



AD -VISOR



The Newsletter of Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

Issue 6

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COMMENT

Sound the trumpets, ring the bells, raise the flag. We have recruited the 500th B.I.O.B.

So who is he? He is Malcolm Perry (1938-1948) and he lives in Ottawa, Canada.

Unbeknown to him, we have a photograph taken in 1939 at Oswestry. It pictures a group of 50 B.I. evacuees including a 9 year old Master Malcolm Perry, splendid in his junior school grey blazer edged with red piping.

For the first time we have an article by a lady. She is Thelma Dale (née Davies), the widow of Norman Dale (1934-41). Well done Thelma.

Since Vic. Swift put us on the Web we have recruited quite a few more B.I.O.Bs., particularly from overseas. Our congratulations are due to Vic.

AD-VISOR - THE TEAM

Vic. Swift (1956-61)
He is responsible for all the computer work and design of the Newsletter. He also keeps the database up to date and has the B.I.O.B website.

Len. Malcolm (1934-43) (1945-82)
He is the excellent proof-reader. He corrects our spelling, grammar and punctuation. He is also a mine of knowledge in respect of Birkenhead Institute, its former staff and pupils.

Harry Burkett (1942-48)
He is responsible for labelling, stuffing, stamping and distributing the envelopes enclosing the Ad-Visor. (A very arduous task)

FINANCES

You have been great and helped us meet all our monetary obligations. In the circumstances I do not need to remind you there are no subscriptions; we exist on donations. Cheques payable to B.I.O.B.

4TH RENAISSANCE DINNER 12/10/01

Early indications are that this will be well attended once again. We can only suggest "book early" to avoid disappointment - an application form is enclosed. As usual we shall be holding a charity draw and we ask for your support and generosity in the donation of prizes. Bottles are most welcome as are cash donations. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

ARTICLES AND LETTERS

BETTER THAN NOTHING

From Barry Stalker

It is a great pity that the Memorial Arch no longer stands at Ingleborough Road. Old age and rust have taken their toll. Barry has kindly provided a photograph of the Memorial Arch which he took about 5 years ago. A copy appears on the B.I.O.B. website

AS PROMISED, MORE ABOUT "SYR" Rev. Sidney Y. Richardson (1922-28)

The fifth of the seven sons of William and Mary Richardson of Woodchurch in Wirral, he was brought up in genteel poverty, as his father lost his employment as a lorry-driver in the slump of the 1920's and never had permanent work after the age of 49. From Laird Street Elementary School, Birkenhead, he went as a scholarship boy to Birkenhead Institute, from which he won a scholarship to Liverpool University, graduating B.A. Hons French in 1931.

From his first teaching post at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley, he moved to North Manchester Grammar School and in

1939 to Rochdale Grammar School for Boys, where he remained for the rest of his teaching career, being Deputy Headmaster from 1954-1970.

He began preaching at the age of 17 and became a local preacher. In 1953 he initiated Methodist work on a large housing estate in Rochdale (Kirkholt). After serving this church, the Circuit and the District in many capacities for many years, on retiring in 1970 he joined the Team Ministry at Stevenage and in 1974 became a Methodist minister on the Harrow Circuit.

In 1977 his wife and he settled in Loughborough, where he became engaged with the Ecumenical Parish and has served and is serving the churches and community of the area in various ways. SYR has published an autobiography "When my cue comes". It has two very interesting chapters about his childhood and days at B.I. For anyone desiring a copy, apply to 'SYR' at 22 Garton Road, Loughborough, Leics., enclosing a cheque for £6.

THELMA DALE (NEE DAVIES)

The other morning a brown envelope dropped through my letter box - it was addressed to my husband.

When I opened it I found it contained the March copy of AD-VISOR.

Later in the day I picked it up and over a coffee looked through it - amazing - it brought back so many memories - and set me thinking about those wartime days when we were all young and probably a bit irresponsible. Could I remember the names of the 'gang' who used to meet at the seat on the grass verge at the bottom of Prenton Road East? (I wonder if it is still there.). Even if I could recall names - could I recall faces of sixty years ago? It has been my exercise during the last few weeks - and here goes

Jack Williams (he became a Bank Manager I think - after being in the Army). Eric Molyneux (I know he was with an Accountancy firm in Liverpool - after the Navy).

