

Brecon Grammar School Old Boys' Association

Newsletter March 2003

Your Committee has decided that a newsletter should be circulated to former Old Boys at the same time as they receive an invitation to the annual dinner. If you know of any Old Boys who do not come to the dinner, but would like to receive this annual newsletter please send their names to Des Isaac, 4 South Court, Park Terrace, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AU: des.isaac@btinternet.com. The purpose of this brief annual Newsletter is to keep Old Boys informed of any significant developments concerning the Association and to record, briefly, significant news regarding Old Boys. The latter objective can only be achieved if Old Boys provide the information. News about the death of former pupils of the Boys' Grammar School, should, **if possible**, include the following details:

Name and age of the Old Boy
Address (e.g.town, village, farm - whatever can be supplied) when in school
Dates in school and House
Any notable academic or sporting achievements while at school

And, if known, a very brief description of what the Old Boy did after leaving school.

This information should be sent to Ken Jones, Byddwn Uchaf, Llanhamlach, Brecon LD3 7SU: ken@tkjones.zx3.net.

Future of the Association

At the last dinner the President of the Association, the Rev. Geraint Hughes, in an eloquent and amusing address, considered the issue of the long-term future of the Association. He pointed out that it is inevitable that an Association of former pupils of a school, which closed in 1971, will eventually have no members! The same situation faces the more informal gathering of former pupils of the Girls' School. Consideration therefore needed to be given as to whether eventually there should be an Association of former pupils of all the state secondary schools in Brecon. The Rev. Hughes pointed out while such a development might be years away it would seem to be appropriate as a first stage in this process to try to bring about a closer relationship with the Old Girls' 'Association'. Your Committee has agreed that the following steps should now be taken:

* Old Girls should be invited to the Annual Reunion and Dinner. If members know the names and addresses of any Old Girls who they believe might be interested in attending the Annual Dinner these should be sent to Des Isaac.

* Old Girls should be invited to participate in the Annual Armistice Service in the High School. It is known that some Old Girls died during World War II, as the result of enemy action when serving as nurses, and it is possible that others were killed while working in munitions factories, in the armed service or in accidents in the Women's' Land Army. If you know of such instances please let Des Isaac know. The names of these girls will then be added to the role of honour read out at the Armistice Service.

* A working party of two Old Girls and two Old Boys should be established to consider methods of further collaboration, for instance, a social evening.
If you have any views about these proposals please contact Des Isaac.

Armistice Day Service

Twenty-five Old Boys attended the Armistice Day Service held in the High School and were impressed by the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. The Rev. Geraint Hughes and Colin Eaves, the Head Teacher, conducted the Service. All the pupils attended and the youngest and oldest ones read appropriate poems. This annual event in the High School reflects great credit on the staff and pupils. All former pupils of both Grammar schools are welcome and we hope to see more there next year.

Cliff Carr Memorial Prize

This prize was established two years ago to commemorate Cliff Carr's (1937-42) dedicated service as Chairman of the Old Boys' Association for twenty-five years. £3,000 was contributed by Old Boys to provide the income for an annual prize of around £100 for a pupil in the High School, nominated by the Head Teacher, entering higher education, preferably to study sports science or physical education. The prizewinner in 2002 was Gareth Bufton. Captain of the High School Soccer 1st XI he also represented the County, at under 15 and under 18 and played for Cardiff City F.C. under 15's. He represented Wales in the U. K. National Junior Golf Championships. A member of Brecon and Radnor Senior Golf Team he plays off a handicap of 5!

Deaths

Peter Leonard was born in Brecon and attended the Grammar School from 1936-1939 where he was a member of Gam. He served for six years in the RAF and then qualified as a Weights and Measures Inspector. After a few years working in Rhodesia and Nyasaland he returned to Brecon where he was employed by Breconshire and then Powys County Council until he retired in 1984 as Chief Trading Standards Officer. A founder member of the Old Boys' Association, he attended almost every Reunion Dinner until ill health made this impossible. He died in October 2002 aged 81.

