



AD-VISOR



The Newsletter of the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

Issue 17, Autumn 2012

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Editorial

I am indebted to Keith Dutton for all his help with my very limited understanding of emails and other computer jargon. It was Keith who sent out the information about Miss Price and everyone with an email address was informed within about two hours. I would like to invite all those who have access to the internet but have not informed me to please let me have their contact details. This will help us with costs and keep everyone in immediate touch with our Association. Everyone I am sure would like us to keep them advised regarding the situation with the School Playing Fields and I promise that all members who are on the internet will be advised as quickly as is possible. This will not be possible with the very few who still rely on surface mail. I think that everyone is aware of the savings that Keith has brought to our little family and I thank him for his efforts.

We have two Research Assistants who produce fine articles for this newsletter I append their latest efforts. David Lee has done an excellent piece on Henry Tate and will research the other Houses and they will be printed as they arrive. If anyone has information that could prove useful for this exercise then please forward them to me as soon as possible. Rob Wood has taken a leading part in showing our disgust at the proposals for the development of the Ingleborough Road Playing Fields. The greed and complete disregard that certain people have for the dead of the last two World Wars is beyond my comprehension.

It has been discovered that Dick Bell has personal recollections of the poplar trees being planted. He was one of the juniors who was selected for the planting ceremony.

The Dinner last year was a great success, I suggested that a change of venue for this year might be welcome but everyone was adamant that the Caldy Golf Club was right. We have decided to keep the price the same as last year. I understand that there will be the usual Golf match the same afternoon as the Dinner (October 5th) but so far have been unable to speak to the Organiser.

My thanks go out to Jack Bassett, Mike Pollard and Joe Morgan. There are other people who come at my request and always with a good heart and to them I say a BIG thank you.

We have made objections to the LATEST planning application by Tranmere Rovers for housing on Ingleborough Road. Objectors can register their own objections to Application No. 12/00824 by writing direct to Matthew Rushton; Principal Planning Officer; Department of Regeneration Housing and Planning ; Cheshire Lines Building ; Canning Street Birkenhead CH41 1ND or to www.matthewrushton@wirral.gov.uk

I mentioned Dick Bell earlier in my notes and it reminded me that he sent me a signed copy of his book that he had had published some five years ago. It is an admixture of prose and verse and I send this without any further comment,

Dementia

Sitting by your bedside
Watching
As your life draws slowly to its end
Talking
Very softly of the happy times
That we have known
Humming
Bits of songs that meant so much
Melodies of long ago
Swearing
At the gods that let old age
Rob you of your memories
Wondering
If you can hear the words I say
Or if you understand
Hoping
That you can sense
The love that still remains
Wishing with all my heart
That I could make you well again
But alas I cannot

Henry Tate and the Birkenhead Institute.

by David Lee

Henry Tate was born at Chorley in Lancashire and was the son of a Unitarian minister. While still a boy of 13 he was trained by his elder brother Caleb in the workings of the grocery trade. After serving an apprenticeship of seven years Henry felt ready to set up his own business and opened a shop in the old Haymarket in Liverpool. He quickly established himself as an astute trader and was able to open two more shops in Liverpool.

By 1851 he took the prime site on the corner of Market Street and Hamilton Street, at that time the heart of Birkenhead's shopping area. These premises were to become the main centre of his business activities and influenced his decision to take up residence at Heathley House, Woodchurch Road in fashionable Oxton. The site, which had extensive gardens, is now occupied by St. Joseph's Junior School.

Business boomed and by 1861 Henry Tate owned 6 shops and he began to look for alternative business ventures. He decided to capitalise on the sugar trade and began by opening a refinery in Liverpool, a venture that prompted him to leave Heathley House and move to Liverpool.

Henry had become a partner with John Wright & Co. and his new refinery was opened in Liverpool's Earl Street. Eventually, due to competition and Henry's drive for cost efficiency, a new refinery was opened at Love Lane in 1870. Within a few years the expanding business led him to open a refinery in London. The Thames refinery produced 'Tate's Cubes,' replacing the earlier 'sugar loaf' in British homes and became world famous.

Once again his astute business acumen ensured success and he then took up residence in the capital at Park Hill in Streatham

Tate rapidly became a millionaire and began to donate generously to charity. Liverpool was always close to his heart and he gave considerably to local institutions including Liverpool University, Liverpool Institute and the Royal Infirmary.

In 1889 he donated his collection of 65 contemporary paintings to the government, on condition that they were displayed in a suitable gallery. He then donated £80,000 towards the gallery that was to bear his name. The National Gallery of British Art, better known as the Tate Gallery was

opened in July 1897. Tate was a modest, rather retiring man, well known for his concern over worker's conditions. He refused a knighthood more than once and only accepted the honour when it was said that the Royal Family would be offended if he refused again.

Henry Tate's connection with Birkenhead Institute began rather surprisingly with a letter to the Proposers of the new school in 1887 suggesting that they abandon their scheme when funding was not forthcoming and the building programme was suspended. To their everlasting credit money was raised and the School was opened in 1889.

