respected custodians of knowledge were not beyond the occasional amendment to the libretto, "Oh, had I Jubal's lyre or Miriam's tuneful voice" was transcribed by Ossie into "Oh, had I Jubal's lyre, I'd chuck it in the fyre". Naturally, this liberty, taken by Ossie, legitimised considerably more licence from the younger choral generation!

The boys were a combination of eager young trebles – some of whom were really very good (Ambrose Thomas and Wynford Evans regularly performed even then with the BBC); boys with rather gravelly unpredictable possibilities owing to impending puberty (mine broke when I was about ten and a half); and lusty fourth formers and above, to whom any dynamic imposed by Porky which was less than *treble forte*, was regarded as an insult to their virility. Alan Goodwin, Ivor John and I just did not do *pianissimo*. Tony Pierce must be honourably excluded from this battalion of decibel-bashers, revealing a sensitivity and finesse well becoming of a future Bishop.

Porky made it all such good invigorating fun and introduced us to a whole treasure chest of semiquavers : to the 'Messiah', of course ("And the glory of the Lord" I can still hear echoing around the Yard); Haydn's "The Heavens are Telling"; his arrangements of Welsh hymns; Berlioz's "The Childhood of Christ"; and Elgar's "Banner of St. George", a very stirring patriotic contribution (but of the English nation - *Plaid Cymru* would certainly have boycotted it); Arwel Hughes' "Dewi Sant" had not yet been composed! All great stuff, which lingers long in the mind and soul.

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We had some remarkable instrumentalists, too. At the organ were luminaries like Ivor Owen (the seemingly ancient Borough Organist); who also held musical court at Siloh Newydd, Landore); Arthur E. Davies (who presided over the keys at Mount Pleasant); Porky, of course; the swaying Myrddin Harries (how he never fell off the organ stool, I'll never know); and, best of the lot, the prodigy Alan Rees, who went on to great things as an ecclesiastical Musician (and Priest, of course) of the Catholic persuasion. Philip Croot was an amazing pianist. Peter James' rendering on the double bass of the Elephant movement from Saint Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" at Ebenezer Chapel has an honoured place in my musical memories. The orchestra was good, led with great suavity by the urbane Morgan Lloyd (another denizen of the BBC, of course) and, I recall, it also included Michael Griffiths (later to join the staff) on the French Horn, Chris Edwards on

the Violin – and Peter James.

In the absence of a School Hall, owing to the dedicated activities of Reichs Marschall Goering, our fine venues were principally Ebenezer Chapel and the Brangwyn Hall (even sang a bass solo from "the Magic Flute" there



once – terrifying experience). Budgie's Lower Gym was used for Eisteddfodau (to his evident profound unease) though the acoustics left something to be desired.

It was all such fun from first to last, and a wonderful overture to my subsequent amateur musical activities down the decades as a singer and Director of music (albeit in the Anglican musical tradition) and, I'm sure, also to hundreds of other Old Dy'vorian. *School music was so important for us all.*

As Porky insisted, with great passion, 'music really does uplift the soul'. No doubt, even as I write, he is doing something memorable with the celestial choir (St. Cecilia, St. David and St. Peter – move over) and no doubt Bryn Cox's excessive rallentandos have been sorted out to general heavenly satisfaction!

(Editors Note: Our photograph, courtesy of the 'Evening Post', is of the assembled Choir, Orchestra and Principals, with Gwilym (Bobbie) Roberts and his Wife, taken after (hence the empty seats) most of the audience had left the 'Merrie England' (Edward German) concert on 28 May, 1949. It was sent in by Peter Hopkins (1948)



HE LED US TO A LIFE ON THE ROCKS

Fond recollections of Curtis Grove (1926-2010)

Brian Williams (1951)

(Additional input from Ron Austin and Winston Davies).

After O-levels, nine of us decided that we wanted to do A-Level Geology. Normally Graham Jones (Jop) would have taken us, but he was taken ill that year and had a substantial amount of time away.

