



Dr. Morgan's Association Summer Newsletter, June 2008

Editor: Geoff Marchant. NB: See details at bottom of page for contacts & contributors



Editorial & Even More Responses.

In our February newsletter I managed to get almost to the end of the responses received in 2006, but there are still a lot more which I have not covered for 2007. I shall therefore do another large section of responses this time and hope you will yet again be able to say "I remember him" and possibly "I must contact him!" (or even 'her', this time!) & not be totally bored! I am all too aware that some people have sent in information more recently and haven't yet seen it in print. Again, I hope I have personally acknowledged all such contributions and can only apologise if I have inadvertently missed anyone – it is not intentional! As soon as I finish these responses, I feel it will be appropriate to again contact those who have not put their stated intentions to join into practice, and send another batch of e-mails in the hope of jogging memories (& consciences!) There are also a number of postal addresses for which I have wracked my addled brain & wondered if I did really send to them all – so another try there may also be appropriate. It all involves a heck of a lot of work, and there is only Clive Kett & myself involved in this – **apart from you, the membership!** So, if you think you have, or can find, a contact for any of our missing 'old boys' &/or past members, **please do have a go yourself!**

In early Nov. '06 **Peter Chidzey** ('55) said "Yes, I am interested in hearing more about the Assoc. & gave us his address in Surrey, together with e-mail contact. (Not a member at Feb. '08). **Andy Warman** ('69): "Thanks for the offer but I now live in another part of the country & have commitments galore so would be unlikely to attend any functions. May I wish you well in your endeavours & better luck with others who may still reside in the locality." He did give us an e-mail contact though.

A week or so earlier I had started contacting all the girls listed on F-R under B/W Grammar School for Girls, in the hopes that some had brothers or relatives at DMS. **Jane Evans (néé Randle)** was the first to reply: "I got your letter via F-R for my mother **Margaret Pine**. She is 86 now & doesn't have internet access so I'm replying for her. Her brother, Jim (**Francis James Pine**) went to DMS but he is now in his 80s & lives in Canada-so not really a candidate. My father, **Francis George Randle** was also an old boy, attending the school in the 20s, but **sadly he died in 1999**. Other uncles of mine who attended DMS are also no longer with us. No, no relation to Roger Evans!

One snippet of info. which I just remembered, is that my father was given a free place at DMS without passing the "scholarship" because his father was a casualty of the Great War. I'm not sure whether this was a national scheme, or whether it was a gesture of goodwill on the part of the school itself. Certainly his mother, as a war widow, couldn't have afforded the fees which were charged at that time. My cousin, **Peter Randle**, is on F-R & may know of others who would be interested in making contact." (Peter, left '64, lives B-on-S, has not replied, but many thanks to Jane for all that. Ed.)

Jane Denbury: "You are quite right!!! My brother **John Denbury** was at DMS- he left in '49. I have sent him your e-mail intact & hope he will be in touch with you." **John** later contacted us "I would be interested in joining the Old Boys Assoc. Please send me details."

Carolyn Butterworth (néé Squibbs): My brother **Michael Squibbs** is a member of the Society (the older group!) & the Peter you mention lives in Devon. I am not sure whether he is interested as I mentioned it to him a few years ago, but I will mention it again." (Peter started DMS '47, so would probably also join Society, if any. -Ed.) (see P9 RIP)

Paula Roualt: "**Mary Martin** is my mother. I will give her the message you sent via myself. I cannot help but hopefully Mum will know something." (but no – Ed.) Then 'out of the blue' from **Tony Carter** re a F-R message sent by me 2 months earlier: "I do not remember you at school, but I do recall a Clive Marchant who was in my form-is he a relative?" (Only my brother! Ed.) I'm sorry that I missed your invitation to a re-union but I would like to be kept informed of future events. I left DMS '52 – 54 years ago & I'm sure some of my contemporaries are no longer around, but it would be good to meet up with friends from the past. Thank you for rekindling memories of my school boy youth – lots of them come flooding back, like the cross country runs to the Durleigh reservoir and Skimmerton Lane, past the 'West India House' pub & back past the girls grammar school." (Not on list Feb 08-Ed)