Roy Dorrity (Also to a Bank - after the Navy). Norman Dale (Unilever - after the Fleet Air Arm). Duggie Baker (Fleet Air Arm).

Cliff Rowlands (died in a Wellington bomber over Oxford).

Stu Huntriss.

Eileen Bell.

Eira Williams.

Paul Simpson.

Jack Bell.

Harold Brooks (known as 'super hooker Brooker' for

his prowess in the school Rugby team).

John Williams.

Norman Thelwell (of 'Thelwell' fame).

Joyce Brereton (Blondie).

To be a member of the Seat Gang one only needed an hour or so to spare after homework and other chores. There would usually be someone at the 'seat' ready for a chat if you went along - by 'cycle or walking.

Who used to attend the A.T.C. dances at the Town Hall and walk home because there was no transport? There must have been at least twelve in that group. I learned to 'slow fox' by practising with Ray??? along the long corridor outside the ball room !

Did you regularly dance at St. Stephen's on Saturdays? Or - Hulme Hall -

Mondays and Thursdays.

Entrance 1/6 - or one shilling if wearing a uniform. A Civil Defence overcoat would do!!

Dancing at the Kingsland on Borough Road was out of bounds for me - my mother did not approve!

Were you one of the group who met at the home of Jean and Ronnie Williams in Cavendish Drive on Thursdays during the winter to perform playlets written by Rex Bawden (a journalist on one of the London Dailies I think.), Eric Molyneux and Norman

Dale as I recall? Was there anyone else?

Were you included in the group who played table tennis at a strange house at the end of Cavendish Drive during the winter holidays?

All participants to bring their own piece of coal to keep the fire going.

Or Byrne Avenue Baths during the long summer evenings.

Sometimes on Saturdays a group would meet at the Milk Bar in Grange Road or at the Library in Borough Road. Who can remember?

It seems like yesterday.

RON WHITMORE (1936-40)

Dear Harold

Thank you very much for your letter of 14th

December 2000 and enclosures of AD-Visor and the lovely yarn "You don't know what hardships are!"

I can assure you that your trials and tribulations brought many a smile to my face-actually some good belly laughs too!

I am sorry I have been so long in replying but I still work at home as consultant/contractor to the RAN Hydrographic Office and whilst they put no pressure on me, (the day they do, they do without me) I still set myself targets and am stupid enough to do my damndest to meet them. I have also had to prepare the Australasian

Branch position for a meeting of Council of The International Hydrographic Society, which I fly out to in two days' time; to be held in the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

So you see there is no risk of me hanging around the street corners, getting into mischief.! I come over to UK/Europe twice a year, normally April/May and Sept/Oct, although this occasion we are a month early. I normally go up to Caerwys, my old home area, in your Spring and to Venice in the Autumn; but my partner, an old family friend and I (I was widowed a couple of years ago and she about six years ago) are having a change this coming Oct and going to Prague instead. Last Sept/Oct we "did" Rome & Venice before the meeting in Teddington and afterwards came back to Australia via New Delhi and Agra to use up some Frequent Flyer points and of course to see the incredibly beautiful Taj Mahal. One meeting next year looks like being held in Germany.

I have also had a letter, to which I must reply, from a John Jordan in Tasmania, who is head serang of the Old Instonians' Association in Australia and the Birks' Association of Australia, which is a joint venture of Old Instonians and Old Birkonians, with some very

interesting copies of old newsletters etc.

I must admit I remember but few of the names I see on the list of Old Instonian members, Stuart Huntriss being the most significant; my closest friend at school was Jasper Bartlett, but he died in his early twenties. The others in my form, normally the "Js" as I wasn't academically sound enough to be in the "A"s, were Laurie Tunna, Sidney Baker, (I envied him because he was Jewish and excused Sat morning school), Johnnie Haughton, the only Quaker I have ever known, and a chap called ???? Malcolm, who was very bright and occasionally allowed me to crib his homework. Then there was Biddy Harris's son who was in the "A"s, and a year ahead there were those from the Gods called Prefects like Rex Bawden, Pearson etc.