So, Glan scoured around the staff and opted for Curtis Grove to take on this onerous task. He had been our Form Master in 4D, so we faced the prospect of two more years with him with some fear and trepidation! He'd done his BA and MA in Geography at Aberystwyth, but his Geology was only first year Subsidiary level, so his knowledge base of the subject was only marginally ahead of ours (and we had yet to start!). We had to follow the O-Level syllabus in our first year, take that exam, then proceed to A-Level in the second year Sixth. Each lesson we had was held in Seminar format, as Curtis was literally only one week ahead of us! He made as many "cock-ups" in using the language of Geology as we did, and this made for some very entertaining class periods.

Unbeknown to us, Curtis and Bernard Norris [Geology Master at the Tech.- later to become Headmaster of Dynevor], used to sneak off to West Cross under cover of darkness each week, presumably to get added tuition from Brian Simpson, Senior Lecturer in Geology at UCS and A-Level examiner for the WJEC!! Ron Austin, who happened to live a couple of doors away from Simpson, noted this nocturnal migration. Being an embryonic, but good observational scientist, Ron logged the shadowy figures in his field book!

Curtis went out of his way to supplement his lessons by arranging and driving us on many field trips to the Vale of Neath, Black Mountain, S. Pembrokeshire and Gower. On the latter, at the end of the day's field work, he'd take us back to his family home in Port Eynon and supply us with tea and cream buns!! On the other trips we would often link up with the Tech. A-Level Group (about 5 of them plus Bernard) and have a College Lecturer e.g. Dick Owen (later a major mentor in Geology to a few of us at UCS) as the main leader for the day.

Additionally, Curtis employed the help of the School Services Dept. of the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff to provide us with loaned samples for teaching of the more exotic rock types and fossils that we did not encounter on our field days. He even arranged a visit for us to the prestigious NMW Geology Dept. This was an unaccompanied day off and a train trip up to Cardiff – paid for by the School !! There the massively enthusiastic Dr. Emlyn Evans who, at the end of the day presented us with a beautiful fossil ammonite – 'to add to our School collection', guided us through the collections. As we didn't have a Dynevor rock /fossil collection, we decided to hold a snooker competition for the Ammonite in the Cardiff Snooker Emporium! Roly Edwards was a good player (as well as being the best scrum-half Dynevor First XV ever had !!) and won the tournament. His fossil prize was thereafter behind the bar in his Father's Club in Fairwood.

Probably the "piece de resistance" was Curtis signing all of us up to attend a Tuesday night Geology Adult Education evening class for a 10 week term in Dyffryn Girls'

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Grammar, Port Talbot. This was conducted by a UCS Geology Lecturer (Dr. Vic Walmsley), and proved to be another set of great nights out for the nine of us. The hostelrys (i.e. The Vaults) in Port Talbot were well and truly sampled by us for beer and darts after the lectures, unless of course some of us had “pulled” a Grammar School girl for the night (as we used to leave messages in their desks and await a reply the next week). There was an area of parked single-decker buses nearby that were always unlocked and thus were used extensively on Tuesday evenings! Curtis was always puzzled why all turned up to his classes on a Wednesday morning, either with a hangover or with broad smiles on our faces!!

In addition to all the fun we had doing Geology with Curtis in Dynevor, he must have been very proud of us when he saw our “A” Level results. Of the nine of us, most retained their Geology training in their later careers [including one becoming Chief Technician in Geology at UCS]; three went on to do Ph.D.’s in Geology at UCS or Sheffield, and embarked on full academic careers in the subject. This was all down to the enthusiasm Curtis had imparted to us for the subject and the unusual and informal way in which the curriculum had been taught.

We were so pleased to hear that Noel Blows had managed a telephone conversation with Curtis in his home in Hereford last Autumn, not long before he died, and could tell him of the attainments of his boys after his “one-off” attempt at teaching Geology at Dynevor.

“The Magnificent Nine” (1956/8) – Curtis’s VIth Form ‘Geolly’ Boys



L-R : Frank Cross, Ron Austin (who took the picture), Brian Mainwaring, Brian Williams, Roly Edwards, Alan Griffiths, Winston Davies, Lindsey Jones and Alun Owen.(Inset: Curtis Grove)



PAST PRESIDENTS MEET UP AGAIN

Once again, on 18 November last, former OD Presidents and their wives met for lunch at the attractively located HQ of Langland Bay Golf Club, an ideal setting for their 3rd such gathering. Edgar McCarthy's efforts resulted in 29 of us sitting down in the Dining Room, with its amazing views over the 18th Green to the not so distant Langland Bay and, beyond, the Bristol Channel.