Keith Ridgeway: “You can cross me off the DMS “lost” list. I was pleased to find your e-mail in my F-R site. I look forward to the newsletter & am sure I can stretch to £4 p.a. to join the Assoc. As you can see from my (USA) address, my chances of being in the UK for one of your dinners are slim, but you never know. Yes I was one of the pupils in the last year. Frankly, I think the parents were more upset with the change than us 17 year olds – we were more interested in the girls from B/W High School, motorcycles & a hidden cigarette outside the Co-op. Happy days.” Then Keith & I found we were/ had been in the same industry, so a longer discussion ensued, with a run-down of his career, which I will report later. (Not a member '08)

Alan Blake ('68 – '70): “I’m afraid I have no idea on the other ‘Blakes’, I was only at DMS for 2-3 years, ('68-'70, I think!) Do you by any chance have the contact details for **Tom Mayhew** who was in the same year as me?” (We didn’t even know of a Tom Mayhew, but I did try to contact a ‘Tom Mayhew from Somerset’ on F-R – but no reply received to date – Ed.)

Hilary Boyce (néé Shapter): “I will forward your letter to my brother. Best wishes.” (Presumably Pete Shapter, '58, on our missing list – no reply as yet but we do have a suggested B/W address & tel. No. from Wyn Hanham, July '07. - Ed.)

Paula Stagg (néé Chidgey) phoned from her home in W-s-M.). I had contacted her mum Christine Chidgey searching for **Peter Chidgey** ('55). It turned out he is Paula’s uncle & they sent my e-mail on, but I had already had a reply from Peter Chidgey via my earlier F-R message to him: see p1 here – (is it the same person? Ed.) Paula also said she went to Chilton Trinity Comprehensive (left '81) where an **Ian Baxter**, believed ex DMS, was deputy head (28-15 years ago) so now we have to search for him! Paula’s mum recalled she broke his leg in a hockey game! Do *you* know of him?

Jennifer Moore-Blunt: “Apologies for delay in replying. Now that I’m retired I find life is pretty hectic. (A sentiment I suspect most of us ‘retireds’ would agree with whole-heartedly! – Ed.) I’m afraid I’m unable to help you as neither I nor Elizabeth Rowe nor Pamela Major had any brothers. I used to travel to B/W from W-s-M with a crowd of Morganians, but lost touch with them when they left school.” **Jo Westby (néé Taylor,** left BGSF '60): “I’m afraid I am unable to help. I was the only Taylor in the family, no brothers and I didn’t have any other relations in the area.”

Maureen Amy (left BGSF '53): “My brother went to Huish’s school in Taunton. I have not been able to contact a single person who was at BGSF with me which is very disappointing, but as I lived out of the country for 30+ years that is not surprising” (Come on DMS, anyone out there who knew Maureen or any of her contemporaries at

BGSF? I will willingly forward any message or contact nos. – Ed.)

Sandra Stoodley (néé Foster): “I have no brother & do not know M Foster. My husband is Rod Stoodley (on list already). We are currently living in Bulgaria. **Val Brown (néé Kent):** “Sorry, I’m not any of those Kents. We are, you might say, the Cornwall Kents. I’m only in regular touch with one person not on the list – **Alec Simon**, who left in '63 (He’s on our “missing” list!! – Ed.) I’ll forward to him. Oh, & my cousin **David Pentecost** who could well have been there at the changeover.” (We didn’t even know of him-Ed.)

Susan Jeffries (left BGSF '65) “...no other family members at either school...have you managed to contact John White? I am in contact with his sister.” (John was already a member in '06 – Ed.)

Penny Hunter (néé White), left BGSF '65): “I don’t have any siblings & no longer in touch with boys I knew. One name you mentioned rings a bell though, **David White**, I will have a think & if anything occurs will get in touch.” (We must have had news of David as he is no longer on our missing list, but I haven’t filled in details (!) & he wasn’t a member in Feb '08)

Sarah Ansdell (left BGSF '66): “ Richard Ansdell, your Art Teacher, was my father. I am happy to tell you about my father & the school, and indeed, my own memories of the school as the daughter of a teacher. Please contact me again in the New Year.”

