

DR. MORGAN'S ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

Editor: Geoff. Marchant; see details for item submissions on page 4.

“Newsletter Special Edition” Drop-off.

Back in early September 2005 I produced a special edition of the DMA Newsletter to introduce myself as the “New Scribe” and to ask for material for future newsletters. From a chance conversation at the end of October between my wife and a member who had been unable to attend the 2005 dinner, I began to suspect that perhaps only those booked to attend that dinner had actually received that special edition. I now find this is true, so I am attaching a copy to this one – apologies to those who have already read it, but perhaps a re-cap will produce more material, the supply has certainly dried up in recent weeks! I realise this copy should have gone out with the “Post Dinner” edition, but that had already been distributed when reality dawned. Luckily, some follow-up notes to items in that first edition do appear in this Spring edition, so perhaps it is quite appropriate to have a “Back Reference”! Please send in any items as shown in “Material For Newsletter” (this newsletter, back page, bottom right) and note that the date of the 2006 dinner (23rd Sept., Bar 27 again) was given in the same location in my “Special Edition” so I didn’t repeat it in the last one – what a pity! Some members rightly queried when and where it was to be.

Who am I?

The photo on the third page of the last newsletter was of **Richard F. Hiseman** (DMS 1951 – 6 & ‘Dick’ to all at that time), a fellow classmate of mine but who, unlike me, was a member of both the cricket and rugby teams. I knew he now lived in Scotland and looked up ‘Hiseman’ in the local phone book where we were staying on the banks of Loch Lomond last August. I left a query on the number shown for the only Hiseman listed, & by sheer luck it turned out to be him! He phoned me back in the middle of dinner the same night and we have corresponded

twice since then. He sent the recent photo of himself “at my happiest, i.e. with a glass of red wine in my hand!” taken earlier in 2005 when he & his wife Mairi popped out to Portugal to celebrate his 65th birthday. Seizing the opportunity, I used it for the quiz. I must admit I was dead disappointed when no-one came up with **any** name, let alone the correct one, but I suppose we do go back a long time...! Does anyone have a photo for a similar future quiz? If so please send it, or a **light** photocopy, to me A.S.A.P. (N.B. e-mailed photos to be sent to Mike Dodden please.)

Your Committee.

The DMA committee members, with any specific area of interest, are now as follows: Mike Dodden 01278 423890; mdodden@aol.com - Chair, organisation, membership. Send membership list changes & any e-mail photos to Mike please.

Mike Beaumont 01278 786888

Bill King 01278 456405; louise@king1197.fsnet.co.uk - media & display boards. Bill is always pleased to learn of any DMS items which can be bought or borrowed for display at our dinners.

Geoff. Marchant 01934 834550; Newsletter editor - see p.4 for item submissions.

Ralph Sealey 01278 722934

Your committee met on Thursday 17th Nov.’05 when items included finance, membership, newsletter circulation, 2006 dinner & search for possible speaker, 2007 dinner & 2006 site visit possible arrangements, & staff profiles for inclusion in future newsletters. **Matters arising:** a) **Mike Dodden’s 1972 whole school roll-out photo ‘lost’ from the display areas after the 2005 dinner has still not been returned – do we have to assume this was taken deliberately? EVERYONE, PLEASE double check what you took home & contact Mike if you have it.** b) The cost of a professional speaker was roughly £700, or more, but it was considered worth it in view of the much better entertainment value. The 2005 dinner atmosphere had been the best for ages. c) Funds would be made available to send out the Spring 2006 newsletter to all the 2004 membership (in view of the free year in 2005) but this would carry a “last time” appeal to all those who had not answered during all that time. **PLEASE NOTE: If there is still no answer, they will then be removed from the circulation list. !! PLEASE NOTE!!**

d) If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of the previous DMS staff who are “still with us”, please contact the editor, or even better, go and speak to them and ask if they would be willing to give us a short account of their dates at DMS, memories, & “Where I am now, how I’m doing now”. Any accounts from members on staff no longer with us, and who have not been previously featured in the newsletter, would also be welcomed by your editor.