Edgar McCarthy is seen with his wife, Mary, against a background of busy tables

The years represented included 1968/ Cyril Goldstone, 1976/ Iorrie Mort, 1981/ Peter & Gislinde Macpherson, 1984/ Jim & Christine Watkins, 1985/ Alan & Georgina Goodwin, 1986/ Murray & Maureen Donald, 1989/ David Goldstone, 1991/ Stuart Batcup, 1992/ Stuart & Anne Winks, 1993/ George & Rhona Sambrook, 1995/ Bill & Joan George, 2000/ Lionel & Linda Hopkins, 2004/ Edgar & Mary McCarthy, 2005/ David & Barbara Mendus, 2006/ Bill & Brenda Gibbs, 2007/ Noel & Maureen Blows, 2009/ Brian Willis and 2010/ David and Jill Dickinson. (Unfortunately, our President, Archbishop Rowan could not join us, but we were delighted that Maureen Hounsell was there. Bill & Gloria Perrins had to cry off again, at the last minute).

After enjoying an excellent menu, before the conclusion of another most successful function, Noel Blows, without revealing any details of bonus payments (!), gave us a brief and interesting resume of his career in Banking,

'IN MEMORIAM': We regret to report the deaths of the following ODs and Teachers.

- 5 March 2011: Michael Honeybun (1974)
- 10 December, 2011: Russell Linnard (1956).
- 30 December, 2011: Glyn Jones, former Head of Lower School
- 3 February, 2012: Henry Gallagher (1944)
- **Late entry:** 23 June, 2005: Kenneth Lewis (1934).

Entry taken from the 'Keble College, Oxford,' Record, and advised by Donald Lewis (1939)).

"May they rest in peace"



“OVER THE WALL”.

Rob Wilks (1957)

I once taught in a school where the Head was horrified to hear that about 60% of his colleagues had “bunked off” school at some point in their education. Some justified it by saying “they had only done it in boring lessons”; even so, he was astounded.

It made me think back to my days at Dynevor and the times I must have cut lessons in order to enjoy the freedom of what I regarded as extra curricular activities. That was probably why I only passed English Language at “O” level. In any case, it was largely due to the personal interest shown in me by John Bennett, my Form Master.



Having revealed this I did, as someone reminded me at a recent ODA reunion, “have issues ... - ... wasn't it epilepsy?” It is a subject on which I have spoken freely, but not when I first entered teaching, for obvious reasons. I have no doubt epilepsy contributed to my wayward behaviour, despite the revelation that prefects at the time “were told to be nice to me!” I was surprised at that, but it did explain one or two things!

I recall on one occasion being ‘cornered’ by several members of staff including the Deputy Head (Scruff Griffiths), because of a rather nasty limp I’d had for some days. “How did you do it?” they asked. “Jumped down from a wall, sir” I replied. What I failed to reveal was that the wall in question was the one dividing Mount Pleasant Chapel from the School. So concerned were the staff that one of them took me by car to

Swansea General Hospital for an x-ray which revealed several small broken bones!

The wall we used to escape over was barely visible from the smoke-ridden staff room. Once over it, there was just a small set of railings to be climbed to gain freedom; far safer than the De la Beche Street entrance that was always open, for one might bump into a member of staff, as had sadly happened to one or two other lads.

Along with several of my less studious friends, I often ‘bunked off’ or played truant, but whereas I got a second chance at ‘O’ levels some years later, so as to gain entry to Teacher Training, I often wondered how others got on.

In retirement I look back on a rewarding life that gave me experience in printing, teaching and work with the profoundly and moderately disabled. I still have a mild form of epilepsy (or ‘issues’), but whereas I did not have a very happy teenage period, epilepsy has rarely held me back in life, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This is possibly because, like my mother, I have a very determined nature, an aspect of my character that often gets me into trouble, for I believe life should be lived to the full.



TODnotes

** **BRICKBATS** are not unwelcome, and apologies or corrections are duly published, but it's always warming to receive the odd bouquet. Thank you to those who wrote after TOD's 18 and 19, especially the Grandmother of Lisa Fox. Lisa was one of the recipients of a 2010 Presidential Award and is the Granddaughter of the late Viv Baker (1943), who sadly died just after TOD19 went to press. Ray Farmer also wrote most appreciatively.