Yvonne Hopkins (left BGSF '68): “I don’t have any brothers or relatives who went to DMS & even though I joined the (F-R) site I have not really kept up with anyone – not even the girls.” **Roz Clifford** (left BGSF '68): “**David Clifford** was no relation to me but lived in the same village; last I heard that he lived in London as did his sister Linda. My brother is **James Clifford** who went to DMS '65 but was only there about 3 or 4 years. I will pass on your details to him.” (He has not replied -Ed) **Tim Bruce** ('60) came back to me after being contacted by his brother **Matt** ('63?). “I am in occasional contact with **Bob Rich** & some others of my year & can pass on details.” (None were members Feb '08 but now we can send newsletters by e-mail it is worth another attempt. – Ed.)

Tony Carter came back to me in Jan '07 saying that as well as Brian Langford having played cricket for Somerset, there was a **Chris(?) Bishop** in his year ('47-'52) who played rugby for England schoolboys – he came from the Bream/Berrow area. Tony also gave me contacts for **George** ('47) & **Paul Richards** ('50). (Both are now members! As for Chris Bishop, do you know of him? -Ed.) **Sally Cooke** (left BGSF '69): “Sorry but I have no

brothers. As you say, I'm sure they would have gone to DMS if I had...but hypothetical brothers not much use to you! Why not include old BGSG girls as well?" (Now there's a thought!! Mike did get a couple enquiring at one stage, but when they found it was basically an all male dinner they opted out! The trouble is, the partners may not be too happy, and if we invite partners as well, where do we find a venue big enough?)

Marcia Wilson (left BGSG '67): "My brother **Alan** went to DMS & left in '70 from 6th form.

Steve Pyott ('64-'66): Many thanks for your message via F-R. We had always kept in touch with **Steve (John) Toller**, who is now Head of Maths in a sec'y School in Desborough, Northants. However, I have recently re-connected (via F-R) with **Tim Williams, Pete Cook & Geoff Christmas**, all in my year at DMS. Great fun! I had already made contact with **Rob Taylor** (now called Coleby) who now lives here in Australia & who is a well known theatre, TV, & film actor. We've met up a few times here & he doesn't live all that far away on the Gold Coast in Queensland. I've attached a self-portrait he painted which we bought at an exhibition of his artwork here in Brisbane, as well as my own photo." See page 6 for these items. Steve was hopeful he might be able to plan a visit to UK to coincide with one of our dinners, with Tim Williams, member, as a contact. Steve is a consulting Chartered Textile Technologist.
(www.tcstextileconsultancy)

Geoff Yendole ('51): "We lived for several years in Vancouver & then moved on retirement to a beautiful small island off the coast of Vancouver Island which has a climate similar to, if not warmer than, Somerset. I would like to have the newsletter"

Malcolm Fender ('62) "I was in the same class as **Tim Cross**, a friend. I knew he went in the army – great to see he has done so well. I was talking about Tim with **Paul Williams** (still teaches at Haygrove & has done since his 2nd year of teaching) last year. Paul also had contact with **Jed Vize**. **David Way's** details are attached, he has also done well. He currently works for the national Learning Skills Council in Coventry, I believe. Because I knew that, I was able to 'Google' his name & know that this is him."(For details, do the same! I am still trying to get a contact for Tim Cross - Ed.)

Mike Beaumont on our committee had given me a list of 11 old boys who were on our missing list & he provided addresses &/or tel.nos.! Thanks therefore to Mike, several complimentary newsletters (+ application forms!) could be sent off. The names were: **Alan Dyer** ('58), **Eric Ganfield** ('56), **Dave Harris** ('57), **Stephen Pegler** ('56), **Keith Pollard** ('57), **Ian Porter** ('56, now 'Belgium'), **Graham Templeman** ('56). **Brian Willsher** ('56), **Chris Woodberry** ('57), **Dennis Wynn** ('56), & **Rodney**

Coombes ('56). Then from **Clive Kett** ('65, committee): "I am on the trail of **David Way** ('64). He used to live near the corner shop in Queenswood Road, very close to Mr Hammond, music master. **Dave Russ** ('65) used to live right opposite Mr Hammond. It appears that Mike Sealey ('64/'65?) is not on your database.