Dyfed Lewis was born in Crai and attended the Grammar School from 1937-1943 where he was a member of Siddons. There followed a distinguished academic career. Originally a student of Agricultural Chemistry at Aberystwyth he proceeded to Cambridge and later to Sheffield University where he was awarded a Ph.D in Biochemistry. He was subsequently appointed Professor of Agricultural Biochemistry at Leeds University where he stayed until he became Professor of Biochemistry and Food Science at Nottingham University. He died in August 2002 aged 76.

Current Officers of the Association

President	Alan Phillips	(1963 -69)
Vice President	Bryan Davies	(1960-66)
Chairman	Dennis Morgan	(1940-45)
Vice Chairman	Ken Jones	(1943-50)
Secretary	Des Isaac	(1950-53)
Treasurer	John Short	(1938-44)
Minute Secretary	Len Davies	(1937-41)

Committee Members:

Alec Gibson (1930-36), Glyn Jones (1936-40), John King (1938-44), Glyn Powell (1943-50), Les Bevan (1945-52), Phil Evans (1947-54), Geraint Hughes (1947-53), Michael Burr (1953-57), Tom Prothero (1953-61).

Hon. Life Presidents.

Bill Leonard (1928-36), Mervyn Jenkins (1927-34), Len Davies (1937-41), John Short (1938-44)

Biographies

Each Newsletter will contain short biographies of some of the Committee.

Dennis Morgan

Dennis has been Chairman since Cliff Carr's death. Born and brought up in Talgarth, Dennis was a member of Vaughan from 1940-45 and joined the OBA. in 1950. He graduated from Aberystwyth with a B.Sc. in Chemistry with Agricultural Chemistry and later received a M.Sc. (Wales) in Agricultural Chemistry. After National Service in the R.A.F. he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and worked in Bangor, Leeds and the Midlands until he retired in 1986 as Regional Agricultural Scientist of the Midlands and Western Region. From 1958-9 he was Kellogg Fellow in Agricultural Science at Michigan State University and graduated as a M. S. in Animal Nutrition and Biochemistry.

Alan Phillips

The youngest member of the Committee of the OBA, Alan was Vice-President for 2001-2002 and is now President. After leaving Pendre School, Brecon, he attended the Grammar School from 1963-69 on the Penlan site, so he never knew the decaying charm of the Cradoc Road building! A member of Vaughan rugby team he also played for the 1st XV. He qualified in Business Studies at the College of Food Technology and Commerce in Cardiff and subsequently spent many years managing hotels, wine bars and the Mountain Nursing Home, Brecon. He then trained as a Financial Adviser and worked for the Prudential and the Legal and General before establishing his own business.

Len Davies

A native of Talgarth, Len attended the Grammar School from 1937-42 where he was Captain of Siddons and Captain of the school soccer team. He joined the R.A.F.V.R in 1943 and served in Bomber Command where he completed 32 missions. After the war he trained as a teacher and was appointed to Mount Street School, Brecon and later became Head Teacher of Talgarth County Primary School where he remained until he retired in 1987. He was one of the founding members of the Association and has been a Committee Member since 1972. In recognition of his long service as a Committee Member and Minute Secretary he was made an Honary Life Vice-President last year.

John Short

A pupil of Llangatock Primary School, John passed the scholarship for Brecon Grammar School in 1938 and remained there until 1944. An ardent supporter of Theo he became its House Captain. When he left school he studied at Trinity College Carmarthen. During his National Service in the army he was posted to Northern Ireland, Egypt and Libya. Following teaching appointments in primary schools in Brecon and Crickhowell he moved to Winchester until he returned to Wales in 1968 as Deputy Head of the Middle School in Tredegar Comprehensive where he stayed until his retirement in 1982. He has been Treasurer of the OBA for 20 years and is now an Honary Life Vice-President.

Finance

All Old Boys are members of the Association and there is no membership fee. However, many Old Boys, whether or not they attend the Annual Reunion Dinner, send welcome donations to the Association at that time. We are able therefore to cover our modest expenses and make small donations to various worthy causes, such as the British Legion, Parkinson's Disease Research, the Youth Centre in the old Grammar School and the High School.