First Reply, First career Story.



The “Special Edition” of the Newsletter had hardly been circulated when I had an e-mail reply from Dave Peek with information on Robert Atkins mentioned in that Newsletter.

Dave lives in Woolavington, near the Atkins home where brother John now lives. Dave’s wife knows John’s wife & so we found out that Robert currently works in Nigeria but was educated in Canada, so not at DMS. Dave also pointed out that he, as well as me, used to work at BAJ at Banwell, “our paths must have crossed many times” he said, “I was there from 1969 until closure in the late 80’s.” Well how could I let that opportunity pass? I went straight back to Dave & requested a summary of his working life for this Newsletter. I got quite a missive by return, with the comment “Hope you can précis a few anecdotes from this diatribe, I forgot to mention my GCE’s did not include English!” (But he got the é so I was well impressed!!) Dave’s career left him with the idea that whatever firm he went into soon came to a sticky end - I can assure him that, as we both went into engineering, i.e. one of the trades which put the “Great” into “Great Britain”, & as we went through the era when the political mentality seemed to be “We don’t need “dirty hands” industrial jobs in this country anymore, we perhaps both suffered more than the average number of moves and/or redundancies.

He starts by saying “...my working life, I was about to correct the typing, but on reflection it may be the correct Freudian slip, & the consistent thread through my career!” His GCE results, except in Maths (good start for engineering) were not good so an extra term was required to obtain 4 more passes, one of which was Art. The Christmas re-sit, with no attendance at any intermediate lessons, found him committed to producing a “still life” in charcoal. “This was not my best medium nor art my vocation, so copying the other students sizing up still life with the thumb brought invigilator Colin Uzell to his knees stifling laughter when he walked past my effort which consisted of a drawing of one large thumb. This had to be hastily smudged out, upon which it improved & became a remarkably modern version of the still life as viewed through an early morning haze. The resultant PASS also caused a fit in poor old Ansdell who could not

believe it” “They must be mad” was Ansdell’s comment! “Following this I was able to take an engineering apprenticeship at Wilmot Breeden, car component makers to Austin, Morris, etc. Situated in Colley Lane, Bridgwater, they closed about 2 years later & moved back to Birmingham, selling the site to Wellworthy” who kept Dave on to complete his apprenticeship.

This rude awakening, rekindled his interest in education, “I moved from Zero to Hero in just a few years, reaping not only a cup for ‘Best Apprentice of the Year’ (possibly helped by the fact that I was the **only** one in my year!), but also, with distinctions in Maths at ONC, & a pass at HNC at Bridgwater College in the last year the course was run there, I was awarded the ‘Payley-York cup, followed by an offer to end my final apprentice year in the Drawing Office.” With other staff leaving for more lucrative jobs (Wellworthy’s move to B’water had been the prospect of cheap labour) he soon had the whole office to himself “apart from the boss who promptly delegated work faster than I could cope.” Marriage & house purchase soon forced a move, to the Planning Office of Westlands in W-S-M. Here, boom & bust depended on the contracts obtained, so after survival of 3 redundancies in less than 2 years, Dave moved to BAJ Planning Office. (Why did he think that would be any more stable, I ask, in retrospect!) “BAJ had Rocket Motor, Pressure Vessel, Nuclear, Tribomet & Plasma Spray coatings, & later Naval (mine-sweep), businesses. “It took some 18 years, but in the end they all finished on the site, so I returned again to my first work site. Wellworthy had merged, morphed, & finally sold out to Federal Mogul, who also started closing sites & moving work to cheaper areas. One such brought part of the Birmingham plant to Bridgwater, “Where my computer expertise gained at BAJ involved integrating the businesses into a common form, and the experience gained me a new skill in Sales.” When the two existing sales staff retired, Dave found himself running the Sales Office, “my desk situated only yards away from that of my previous sojourn there. But not for long! Cheap labour is too strong a pull, so during my final years work was transferred out to Poland, Turkey, Korea, S. Africa, & finally in a small but worrying way, to China (watch this space Poland et al, your turn will come quicker than you expect!”