Later Tate was to forge a strong connection with the project and subsequently by the next decade had presented a number of gifts to the now well established Birkenhead Institute School. The newly opened Tate Laboratory was so named in his honour in 1892. The endowment of the Tate University Scholarship amounting to £2000 was his most generous gift. Sadly the initial recipient of the Tate Scholarship was one of the first Institute Old Boys to be killed in the Great War.

Henry Tate retired in 1896 aged 77 and died in 1899, but not before being created a baronet in 1898. He is buried in West Norwood Cemetery.

In 2006 a commemorative Blue Plaque marking the site of the early beginnings of what became an internationally known brand name was unveiled on Number 42 Hamilton Street.

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUES

by Rob Wood

Many Old Boys will recall the First and Second World War Memorial plaques in the corridor just outside the Headmasters study. A memorial service was held every year as close to Remembrance Sunday as possible and after a service in the hall we all marched past the Memorial Plaques.

After the closure of the School in Whetstone Lane the plaques were moved to the Tollemache Road site. When the Birkenhead Institute finally closed the plaques were removed.

The First World War plaque was located on the staircase in the Birkenhead Central Library in Borough Road underneath the Wilfred Owen window since the plaque bore his name.

The Second World War plaque disappeared.

We were unaware of its location until Harold Beckett contacted us to inform us it was in the basement of the Birkenhead Town Hall placed behind a filing cabinet.

Over a number of years relatives requested to see the plaque which bore the name of Old Boys killed in action in the Second World War.

Eventually The Council was persuaded to move it to a corridor on the ground floor for access.

After many years of campaigning the plaque has been removed from the corridor in the former Birkenhead Town Hall and placed in its rightful place alongside the First World War plaque on the staircase of the Birkenhead Central Library in Borough Road. The plaque was paid for by subscription from the School and Old Boys. The appeal started at Christmas 1948.

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

The Rev. K Crosby conducted memorial service in the School hall

Plaque dedicated by Rev A.C Turnbull.

Before it was fixed in its new position, an attempt was made to clean the plaque to no avail, it is not brass like the First World War plaque and is now not in the best appearance.

We have been in touch with the War Memorial Trust and it is hoped to apply for a grant from them to restore it in due course.

Any funding we receive will have to be matched and we trust Old Instonians will rally to the cause in due course.

If you have an email address, or if you change your email address, please let us know at webmaster@BIOB.co.uk

If you change you snail mail address please remember to let us know at webmaster@BIOB.co.uk

A reminder of the BIOB web site www.BIOB.co.uk

Photo Gallery - a gallery where most of the photographs are stored. Currently, the categories are Miscellaneous, School Boxing, School Staff, School Cricket, School Rugby, Old Boys Rugby, School Prefects, School Speech Day, School Sports Day and Memorabilia.

Whole School Photographs – a gallery where the long school photographs are stored. Currently showing the following years ca. 1927, 1934, 1943, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1960, 1965 & 1968.

Links – To some relevant external web sites, currently [Philip Ronald-Price](#)'s excellent web sites. [The Wilfred Owen Society](#), [Dean Johnson's Wilfred Owen Sites](#), and [Jeff Walsh](#)'s special tribute to Wilfred Owen.

History of B.I. – Two “Visor” magazines 1889 to 1949 and 1889 to 1959. Foundations and Growth 1889 to 1949.

School Holidays Abroad – Copies of “Collective Passports” from 1955 to 1972. Various school trips to European destinations.

“Visor” School Magazine – Various magazines, in full. Earliest is Christmas 1933, latest is July 1972.

“Ad-Visor” BIOB Magazine – All 17 news letters since first publication in 1998.

Old Boys Rugby – Some newspaper cuttings, mostly the Birkenhead News, from the 1960's. Mostly written by and collected by Colin Westwater. A Golden Jubilee history by Alan Steedman, written in 1985. A match program for the Golden Jubilee celebration. A link to Prenton RUFC.

BIOB Golf – Information and list of past winners of the Pyke Trophy, now played on the same day as the annual dinner.

BIOB Tie – Information on the BIOB tie.

BIOB Cuff Links & Lapel Badge – Information on the proposed cufflinks and lapel badge. Nothing changed from last year, they're still a possibility. I hope to have more information for the dinner.

Contacts – Contact details for the editor of the newsletter, your very own [Harry Burkett](#), and the editor of the web site, the up and coming youth policy, in the form of [Keith Dutton](#).

Facebook

We have an exclusive [members group](#) on social networking site Facebook. You can keep in touch with other Old Boys by joining our group. This link should get you there <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/All.BIOB/>

Wilfred Owen

For more details see www.wilfredowenstory.com

Obituary - Miss Nancy Price

Most Old Boys will have received notification of the death of Miss Price. I was in the School Hall on the day that Miss Price arrived. I will always treasure the memory of this lovely girl. She was dressed in pumps, bobby sox, white blouse and flared skirt. The testosterone level rose in the hall and the silence that descended was only broken by the sound of 500 jaws hitting the floor. She became the sweetheart of every boy at School.