He lives 100 yards away from so I'll pop down & have a chat with him. (So near & yet so far! – Ed.) In a reply to **Steve Pyott** (see top L this page), I glibly suggested that Old Boys in Australia might be able to set up a DMS club there: **John Prior** ('57) in Queensland, **David Baker** (??) in Victoria, **Mike Fursland** ('58) in N.S.Wales, **Derek Jones** ('62) in Canberra, **Robert Mulholland** ('69) in Q'land Steve himself + **Robert Coleby (Taylor)** & at least two more known, & probably lots more as yet unknown! What distances to cover, though! – Ed.) Steve said he had come to DMS from Manchester after he had completed his 'O' levels there, when his dad was appointed Service Manager at Cryptons in '64. Steve had also given me an e-mail address for **John Toller** ('59) & soon came a reply: "Yes, you have found another old boy. Sorry, not interested in joining assoc...too long ago. I am Stephen John Toller. Family name John, but at school I was called Steve by some, but mostly in those days it was surname only, wasn't it!! Best Wishes." **Dave Peck** ('54) gave us details for **Roger Palfrey** ('60) & said "he is active (coach?) with the Football Club at ROF 37 club & also plays skittles there." **Alan Travers** had lived next door to **Stan Grigg**, who might know where Alan went, as Alan's old home was now owned by Gerber Foods, whose visitors stay overnight there now.(Any ideas, Stan?-Ed) **James Hooper** ('51): "You found me. I have always been wary of reunions, but your correspondence has me weakening. So watch this space. Can't help you with **Eric "Bandit" Hooper** ('51), but I can with **Bob Hooper** ('57 ex Chilton Polden). Sadly Bob was involved in a motor accident 07.01.04 & died of his injuries. An absolute tragedy - I know I'm biased but he really was a smashing lad & modest with it. His qualifications (Group Captain Robert Hooper MBE, MSc, BSc(Eng), C Eng, MRaES) come from the RAF list, not from Bob himself. Likewise his various promotions, on average it was about 2 years later before he bothered to tell us (if he bothered at all)." (Many thanks for sharing those thoughts with us Jim – Ed.)

And there we will end our responses for this edition, except that I said earlier (p.2, LHS) that I would do a report on Keith Ridgeway's career 'later on', so it follows below. Suffice it to say that I was in the same industry for the lengthy parts of my career, so I found it very interesting – I hope you do too. (Keith left DMS 1973.)

In his first e-mail in Nov. '06 Keith had said "I'm currently the Lead Stress Engineer for nacelles on the new Boeing 787. Life is going to be hectic until FAA certification in late 2007 so please excuse me from writing articles for now" but when he found that I too had been an aircraft design stressman, i.e. doing strength calculations to size the various components of an aircraft so that it stays in the air except when the flight crew decide otherwise, and that the design meets all the safety margins required by law, he "opened up" a bit (and remembering John Hale's article in the Feb. '08 newsletter, I'm sure John will enjoy this:

"I was staggered to find anyone else from DMS even became an engineer. I recall Francis Davey (Stump) asking me what I intended to do and he replied "mechanic eh?". The metalwork shop was for the B-stream and he couldn't understand my desire to go play on the lathes and milling machines when I could have been doing Latin. I recall Dave Crosier calmly removing one of his prosthetic legs and putting in a new rivet on the workbench and Johnny Payne casting the aluminum valve body for his home-made hydraulic jack (an A-level project). We had a wonderful Physics Teacher called Len Morley and a Math teacher called Colin Street whom I remember with gratitude.

I became an MoD Student Apprentice at Farnborough, did Aero Engineering at Bristol University as part of a 1-3-1 sandwich course, then a Commissions Board with REME and spent a few weeks at Sandhurst (we mutually decided this was a bad idea when I failed the 27 minute maximum for a 3-mile run in full kit). Then I went to Huntingings and worked on the LAW80 anti-tank missile, then 5 years at Westlands with the Lynx and Merlin helicopter blades before going on strike in '85 (the Heseltine affair).

By mid 1985 we were broke, there was a 3-day week and as Bob Dylan said "when you ain't got nothing you've got nothing to loose". I found a job with Sundstrand in Rockford, Illinois and discovered the real meaning of Winter! They made the mistake of sending me to San Diego on business and I brought the family. We fell in love with the place and that's how I found this job at Goodrich Aerospace (formerly Rohr). We've been here for 18 years and will probably retire here. In 1992 we became American citizens, which means you get to vote against idiots like George Bush - but that's democracy for you.