“As I became 60 in Feb 2003, the Bridgwater site was already in the process of closing. I chose to retire in May, coinciding with my presentation of a clock for 15 (oops! I inadvertently typed 115, Ed.!!) years service. The site closed at the end of the year.” The sting in the tale was that Dave’s AVC fund was with Equitable Life, & Federal Mogul slid into Administration thus endangering his pension fund, but he is hopeful that the new government protection fund will “bail out my final years!” “Some hopes” he says, “I’ve only 2 years to go to old age pension, which should augment any further

reductions, however the stories of Gordon's future plans once he is PM suggest I am already having a negative influence on this the nearer I get to getting it!"

At the 2005 dinner, Dave in common with others, got David Shepherd to autograph his menu, above which David wrote "Dust to Dust, Ashes to England". Dave sent it to a brother-in-law in Perth, Australia where "it was well received"!

Strange Encounters of the DMS Kind! (Contd.)

Rather embarrassingly, Mike Dodden's memory played him a trick and the 'stranger' at The Oval was not the person claimed in the 'Special Edition' – we are still waiting a claimant (& possibly a claim as well for publishing the wrong name!!) On firmer ground, Mike recounted after the Nov. committee meeting how he and his wife, Kim, had visited Bridgwater, Massachusetts, some years ago and Mike had taken a photo of their lad (who was then keen on fire engines) standing by the Bridgwater, Mass. fire engine (suitably marked-up) outside of the Fire Station. A chap came out from the adjacent Town Hall and asked if he could help them. On learning they came from Bridgwater, **Somerset, England**, ("My Gawd!!") he said they must come inside and meet a lady member of the staff who had a friend who lived near there. It turned out that she lives in North Petherton and when her name was mentioned Kim knew her very well too!

At least they did better than me (your editor) when in Boston in 1970, on my own & driving a hire car, I tried numerous times to find my way onto the required freeway to go to Bridgwater, Mass. Eventually I ran out of time & patience and had to give up! However, I did get to Groton School, rang with the school band of ringers for Sunday morning service, and was treated to lunch with all the school, before flying out to Heathrow that evening in the most torrential storm I had ever encountered. With thunder & lightning all around on the tarmac & for the first few thousand feet, I bet I wasn't the only one on board praying that we made it safely!

I also got Ralph Sealey to recount how that, when on their antipodean travels in March 2005, he and his wife had met a lady priest in Dunedin Cathedral. She was also the "Parish Nurse", a new title to us! It turned out that she has two sisters in Bridgwater and one in Taunton. She will be going to Lyng, Somerset in 2006 for her niece's wedding. (That's the second person from "down under" I've heard of in a week who is visiting England in 2006, the other being a lady cousin of mine who will be on a 'Trefalgar Tour' from South Australia & who I haven't seen since the early 50's, when the family emigrated & she was a girl of 6 or 7 – I do hope her itinerary allows us to meet somewhere! Ed.)

Ralph also went into the Tourist Office in Cromwell, South Island to arrange their accommodation for when they arrived on North Island. The lady there suggested they stay in Wellington. Ralph was sceptical, and said to his wife "That's only the administrative capital, a bit like Taunton." "And what's wrong with Taunton?" cut in the lady – "my great grandfather came from there!"

...And Non-Encounters! (or the wrong ones!)

On the flip side of the coin, I'm sat at my first committee meeting in Bar 27, having been invited to join them, & I'm reminding Mike Beaumont of a New Year's Eve dance we and our spouses went to 40 or so, years ago. I said we had all visited (now the late) Ken Vile in the Langport Arms Inn & he suggested we came on in to the dance; & then my wife & I had gone down again the following year, only to find it was now a private party. Not to be outdone, we had sat in the car & discussed who we could invade on our way home. We decided on the people we had been with the previous year. So they were just off to bed at home in Bridgwater when we rang their doorbell, but made us very welcome. Mike Beaumont looks very vague & says "You can remember things I can't!" He didn't say "No. I never went to the Langport Arms' New Year's Eve dance!" so I'm still convinced about the

correctness of my story...- BUT...,when I get home my wife says “You’ve got that wrong, it was Mike **Bown!** i.e. another Mike B., & yet another Bridgwater accountant, but the wrong one!! **Apologies to both!** (Does anyone know where Mike Bown is nowadays?)