I have received the following from her elder brother Tom. A most delightful man who whilst in his nineties was still willing to give of his time and effort to the memory of his sister. I am printing this Obituary in full.

Obituary Miss Price by her brother Tom Price

Nancy Jones Price (1925-2011) was the youngest of a family of four children born of Robert Price and Mary Ethel, at 101 Parson's Cross Road, Wadsley Bridge, near Sheffield, between 1917 and 1925.

The couple were Welsh, from Flintshire. Robert was a railway man, his wife a hard working housekeeper and mother. They were poor, earning thirty shillings a week with only the state pension to look forward to. But they were Wesleyan Methodists and had faith in their future. The children had a happy and secure family life in an attractive semi-rural environment. They later moved to the suburbs of Liverpool, to a large estate of corporation housing. Nancy attended a nearby elementary school. She developed a talent for drawing and painting and though she left school with no qualifications she eventually became a gifted artist, appointed as an advisor on the teaching of art.

This rise to some local prominence began in an interesting way. She had found work as a teacher without paper qualifications, accepting the lower salary this paid. She was content with what she had and enjoyed the work.

The time came when the secondary school she taught in was to be subjected to a full inspection by a large group of HMI's. Such inspections invariably terrified most of the teachers who went to great lengths to cross all the "t's" and dot all the "i's" in their work and no doubt their anxieties often caused their classroom manner to suffer. Nancy had never experienced an inspection of this sort and continued in her normal cheerful open and lively style to get the best out of the children. When the final report arrived on the headmaster's desk drawing attention to shortcomings and weaknesses, no doubt often rather undeserved, the report on Nancy Price was so glowing that it ended with the recommendation that she should be made a qualified teacher forthwith, and furthermore should be awarded back pay from the time, two or three years before, when she had started. The education authority at first declined to find the back pay but a strong letter from the chief HMI soon put them right.

Nancy's self-education with some help from the Liverpool School of Art and some travel in Europe, broadened her general experience. She also rented a studio in the Bluecoat Chambers in central Liverpool where she met other practicing artists.

She held teaching posts both at the Wirral Girls High School and at the Birkenhead Institute and later she became an advisor on art education and herself an inspector in the Merseyside area.

As a person Nancy was a simple, straight forward character, unassuming and not seeking to be known or highly regarded. She was natural and friendly, appreciative of people she met and of the good things they achieved. Nevertheless she had firmness in dealing with people and self-awareness and the quiet confidence which probably stemmed from her family's bonding during their childhood. Like her siblings she went her own way and loved life, was full of a sense of wonder even after her parents and elder sister were gone and she was left alone. She had many friends, never quarrelled, had good health and never complained. She was physically well co-ordinated, quite athletic and agile and she drove well, fast and with good judgment. In the several years since she was finally afflicted by Alzheimer's disease, she remained appreciative of what life she could live and never lost her sense of wonder. She was an example of how not to waste life.

Other Obituaries

Rex Bawden (29/38)

Harold Taylor (42/48)

Ted Riley (39/42)

Eric Molyneux (---)

Peter R H Taylor (40/45)

All of the above have passed on, but will not be forgotten.

Old Instonians Golf Society

2012 Pyke Cup

The Pyke Cup was won by Mike Hayman at last year's competition. This year the competition will take place on October 5th before the Dinner at Calday Golf Club. It is an excellent days golfing on a superb course.

It is anticipated that a special green fee in the order of £20 for non-members, as charged last year, can be arranged again with the Club for this year's competition.

It will take the form of a Stapleford Competition with full Handicap. Tee times available from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

The organiser, Arthur Howarth, can be contacted by email at :- Arthur.Howarth@BTInternet.com or on 0151 336 1026. If out, leave your details on the answerphone and Arthur will get back to you. Don't forget your own phone number.

This is a good outing organized by one of our stalwarts and is worthy of support. You are not forced to attend the Dinner as well. but we will talk about you if you don't.

The Len Malcolm Tankard has yet to be located. It went missing after its presentation the last time the competition was played at Prenton Golf Club 4/5years ago. If you know or think you know of its whereabouts please contact and advise either Harry or Arthur with the details.

Annual Dinner 2012

The Dinner last year was superb and everyone remarked on the excellent standard of the meal. We have just received this years menu's, and it is at least the equal of last years, the good news is that the price remains the same. At £28.00, I think that everyone will agree that this is still good value for a Dinner to this standard i.e. Starter; Main course: Pudding; Biscuits and Cheese; plus coffee also three bottles of wine on each table.

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

Please return the completed form to :-

Harry Burkett
13 Prenton Farm Road
Prenton
Birkenhead
CH43 3BN



I will/will not be attending the Dinner at Calday Golf Club on Friday October 5th 2012
Time 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

(For those attending please enclose a cheque for **£28.00** 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)

SCHOOL YEARS AT B.I. (To arrange SEATING Plan).....

Any Special Dietary Requirements.....