We're just about to do the 787 Flying Test Bed work at Mojave for GE and Rolls Royce (both companies have elderly 747's with the left inboard engine pylon adaptable for new engine tests). Then it's on to the Fan Blade Out tests where they detonate a fan blade at max power and our nacelle has to survive the ride and contain debris - lots of fun. After that it's Flight Test and Certification. Most of the time I'm exhausted but I have to say it's a fascinating job and I'm really proud of my crew. I've got 25 stress engineers from the USA, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, England and Romania. During world cup I encouraged them to stick flags above their desks! "E pluribus Unum" as Stump would have said! Anyway, All the best and say hi to the class of '73 (or those whose livers held out)."

Keith Ridgeway. ridgeway_keith@yahoo.com

My comment back to Keith was "Some of my old colleagues were involved in liaison with Airbus in the States but that wouldn't involve you I suppose if you are on Boeing 787 direct. Best of luck, you may get yours in the air even before Airbus A380 gets into service if things don't soon improve!! Isn't it a small world! Wonder if we are the ONLY 2 DMS aircraft stressmen?!!!" – Well come on all you old boys out there, surprise both of us!

Now after all those 4 pages of solid reading, why not a break for something a bit “lighter” –

We continue our occasional series of “WHO AM I”, and not just one but THREE this time; two from the antipodes, and one from ‘who knows where?’



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

If you have read all the foregoing pages carefully you will have a big clue to two of these old boy’s identities. The third one, and not necessarily in 1, 2, 3 order, was sent to me some time ago and, I am ashamed to say, I have mislaid the identity and accompanying e-mail – so I would really like to know who this is (perhaps the owner will recognise his picture and could contact me, please.) Please e-mail, phone, or text your guesses to me, see p.8 bottom for contact details. FREE MEMBERSHIP 2009 to the first person to get all 3 correct. This must include some proof of who the unknown person is, if we haven’t an up-to-date e-mail address to check him out!

Sorry, but the persons shown above are excluded from this quiz! - but many thanks to them for the pictures - Ed.

.....**And now to follow** in the “lighter” theme for the rest of this page, we go back to the night of 22nd September 2007 at the our after-dinner entertainment by Bob Webb “a Londoner now living in Swansea”, with apologies to him if I have not got them quite as he would have said them. (My notes had to be very brief and fast to keep up with him.)

His wife had queried where he was going that night, when she found he had to go to Bridgwater as an after-dinner speaker she offered to get the car out of the garage ready for him. “She reversed the car out – the pity was that I had reversed it in last night!”

On the way he broke down. He waved down a local motorist. “Have you got any jump leads?” Bob asked. “ Well I’ve got 48 names in Weston-Super-Mare” said the stranger!

Having got going again, he later stopped at the motorway services for a snack. He picked up a pasty, a packet of crisps and a coffee. He took out a £20 note to pay at the till, but had to put the crisps back!

Last winter a Jehovah’s Witness had come to his door. He had him in, told him to warm him himself by the fire, & gave him a bacon sandwich. “Now what was it you wanted?” Bob asked. “Crikey, I don’t know; I’ve never got this far before!!” was the reply.

“My wife and I had a row on our wedding day.” “Whatever about?” Well all my mates were there but she wanted to be in the photos!!”

Then some time later he must have been dreaming in his sleep and muttered something about “lovely Linda”. “Whose this lovely Linda?” asked his wife next morning. Quick as a flash Bob replies “She’s a horse in the 4.30” Later that day his wife sought him out again – “Your horse has just rung up!” she said.....

Talking of horses, “Have you ever shod a horse?” “No, but I did once tell a donkey to sod off!”

Well that will do for now – I had already got carried away and gone onto the next page, before I reduced the font size, but all his jokes seemed to lead one into another. That’s exactly what they did on the night and an hour was soon gone!! I can now get in the following sad news sent to me by Richard Hiseman in late February:- “I was down in Bridgwater at the beginning of the month for a couple of days. Sadly the reason for my visit was to attend the funeral of my old and very good friend Steve Berry. He passed away on the 27th January, a few days after his 69th birthday. What was particularly nice was that another old pal, Alan Chapel, had flown down from Inverness. He and Steve lived next to one another when they were both in short trousers so their friendship went back many, many years.” Many thanks Richard for that information regarding a DMS ‘old boy’ of our time (1950’s)

AN IDEA...With grateful thanks to Ray Haines (DMS 1953 TO 1960)

Committee member Ray has come up with this idea and we all hope many more members will contribute in the future.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The school spanned many decades and two buildings, Mount Street and Durleigh Road in living memory. There are people from the many eras who won’t know stories from other generations, but there will always be some shared experiences.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Your first day at Dr. Morgan’s?