PHIL RONALD-PRICE (1960-1967)

I would like to say how interesting and full of memories I find the "Advisor". One thing is strange, however: I was a pupil at B.I. from 1960 to 1967, and there appear to be very few on the B.I.O.B. register who are from that era. However, names I can recall from those of my time at the B.I. were two likeable guys called Peter Ramsdale and Roy Snook,

neither of which is on your register.

Teachers whom I fondly remember from the school are: Mr. Thacker, Joe Townsend (Chemistry), Mr. Walsh, Mr. Connor (Maths), Mr. Wood (Maths), Mr Shaw (Music), Mr Edgar (P.E.), Gerry Hall (French/English), Dickie Richards (Biology: Facts of life!), Ken Richards (Physics), Mr Webb (Headmaster), Mr Phipps (French), Mr Gray, (English), Miss Cojeen (School Secretary), Len Malcolm (Physics). I had the pleasure of meeting some of these again at the sad closure of B.I. a few years ago. It was good to meet Mr. Webb and Ken Richards, along with Miss Cojeen. I also managed to purchase a School Tie, (Atkin House), in which I was proud to wear the magenta!

My memories of B.I. include such things as: Cross country runs from Ingleborough Road, with Len Malcolm giving us the signal to go; Trips to Byrne Avenue baths with Mr. Shaw telling us to "jump in"; The Speech Days at the Glenda Jackson hall in Borough Road; The Carol Concerts in the hall at Whetstone Lane, singing all the words from handwritten carols in our green books; "Hollybushing" in the First Year; The canteen, with its path from the playground; The time when a fire was

started under the Physics Lab. stairs one night, and we were unable to use the stairs for months afterwards, having to go up the stone stairs, and go through the Chemistry Lab to get there; The time I accidentally melted the lead shot in my Physics experiment!

I could go on and on, but overall, my memories of B.I. were happy ones, and I would like to see more names on the register from the days when I was there. What happened to Pye, who was in the Sixth form when I was in the Third? I always remember his excellent dance routine in Beechcroft one year to the record of "Green Onions" by Booker T and the MGs. Does anyone else recall this?

To finish, I would like to thank everyone at B.I. for such memorable days. The Advisor will help to keep these alive, and I wish that B.I. were still a school today, as we need good schools more than ever. My son has recently passed his 11-Plus to Wirral Grammar School and this brought back all the memories of when I passed my 11-Plus back in 1960. Wirral Grammar School has the same excellent tradition and atmosphere as B.I. and I can't help feeling that losing such good schools is a great shame. I have been with Marconi Communications for the

last 21 years, where I am a Quality Manager. I have stayed on Wirral since leaving B.I. and, despite being tempted to move elsewhere, I am pleased to still be living in such a great part of the country, which is surrounded by water on three sides, and has some spectacular scenery only a short distance away. I shall look forward to receiving future issues of the Advisor, and hope to add some more names as I come into contact with other ex-pupils. Thank you again for a fantastic magazine.

DAUGHTER OF JAMES TECTOR (1922/27)

My father will be 91 tomorrow 6th April 2001. Unfortunately, he is now completely blind, but he enjoys it when I read articles of interest to him. Due to a stroke, he is also wheelchair bound so life can get tedious as you may imagine. However, he keeps in good spirits and is always pleased to hear from B.I.O.B.

With best wishes from my father and from myself (his daughter).

PETER ("PADDY") BOLAM (1941/7)

Many thanks for your excellent newsletter, I am sorry that I will not be able to attend your Re-Union Dinner on 12/10/2001, due

to another engagement. I am sorry to read that one of your correspondents raised the long-forgotten (?) matter of soccer v rugby. To draw conclusions why one late Headmaster made the change from soccer to rugby seems unfortunate, to say the least. Someone told me long ago that rugby enabled 30 bodies to be on the pitch rather than 22 – a gain to Ingleborough Road of + 24 – not an unimportant consideration.