** **ANYONE FOR GOLF?** Last year's Tournament was pronounced a great success. Ken Sharpe (1953) and Peter Samuel (1959) have got together to repeat it at Clyne Golf Course on the morning of the Annual Dinner. Put it in your Diary now, Friday, 27 April 2012. Better still, get in touch with Ken or Peter at ken.sharpe@btinternet.com

BOOK THIS DATE – NOW!! Friday, 27 April 2012. *The 2012 Dinner, when Phil Stone (1959) will be installed as President for 2012/13, will be held at the same venue as last year's unforgettable function, namely, Swansea University. Membership recruitment is at an all-time high, so we're looking forward to another packed 'congregation'! Proposing the toast of 'the Old Dy'vorians' and 'Dynevor' will be Behnaz Akhgar, the well-known and popular BBC Wales 'weathergirl', a former pupil.*

** **CRICKET ENTHUSIASTS:** On Wed 1 August, Glamorgan will be playing Gloucestershire at St. Helen's. In association with the 'Balconiers', Ken Sharpe is organising an Old Dy'vorian's table for Lunch and Tea. Price will be £35, including admission. Watch the Website and Bulletin for more information, or contact Ken.

** **NEWS FROM LAOS :** Dy'vorians get everywhere! Gerry Paster (1956) sent in a heart-rending article about the Charity he runs in Laos, appealing for support. Unfortunately, it was too late for publication. If you have an interest in helping him with Laotian children, read more on www.laos-kids.org . Gerry's article is on the OD website. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the Editor.

** **BACK NUMBERS 1912-30:** When I became Editor, I inherited, 'for safe keeping', a number of MUNSEC magazines, between 9 and 52 (there are a number of 'lacunae'). I intend passing them to Alan Smith, the last Head of Dynevor, who is at present making arrangements with SMU to create an archive of Dynevor 'memorabilia' in a permanent 'home'. If you are interested in seeing any of them, don't hesitate to contact me.

** **FIGHTING FUND :** We promoted this in TOD 19, as a way of helping to cover the cost of upgrading the Website. It has been quite a success and the fund now stands at almost £2500. Additional contributions will be gratefully received.



'Chance would be a fine thing!'

After the '53 Reunion last March (reported in TOD19/ Page 12), John Barker sent in the following note:

'Chance meeting in Opera House'...!?

What odds against Ed Davies and John Barker (1953) unexpectedly meeting one another at Covent Garden? Well, it happened on Monday, 16 May. John lives in Ealing, but Ed. lives 4,670 miles away, in Denver, Colorado. Both did Mathematics in the Science Sixth, but they've so far failed to work out the odds!!

Well, try this one

Place: Wembley Stadium. **Date:** 30 May 2011. **Crowd:** 95,000

Occasion: Championship play-offs: Swans v. Reading.

Peter Macpherson, your Editor, is on the concourse with his Grandson, just before the game. Suddenly, a stentorian voice rings out 'Peter! Peter!' He looks around and there's George Sambrook (ODA President, 1993). We started in 2b together on the same day in 1944! An amazing coincidence!

But wait! 3 minutes later, whilst queuing for the 'boys' room', who does Peter bump into? Why, fellow Editor, Jim Waygood (who himself had just met David Dickinson, last year's President!) **Now, BEAT THAT!**

MORE MEMORIES

Grafton Maggs sent in some brief, but interesting reflections on both **Graham Bidder**(1937) (d. September, 2010) and **Lord Flowers** (TOD18).

Bidder's 'claim to fame' was that when he turned up for school on the morning of 22 February, 1941, large parts of it were in ruins and still burning! He had to do his CWB (modern GCSE's, although a bit harder!!) at the Tech., then went to the Grammar School, whose Head was the renowned (feared!) J.Gray ('Pinkie') Morgan! After Higher's, he joined the RAF and flew on Ops.. He had a most successful career in the Oil Industry. He never lost his ridiculous and outrageous sense of humour.