Mine: Train from Brent Knoll. Taxi from Bridgwater station to Dr. Morgan’s with three 6th formers (from Weston?). They were Gerald Middle, Tony Adlam and Dennis Arnold. (I have just added all these to our “lost old boys” list as we didn’t know of any one of them, and it would be nice if we could arrange a reunion of them with Ray if they are still around. – Ed.) They were kind to me.

Arrive at school and knew no-one. Most boys had been to a primary school with at least one or two others – not me, I was the first boy from Brent Knoll.

Result – FEAR!

Form Teacher – Mr Bollom – MORE FEAR!

Break & Lunchtime – BULLYING – MORE FEAR but met and befriended a few boys from Highbridge (John Ryan, John Brennan, John Curran & Alan Ward) (& we only had the middle two of these on our lists - the other two have now been added - Ed.)

MATHS – Percy Gillard. He set homework from a textbook called ‘Durrell’s Mathematics’, a green covered book. As it happened, ‘Cuckoo’ Packer had also issued us with a green covered book for Geography. I took the Geography book home by mistake, hence no Maths homework – what a start!

Going home – NO TAXI! We had to leg it all the way. School finished at 4pm., train time 4.45pm. Next train 7.30pm. Enough said.

That was my first day at Morgan’s – I didn’t want to go on the second day.

Many thanks to Ray for that eye opener. It all sounds terrible, BUT...in the next newsletter I shall use Ray’s “Potted History ~ (Professional)” and “Potted History ~ (More Personal)” and I can assure you that from that disastrous first day things obviously changed significantly – Ed.

I note too that Ray has added this little message: “Having thoroughly enjoyed attending three annual reunion dinners of the DMA up to and including 2006, and at those, meeting many ‘boys’ after a lapse of, in some cases, 43 years, my enthusiasm and nostalgia has led me to serving on your committee. I sincerely hope that I can make some positive contributions.” (Well I think the above articles are a pretty good start! – Ed.)

**St Margaret's Church, Westminster: Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD BIFFEN DL 3 NOV.1930 – 14 AUG 2007
Tuesday 19 Feb. 2008, Noon**



The Hon. John Biffen was an Old Boy of Dr. Morgan's School and was born in Combwich on Nov. 3 rd. 1930. Fellow Old Boy of both DMS and Combwich, Brian Haggett, who was also a family friend of John, applied for, and got, a ticket for the Service and also agreed to represent our Association in memory of John. His short report is given below together with excerpts from the service.

Brian Says "My day in London, mixing with the elite, is over. My report to you may be somewhat disappointing. My ticket dictated that I was nearer the back of the church than the front. Consequently, I was unable to see who was coming and going. Sir Geoffrey Howe was not far from me. I was told that Lady Thatcher was there. I also saw Betty Boothroyd. I was unable to see who was the Queen's representative. The church was practically full. I'm afraid no one asked if I was representing any organisation. I did manage a few words with Lady Sarah (John's widow – Ed.) after the service."

The Service Booklet states: The service is conducted by The Very Rev. Dr. John Hall, Dean of Westminster. The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's church, conducted by Aidan Oliver, director of Music. The organ is played by Thomas Trotter. Music before the service was 'Prelude & Fugue in D minor BWV539' and 'An Wasserflüssen Babylon BWV653' both by J.S.Bach (1685-1750). The Lord Mayor of Westminster was received and conducted to her place. The Lord Speaker & The Clerk of the Parliaments, The speaker of the House of Commons, and the Representative of Her Majesty the Queen were treated similarly. The Introit "Lead me Lord. Lead me in thy righteousness" by S.S.Wesley was sung by the choir. The Dean gave The Bidding; this was followed by the hymn "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer" & John's stepdaughter Lucy Eggleton read from Hebrews 11: 1-7. The choir sang Psalm 67 & John's stepson read Rabbi Ben Ezra by Robert Browning. The hymn "Dear Lord and Father of mankind" followed, and then The address by Owen Paterson MP. The choir sang the anthem "O How amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of Hosts" and this was followed by another address from Anthony Howard CBE. The Dean then led all in prayer, which included "Merciful God, hear us as we remember John with love. We thank thee for the gift of his life and for the privilege of sharing that life. Help us to see beyond our grief, inspire us to live with faith renewed, and strengthen us to deepen our trust in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. As we have remembered John's faith which sustained him let us pray that God would increase in each of us the gift of faith... Remembering John's service to this nation in Parliament, let us pray for all who represent this Kingdom in Parliament..." Later came the Lord's Prayer and Colin Baillieu reading from 'The St George's Day Address' by J Enoch Powell (1912-98). The Battle Hymn of the Republic – "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" and the Blessing by the Dean brought the service to its close. The organist played the Regimental march of the Royal Engineers: 'Wings' arr Wm. Newstead, and Fantasia on Komm, heiliger Geist BWV651 by J.S.Bach. The bells of St Margaret's Church were then rung by the St Margaret's Society of Change Ringers.

