



AD-VISOR



The Newsletter of the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

Issue 14, Autumn 2009

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Personal Note from your Editor

Pat and I would like to thank all those Old Boys who have kept in touch with us over the last Year and a half and whose good wishes and prayers have helped us in a time of great stress. Our beloved grand daughter Amy (aged 15) was found to have a severe form of cancer in her right lung. She has had prolonged doses of radio and chemotherapy and will not have the outcome to her treatment until the end of this year. The stress on our family has been immense and your prayers and good wishes have helped us through a very difficult time in our lives. We send our thanks to you all.

Editorial

I do not know if Old Boys are aware of the fact that the school was founded in 1889 and that this year would have been the 120th anniversary. I think that all Old Boys would like to celebrate in some style and I hope as many as possible can attend the Dinner which this Year will be held on October 2nd at Caldy Golf Club. I have arranged the Dinner at Caldy for several years now and if it is your wish will continue to use this venue. We have the Club premises for our use only and they have provided quite a few perks over the years all to our benefit I would be happy to arrange a variation on this if it is the wish of the majority and would like some comments from members.

Old Instonians Golf Society

The Old Boys Golf Association has enjoyed an Annual get together arranged by Derek Turner (46/50). Derek has not had the best of health over the last couple of years and was too ill to organize last years match. Arthur Howarth (58/64) has taken on the duties and arranged the match to take place at Caldy Golf Club prior to the Dinner on October 2nd. It will take the form of an 18 hole Stapleford with full handicap. The Tee Times have been reserved from 12.30 to 2.00pm. The Green Fee will be £37.00. Interested members should contact Arthur by phone at 0151 336 1026 or by email Arthur.Howarth@btinternet.com or by post at 35, The Priory Neston, South Wirral CH64 3SP. The Competition will be for The Pyke Cup, with the Runner Up receiving the Len Malcolm Tankard. The presentations will be made at some time during the evening. We hope that this will make the day and night an event for your future diaries

Whilst it has been my pleasant duty to welcome ALL OB's of the Institute to our Dinners I have found out that some are not attending due to a slight that they feel they received during a speech given before I took over I was at that Dinner and understand the reason why they feel that way but this has gone on for a decade or more I will say that they have been contacted by both myself and a member of Staff who made contact with them in an attempt to placate the problem I will not embarrass this ex-master by naming him but he knows who he is and I thank him most sincerely for his efforts I will now make a personal appeal to them to forget that which has gone on before and let us all get back together before it is too late Remember we are all a dying group of associates Our scope for new members is limited by the demise of the Institute I will like to give an apology to any Old Boy who feels slighted and I give this without any reservation whatsoever and would like to welcome them back into the fold

There is some good news, an Old Boy working by himself has produced an interesting site that is worth looking at. It can be visited at www.freewebs.com/birkenheadinstitute/ or at biwirral@yahoo.co.uk This site has been set up by Philip Ronald-Price (60/67) Philip has put a lot of effort into the website and he is to be applauded for the depth of his research.

I would like to give my thanks to Keith Dutton (60/63) for his efforts and the help he has shown to me over the past 18 months Keith is for my money a genius on Computers and successfully dispatched the newsletters for me Saving our Association a considerable sum of money We are solvent but every little helps. I have asked for someone to come forward and keep the books in order but so far without success It should not be an onerous task for anyone with any book keeping experience I do not feel happy keeping the accounts in order and this should be audited by someone other than myself The task should not involve more than half an hour a year so please will someone volunteer One final thing if someone has anything to say about the Newsletter or its contents I would be obliged if they could address these to me please

Over the last few months I have been contacting various Old Boys to see if they can come up with some copy to tickle my taste buds. I did make contact with one Old Boy who I thought might produce some very interesting items Cecil Anderson Alldis (23/36) Cecil was Head Boy in 1936 then went up to Cambridge He later joined the RAF and after distinguished service retired in the rank of Air Commodore (CBE, AFC and DFC) He is now 91 and declined my invitation but did send me a very interesting paper he wrote on Bomber Command during the Second War This is a lengthy missive but if any one is interested I will send a copy to them I would prefer it to go by email but failing that I will print it out (it is approx 14/15 pages) and send it on (but after the Dinner) I would like to register my thanks to the Air Commodore and his Lady Secretary for their kindness and consideration during the interviews.