Stuart Winks, OAD former Secretary, sent in a note about **Lord (Brian) Flowers** (d.30 June, 2010 – v. TOD18), as follows: 'Flowers was a Dynevor boy, not a Grammarian. He had to go up the hill for his 'A' levels after Dynevor was bombed. Iorrie Mort remembers him. His father was Rev. HJ Flowers, sometime Minister at pantygydyr Baptist Chapel.

Grafton adds that **Flowers** came to the VIth Form in Dynevor from Glanmor, after the blitz. He was rather remote and serious 'bespectacled and frowning'. - 'he only mixed with people who could do joined-up writing!'). Grafton recalls him playing a 'cello solo at a school concert and was once observed playing in the Maxime Cinema, Sketty with the Welsh Philharmonic Orchestra. Thank you, Grafton and Stuart..



W.S (Bill) EVANS – the end of a long tale!

A large number of Old D'yvorians have joined the Association since we first published two interesting articles about former Dynevor Maths. Teacher and Cricket Coach, WS (Bill) Evans, in TOD16 (March,2010). Bill emigrated to New Zealand in 1962 and 4 letters, written between 1991 and 1993 to OD, Terry Shorrocks (1941-48), had been handed to Noel Blows, who promptly took up with David Farmer the challenge of publishing them.

The first two letters appeared in TOD's 17 and 18 respectively, just after the change of Editorship. Sadly, coverage of the Annual Dinner prevented their inclusion in TOD19, but we are now resolved to put the matter right and offer Bill's last two letters for your interest and 'delectation'.

Bill's Widow, Gwyneth, is hoping to visit the UK this year and we hope she may attend the Annual Dinner

LETTER No. 3

1 April, 1993

Dear Terry,

I don't remember now, but I hope I thanked you for the "Old Boys" photograph, plus the brief biographies of so many. That really was a great effort on your behalf. Believe it or not, yesterday I received a pleasant surprise: a long letter from *Alan Hickman* – Haverfordwest. I reminded him of his partnership with *Mansel Seacombe*; just like "gin and Tonic" or "Rum and Coke". I've already answered him; I was so delighted to hear.

I would love to hear more, if it were possible, from, say, *Joe Keane, Hywel Williams, "Scruff" Lewis, Tom Williams, Bernard Preedy, Malcolm Erikson, David Horn etc.* but it must be impossible for you to contact all of them.

I reminded Hickman of his "clobbering" with Mary Poole. I wonder if he still remembers the occasion.

How are you getting along? How is your Dunvant Rugby team? Are you happy with just 4 Welshmen in the "Lions"? Do you intend visiting NZ with them? I'd love to see you.

There is not much news to give you. Last year was a bad one for my wife Gwyneth – in March she was struck suddenly with Acute Rheumatoid Arthritis.

As for me, at 87+ I am quite fit and active playing a great deal of bowls and walking. This year I won the Club's Veteran Singles competition so there's life in the old dog yet.

I know this is a brief note; I just wanted to keep in touch and once again thank you so very much for your "Old Boys" effort and especially the biographies. All the best. **Bill**



Letter No.4.

18 May, 1993

Dear Terry and any other 'Old' Boys of the Old School

What a delight to receive your letter plus the golden tributes to Dunvant Rugby Club. You must excuse my surprise; Dunvant in my younger days was a small, somewhat scattered village, inhabited by a large number of Beynons. As an Old Gowertonian (1918-1924), I met and made friends with very many from that locality. My closest friend from there was Les Beynon, (who died 10? years ago). I met him and his wife when they visited NZ about a year or so before he died. He composed a number of humorous poems; in fact, I have in front of me now the 'Gowertonian' Magazine for July 1924, in which Les wrote a poem entitled "To Our Captain - on making 60 against Swansea Grammar School June 4th 1924," the Captain being your humble scribe! He signed the poem "BY NONE" – a typically modest gesture. I believe he ended his days as Manager of a part of the Grovesend Steel Works.

Am I correct in assuming Dunvant will now be playing against the "top brass" of Swansea, Cardiff etc? In one of your enclosures there is an article of praise by Clem Thomas. Is he the Welsh international forward? If so, he is a relation of Gwyneth's. What an amusing and interesting article from Dai Vaughan. He must be reckoned as the main "prop" of the Dunvant club. We do hear – far too infrequently- a record of the Dunvant Male Choir, over the radio.