The Court Circular, Buckingham Palace, Feb. 19th., noted that The Queen was represented by the Baroness Seacombe (Extra Baroness in Waiting) at the Service of thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Biffen (formerly Secretary of State for Trade and lord Privy Seal and leader of the House of Lords) which was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster abbey, London SW1, today.

Also present were Kenneth Clarke, Lord Heseltine, Baroness Thatcher, Lord Lawson, Lord Howe, & Brian! Many thanks to Trevor Earthy who also sent me a report on the commemoration service which he had seen "on line".

• **John Biffen photo acknowledgement:**

We thank Brian Haggett (DMA member) for loaning us the original photo of John Biffen from which the photo on Page 8 was obtained. We acknowledge with great thanks the photography agency which took the original photo, circa 1983, i.e. Universal Pictorial Press & Agency Ltd. – we have tried on several occasions to contact them for explicit permission to publish, both by post & e-mail, but no reply has been forthcoming. Thanks also to committee member Clive Kett for scanning and reducing it to fit into our article.

Jim Murphy, R.I.P.

In early April, I received the following e-mail from Rod Bishop:

Dear Geoff, I'm still in Western Australia enjoying beautiful weather but will be returning to the UK in 3 weeks time after 6 months away.

You may or not remember the science teacher at the girls Grammar School, Jim 'spud' Murphy who over the years always kept in touch with Diane and I. Jim was Diane's mentor at the girls Grammar school and he was a delightful fellow. We have just received a letter from the UK saying that Jim died a few weeks ago in London at the ripe old age of 93. It may be worth mentioning in your news letter as Jim Murphy was a well know and respected science teacher throughout the 50's and 60's at the girls school.

Regards, Rod Bishop 05.04.08.

Many thanks for that Rod, Ed.

Mike Silby, R.I.P.

I had an e-mail from Mike Dodden on 16th. April telling me that Mike Silby (DMS Class 1965-1972) had passed away in Lowestoft Hospital, age 53. Clive Kett also informed me of this sad news. Many thanks to both of them for passing on the information.

Michael Squibbs, R.I.P.

Since this newsletter was first drafted we are sad to report the passing of Mike earlier this year. He will be missed by his family and many friends in Bridgwater including members of the Dr. Morgans Society. Mike Dodden has a particular memory of Mike who was known in Bridgwater, before his move to New Zealand for a number of years, as a fine jobbing builder. Shortly after MD learnt to drive in 1971 his parents commissioned MS to erect a car port at the side of their property in Quantock Road. MD remembers very vividly his words that it would last for about 10-15 years. 37 years later it is still in place!

May all the above deceased rest in peace.

Geoff Marchant, Editor.

Committee contacts:

Mike Dodden 01278 423890 mdodden@aol.com ;
Mike Beaumont 01278 786888 beauuk@aol.com ;
Bill King 01278 456405 louise@king1197.fsnet.co.uk ;
Geoff. Marchant 01934 834550 YattonMarchants@hotmail.co.uk ;
Ralph Sealey 01278 722934 ralphandanna@tiscali.co.uk ;
Clive Kett 01278 423229 clivekett@hotmail.com ;
Ray Haines 01278 450834 rayandcarole21@talktalk.net

Material For Newsletter. Please write, phone, text, or e-mail, to Geoff Marchant, 37 Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset, BS49 4HR. Tel: 01934 834550 Txt: 07906 569 915 E-mail: Please send to YattonMarchants@hotmail.co.uk