Last year the Dinner went down very well At the Dinner there were several masters in attendance One of the staff Ken Richards turned up with the School Bell which he had rescued during the demolition of our old School I had always wanted to ring that bell and I got my wish that night, and so did most of the other attendees The speaker was Len Malcolm This is the second time that he has spoken at our Dinner and he did his usual ten minutes leaving everyone in good spirits The last time he spoke his speech, unbeknown to him, suddenly appeared on the internet. To make sure that that does not happen again he has asked for his notes to be published and I do so herewith I will say that he deviated with great humour from his notes to acclaim at the end

Speech given by Mr. L.T. Malcolm on the occasion of the Annual Dinner on October 3rd 2008

Confession is good for the Soul. While I was born in Birkenhead. I soon moved to Hoylake and my first school was a Church of England School in School Lane: Miss Turton and Miss Salt. On leaving, I went to Caldby Grange Grammar School--- I am an Old Caldean. I then moved to live in Higher Bebington which led me to entering Birkenhead Institute Junior School, little knowing that one day I would be Deputy Headmaster.

1935 - Form 1.

1936 - Form 2. Head Mistress, Miss Bowers, a large lady with a 'sit up and beg' bicycle. The other staff: Miss Booth, Miss Dyer, Mrs Davies and Miss Dawn. The janitor, Russell, always in uniform with peaked cap, appeared each day to ring the school bell above the bicycle shed to cause laggards to hare along Hollybank Road.

Then to the big school **1937/1938 Forms 3J/4J** Form master Mr Thacker. One of the great pleasures was the School Scout Troop --- 23rd Birkenhead which was run by Don Coughtrie. Others were Ken Coughtrie, John and Geoff Wetherall, Frank Tomlinson, Don Magee. Weekly meetings. Camps at weekends at Overchurch. Easter at Brynbach and Summer Camps at Gatehouse of Fleet near Kirkcudbright (Dumfries) and Wooton Fitzpaine near Charmouth (Dorset).

1939 - RJ. Instruction to meet at Woodside Station for the evacuation to Oswestry. On arrival, the School lined up in Cae Glas Park and were issued with gas masks. W.E. Williams, who taught History, went along the serried ranks with a brown carrier bag collecting catapults and pea shooters. He then held the

bag aloft and said "Disarmament Conference". The School had the use of Oswestry Boys County School on occasions but RJ was mainly in the Memorial Hall forever associated with the Grand Order of Buffaloes. However the whole School was back in Birkenhead in time for the bombing. The bicycle shed was turned into an air raid shelter. Birkenhead was a prime target because of the presence of Cammell Laird Shipyard. On the 13th of March 1941 two incendiaries came through the gym. roof but, fortunately, were extinguished by the fire watchers on duty. One pupil was lost: A.R. Gibbons was killed when a bomb fell in Hamilton Street.

1940 - 5J The boy in the next desk was Jasper Twining Bartlett who went on to play rugby for Waterloo and England.

The School Certificate Examination.

1941 - Lower Sixth to take Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. The school secretary, Miss Cooper, was replaced by Miss Cojeen who remained until 1975 and did yeoman service. She passed away in 2008 aged 97.

Subsidiary H.S.C. Examination

1942 - Upper Sixth. Head Prefect. 12 prefects in all. 5 have passed away:- Arthur Mandy, Fred Burls, Ken Pryde, Brian Ware, Brian Peever. Ken Smith has returned to live in this Country and I spent a happy time with him in 2008 down in Somerset. What became of Ken Osborn, Colin Boston, Harry Brooks, Frank Peers and R. Hughes?

Higher School Certificate Examination.

1943 - Up to Cambridge to read Natural Sciences at Downing College. There were 3 Old Instonians one year ahead of me ---Geoff. Foxcroft at Trinity, Bill Bryden at St. John's and Gordon Thomas at Emmanuel.

1944 - Passage of the Butler Education Act led to the closure of Junior Schools like that at B.I.

On **coming down** I was accepted as a colleague by Wynne Hughes, Biddy Harris, W.E.W, Jake Allison, Tommy Thacker, Gerry Hall, Johnny Parris, A.O. Jones, Eric Sorby et al.