Thanks also for the card re. the "Old Dy'vorians' Annual Dinner". It was interesting to see the names of Past Presidents, back to 1930. I joined Dynevor in April, 1932, so I knew almost all of them.

Your very 'umble servant ended the Bowls' Season on a "high", winning 3 cups. My mate and I were outright winners of the Champ of Champs Finals of 'Skipping the Veteran Pairs' against 16 other clubs. In the end, we received a much coveted Centre title and a large silver cup. Next day, Gwyneth and I won the mixed fours; she played wonderful bowls. You'll be pleased to learn that her arthritis has almost disappeared.

Now we are into indoor bowls, played on 22 ft x 6 ft. mats – a really wonderful game, very popular in N.Z. I am quite surprised U.K have never played this game, instead of their 'absurd' Bingo nights. The bowls are about 1/3rd the weight of outdoor bowls.

Please give my regards to all and sundry from the old School. I'm always glad to hear news of any further achievements, and here's wishing the Dunvant Club happy days ahead; But, what of the Lions/ I'm sure they'll be tamed. N.Z. rugby is a totally different game.

Bill



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Noel Blows (1955)

2011 was another busy growth year. After 118 new members in 2009 and 143 in 2010, it would have been reasonable to suppose things might quieten in 2011. Not a bit of it! The “Rowan” factor helped recruitment and large numbers arrived after a most successful '58-ers reunion weekend in October. They now have 44 members, an increase of 30. All in all, 95 new members joined our ranks during the year.

For some years, we have striven to attract younger members, so as accurately to reflect the school's evolution, maybe even with more from among the fairer sex. Llwyn-y- Bryn merged in 1978 with Dynevor, which remained co-educational until its closure in 2002, so there should be more ladies in our midst. We were therefore delighted when Phil Stone announced that Behnaz Akhgar had accepted his invitation to be one of the speakers at his Presidential Dinner in 2012. With help from Behnaz and assistance from Barbara Palmer, former Deputy Head, we believe there should now be a new look to the next Dinner, with more younger OD's and Ladies present.

In recent years, we have also been successful in arranging for elderly or infirm/ disabled OD's to attend the Dinner with a Carer, usually a relative or friend.

In 2011, we welcomed as Honorary OD's Mrs. Pat Farmer, Mrs. Maureen Hounsell, Professor Andrea Liggins, Lady Myra Secombe, and Stephen White. Pat and Maureen are well known, because their husbands – David and George - gave great service over many years to the ODA and the School; Lady Myra needs no introduction; Andrea and Stephen are the Dean and Assistant Dean of the Dynevor Faculty at SMU. In a voluntary capacity, they have helped many OD's who wished to tour the school, even doing their homework on the various rooms at the school so as to give a more informed tour!

None of this growth could take place without a greater number of activities. These include the Website rebuild, the Members' Directory, Clyne Golf on the day of the Dinner, supporting the 'Balconiers' at Cricket, more Reunions and the Journal's increased size and professionalism. More of you attend the Annual Dinner and the October and Joint Lectures than ever before. *The Committee aims for excellence in all that it generates so please keep up your support – oh! And, almost forgot, keep finding more members, please!!*



ANNUAL SMU/ODA OPEN LECTURE, 2012

Thursday, 24th May 2012 at 4.00pm (Refreshments follow the lecture)
Samuel Roberts Lecture Theatre, Dynevor Centre for Art, Design & Media
Swansea Metropolitan University

Speaker : Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Environment, Sustainability & Housing, Welsh Assembly

**** full details on www.dynevorrevisited.co.uk and in Bulletins ****

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The other Members of this active and experienced Committee are :

Phil. Stone (1959) Vice –President Keith Evans 1965 (Members' Directory)
Edgar McCarthy 1953 (Publicity) Peter Samuel (Golf) (1959)
David Bemmer 1957 (Minute Secretary)
Brian Willis 1955, Bill Gibbs 1959 & David Dickinson 1948 (Past Presidents)

All have given sterling service and offer themselves for re-election at the forthcoming AGM on Wednesday, 7 March, 2012. Clem Williams will be retiring; there is also a need for a Dinner Secretary.

Copy deadline for TOD 21 – 21st June 2012

Please submit in 'WORD' format – 500/600 words max + fotos if poss.

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