...& an encounter/non-encounter with important DMS memorabilia: Bill King tells me that only the two latest honours boards were available when Tony Wilkins went to their rescue when DMS became Haygrove Comprehensive, the remainder, as far as he knows, had already been burnt. What a pity that Bill & Tony had not been alerted by the then headmaster a little bit earlier. I recently learned that Stephen Croade’s name was on one of these boards, & my name was on one of the first ones! (Ed.) Stephen was one of the names in the ‘untraced’ list below, but thanks to a chance phone call by me to his cousin who lives on Durleigh Rd. we can now make contact.

Untraced DMS Old Boys (& note that two girls from the combined DMS & Girls Grammar era also contacted Mike re last year’s dinner, but were a bit put off by the news of an otherwise “all male” company!)

As room allows, I shall be appealing for help to trace those old boys for whom we have names but insufficient data to trace by mail or e-mail. If you know of their whereabouts please contact Mike Dodden. Failing that, if you have a bit of time to spare and live well away from Bridgwater, please search your local phone book & let me or Mike know if there is a likely entry for any of the following (take a few at a time; believed DMS entry date 19--shown):**Acland,John,55;Arrigoni,Paul,67; Awre,Richard,67; Birt,Roger,58; Ayres,Chris?59;&David,57; Bailey,?? & ??, 53 & 58; & Phil,56; Baker,Adrian,67 & Alan,??; &Dave,56; & Jeremy,65; &Richard,58; & Stephen,69; Ball, Colin, ??; Banwell, Steven,64; Barnes, Andrew,64; & David,54; Barrett, Andy, ??; Beaton, ??, 54; Beardsworth, Peter,57;& Roger,61; Beesley, Andrew, 64; Bennett, Dave, ??; Bertorelli, ??, 57; Biddle,Stephen,65;Bieraugel,Karl,60; Blackmore,John,58; & Mike,58;**

Blake,David,67; & Robert,59; Bollom,Phil; & Robert,53;to be continued.

RIP. Late last year when trying to trace an old classmate for possible membership of our association, I had a shock when I learned that **Nigel Marsh** (DMS ’51 - ’56) had died from cancer on 18th January, 2004. Born 1st Jan.1940, Nigel, one of three brothers, came from Nether Stowey. He went on to be manager of the Alliance & Leics.B.Society in Bristol, living near to me at Kingston Seymour before moving away. May he rest in peace.

Tailpiece:

An additional bit of David Shepherd’s humour from the 2005 DMA dinner, thanks to Malcolm Yard: “You don’t mind if I put my glasses on, do you? A lot of cricketers say I certainly need them!” David changed his plans from going straight on to Bristol on the Saturday night & instead stayed with Mike Dodden & family so that he could enjoy a drink after our dinner. He then left after Sunday breakfast.

DMS Site Visit.

Mike Dodden has contacted the present Haygrove headmaster & a visit on the afternoon of Sept. 23rd. is on the cards, with a couple of the staff to escort us around, & possibly refreshments available. **Please get names in to Mike if you are interested.**

Material For Newsletter.

Please write, phone, text, or **e-mail text only**, to Geoff Marchant, 37 Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset, BS49 4HR. Tel: 01934 834550 Txt: 07906 569 915 E-mail: Please put “Attn G. Marchant” as subject & send via yattmoor@dialstart.net Please do not send photos to this e-mail address as they severely clog-up the system and cause delays to other, more important, users. If you really need to send photos by e-mail, please send to Mike Dodden at mdodden@aol.com & he will make sure I get it by hand or post for the newsletter. **Finally, Please make sure you have read ‘Your Committee’ on Page 1, especially the bold bits, and take action accordingly!** “A very Happy New Year to you all”, and **please get any late subs. in to Mike Dodden A.S.A.P.** Many Thanks, Geoff. Marchant, Ed.