Keen and Green. I was keen all right. I bought a large bottle of red ink and became an assiduous marker of books, mainly at home. Green --- I had to learn how to communicate with lads in groups of 30. I had a yard stick ---the external examinations. I recall bounding up Whetstone Lane for my first School Certificate results, praying for a sign from God that I was making progress. Into the school office and there was the sign from above ---D.S.W. Jones had passed in Physics.

In the late forties demobilisation from the armed forces was still in progress and there was a shortage of farm labourers and so the school held a farming Camp at the farm of Harry Blackburn at Great Barrow. I took over from Eric Sorby and ran the last four camps.

Saturday afternoons at Ingleborough Road and Pump Lane and travelling with cricket and rugby teams around the district: One year I also ran a cross-country team. When standing at square leg and facing the pavilion, I never dreamt that it would ever be occupied by Tranmere Rovers.

There are two War Memorials, one commemorating the fallen in the 1st World War which has 83 names, including that of Wilfred Owen, which is now in the Central Library. The other has 93 names. The pavilion in Ingleborough Road and the trees planted around the perimeter of the ground are officially recognised as a War Memorial. The surplus of the money collected to erect the 2nd Memorial Tablet was invested to provide an annual War Memorial Prize. The committee which oversaw this was Reg. Lockyer, Chairman, myself as Secretary/Treasurer, John Anderson, Paul Simpson, Duncan Milne, Hallin Winter and met annually to award the Prize to A.A. Smith in 1948 through to A. Kelly in 1988. The remaining money was donated to the Royal British Legion.

Marking-----Examinations-----Ingleborough Road

I have always been interested in the Theatre and claim the honour of being the longest serving patron of the Liverpool Playhouse having first attended there in December 1934. 2199 theatre visits to date throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland with 12 tickets in hand to mid-summer. All programmes are catalogued. Shakespeare through to Kenneth Arthur Dodd. There is only one musical I value ---- Cabaret----which I have seen 33 times. So I started a school dramatic Society which we later expanded when Old Boys joined. Productions were put on at the Y.M.C.A. in Whetstone Lane and numbered 10 in all. Together with lady guests, the Old Boys included Reg. Lockyer, Joe Clarke, Paul Simpson, Norman McBride, Gerry Williams, Norman Little, Paddy Ryan, Joe Mason, Bob Dailey, Ken Smith, Jim Healey, John Allan and Geoff. Bennett.

Marking-----Examinations-----Ingleborough Road

In 1952, combination with Rock Ferry High School was mooted. Opposition began with Reg. Lockyer calling a protest meeting in the Liberal Club in Claughton Road. I played my part by organising 5 Dinners, 2 in the Masonic Hall and 3 in the Town Hall. With the help of John Allison, I invited distinguished Old Instonians-----Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, Sir Herbert Manzoni (City Engineer of Birmingham), Professor Hallett (Durham University), Schofield Allen (Recorder of Blackburn), W.L. Cottier (M.O.H. Willenhall). A protest letter was sent to the Ministry of Education-----Eric Webb provided the facts, I wrote the letter which was signed by Roy Dorrity. The scheme was abandoned. The Old Instonians Association was formed and I was appointed Chairman. Club Rooms were opened at 40 Argyle Street from 1961 to 1967.

Marking-----Examinations-----Ingleborough Road

Eric Webb talked me into organising tours abroad in the summer holidays. 1953/1972. 7 countries in 20 years with over 500 lads involved. Collective passports to hand.

Marking-----Examinations-----Ingleborough Road

1970. The formation of Comprehensive Schools. Kirklands joined with Rock Ferry High School, Hamilton with Park High School and Grange with Birkenhead Institute. Because there was no room for expansion B.I. moved to Tollemache Road. Additional building. Improved facilities. Fortunately all boys. Eric Webb took some staff to Woodchurch High School but the majority came with me. The school doubled in size and the staff increased from about 20 to 50 It is a pleasure for me to see so many Old Instonians at this dinner and I request that you recruit even more members.

My bottle of red ink was empty and so I left B.I., taught elsewhere for 3 years and then retired. So many photos.

BI 1935 In 1982 Out

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The following has been provided by our research Officer Rob Wood (54/60)

To planning application yet on the Ingleborough Road Playing Fields by Tranmere Rovers although the owner's debt has been converted into a mortgage on the land.

N
Drastic pruning took place to some of the commemorative trees around the perimeter of the playing field without permission from the WBC Tree Preservation Officer fortunately this was spotted and reported to the Council.

The second World War Plaque is still in the Birkenhead Town Hall and can be seen on request . With the proposed disposal of the building under discussion, it has been suggested this plaque along with those from Park High and Rock Ferry be placed in the new Academy which is proposed in Borough Road. Be assured the situation regarding the B I plaque is being monitored. Old boys may be interested in the history of the War Memorial Plaques

WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUES

First World War Plaque

Presented by Alderman Solly and unveiled in March 1920 by Major-General Sir Reginald Barnes K.C.B. The plaque is on the stairway of Birkenhead Central Library along side a stained glass window in honour of Wilfred Owen.

Second World War Plaque

Paid for by subscription from school and Old Boys.

Appeal started Christmas 1948.

Unveiled 18th December 1949 by the Mayor Alderman Griffith Davies.

Memorial service by Rev. K Crosby in Hall.

Plaque dedicated by Rev A.C Turnbull.

The plaque is at present languishing in the basement of the former Birkenhead Town Hall.
It can be viewed on request.

The Tranmere Hall Residents Association has been dismissive of the Ingleborough Road Playing Fields as a War Memorial on the basis that no Memorial Services were ever held there. Old Boys will recall Memorial Services were held in the School. That is where the Plaques were installed and dedicated.

A national audit of all memorials was undertaken on behalf of the Imperial War Museum.

A resident of the Wirral a Mr Cocker was appointed to carry out the task on the Wirral.

A full list of the sites can be seen by going to the web site www.ukniwm.org.uk and entering Wirral in the search

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Obituaries and other items of interest

Last year I included in the list of obituaries, one for The Rev Ian Latto. Ian has been retired at Malpas for some years and had reached the ripe old age of 95. I was informed that he had died from an OB, who to save his blushes will always remain nameless. Imagine my surprise to find that Ian was very much alive and well. I was so surprised that when I spoke with him, I asked him 'Where exactly are you speaking from'. When our explanations were complete, Ian told me that 'the rumours of his demise were greatly exaggerated'. I extend a full apology to Ian and my thanks for his understanding. A mistake like this could have been very disturbing to his whole family and I wish him now that he is in his 97th year many more years of a happy life. He informed me when I rang him last week that he had just come back from a long walk around 'The Meres', a system of lakes in the hills around Malpas. At 97 a truly remarkable man.

The following Old Boys have all died in the last few months.

Alan Galt (24/29) Alan was in his late 90's when he died. He never missed a reunion Dinner and was a founder member of , as they liked to be called , The Old Farts Table. Another member of their table is Eric Bibby (26/32) who lived in Storeton Road at its junction with Prenton Lane. Eric has disappeared off the radar, if any Old Boy can help with his whereabouts please let me know.

Gerry Haggerty (47/54) Gerry wrote one of those special articles for the AdVisor. The one about Brian Huntriss. This one was special because it described a unique member of our Association in such detail that people who did not know Brian would have picked him out in a passing crowd. Gerry travelled down from Scotland every year for the Dinner

Gordon (Egg) Williams (33/38) Egg was one of the senior Officers of Old Instonians Rugby Football Club in its halcyon days.

Hallin Winter (29/36) has died at the age of 91. After attending School, Hallin returned as a Master. He played Rugby for both School and the BIOB. The initial game was played against Oldershaw, he had the honour of scoring the first try. The game was played on February 16th, 1936.

John Liggett (41/47) Died February 11th, 2009 John played Rugby, was an active member of the Dramatic Society, and was Captain of Atkin House 1946/47.

Please return the completed form to :-

**Harry Burkett
13 Prenton Farm Road
Prenton
Birkenhead
CH43 3BN**



APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

I will/will not be attending the Dinner at Caldy Golf Club on Friday October 2nd 2009 Time 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

(For those attending please enclose a cheque for £25 made out to BIOB).

Donations for the draw will be welcome.

Dress:- Blazer and Flannels or Lounge Suit.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Email ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

(including dial code)

YEAR OF BIRTH.....

Any Dietary Arrangements.....