IAN McFARLAND (1938-44)

An anecdote from my schooldays. This concerns a former student called Jasper Bartlett – I think he would have been in Len Malcolm's period. Jasper was a huge man and a Rugby player of note. He played for Waterloo and was capped for England. I believe that he died at a very young age – in his thirties? He had gone up to University, and returned during the long vac. to see old colleagues. He was a larger-than-life character, and invited, or cajoled, four of us to accompany him down to the town in the lunch hour. Down Whetstone Lane, across Borough Road, and on up to Grange Road. Suddenly, he turned to the right, opened a door, and swept all four of us – into a pub!

"Five pints of best bitter, my good man!" – and in a trice, we all stood there with pint glasses in our hands, wondering the while how this could have happened. "Well, lads, I have other things to do" says Jasper, downed his pint with a flourish, and left us standing there. The door opened and in walked Johnny Paris (a teacher!) Now he was as much out of line as we were, drinking in school hours, so there was a momentary meeting of eyes – and no one ever mentioned the affair again.

OLD INSTONIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

Derek Turner arranged yet another successful meeting in May. Once again, the weather was very good. The winner of the Pyke Cup was Don. Ainslie and the runner up was Ron Kirchner who received the Len. Malcolm Tankard. Derek works very hard and the event could be better supported. If you are a golfer, try and make the 2002 meeting – you will enjoy it.

LADIES' EVENING

Harry Burkett is hoping to organise a Ladies' Evening in April, 2002 and will be seeking advice at the dinner in October as to what form this should take.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

Ted Wood	71?	Stu Lichfield	78?	Bert Thomas	72
G.A. (Gas) Smith	72	Dave Docherty	56	Bill Keating	60
Norman Boyd	73	Tony Doveston	65	Alan Bramall	65
Graham Baxter	76	Alan Parkinson	64	Barry Doveston	59
Peter Probert	77	Bob Bladon	70	Gary Silk	43
Paul Shakespeare	43	Neil Foster	43	Steve Taylor	43
Paul Waters	43	Trevor Bowen	43	Steve Evans	43
Roger Fairclough	43	Paul Grannon	43	Gary Wigfield	43
Neil Gardner	63	Keith Hitchell	43	Ron Broadfoot	73
Tom Gill	67	Colin Roderick	63	Colin Rankin (Police Insp.)	65
Ron Pinnington	64	Peter Ramsdale	52	Sidney Baker	77
Roland Peers	80	Ted Moxley	80	Eric Reddy	80
Roy Snook	52	John Haughton	77	Peter Haughton	75
Ernie Search	80	Frank Sandland	80	Laurie Tunna	77
Pye	56				

OBITUARIES

We regret to report the following deaths

- Les Campbell (1935-39) at Thingwall, May 2001 aged 77
- Norman Dale (1935-40) at Gloucestershire, August 2000 aged 76
- Thomas Jackson (1926-32) at Heswall, March 2001 aged 86
- Stan. Davies (1931-36) at Prenton in 1994 aged 74
- John Kitching (1944-50) June, 1999 aged 63
- Roy Dawson (1946-50) at Arrowe Park, May 2001 aged 67
- Bill Owen (1934-39) at Heswall, May 2001 aged 78
- Bernard Jones (1937-42) at Irby, July 2001 aged 75
- Gerald Taylor (1932-39) at Chorley 2000, aged 75

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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**4th RENAISSANCE DINNER FRIDAY 12th OCTOBER 2001
AT PRENTON GOLF CLUB.**

I desire to attend the dinner and enclose A cheque for £20 (this covers the cost of the Dinner plus wine on the table, free entry into the Charity Draw and gratuities to catering and bar staff)

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH (For seating arrangements)

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

DRESS Lounge Suit/Blazer
6-0p.m. for 7-0p.m.

Please help by using the application form and replying as soon as possible. Return to
Harold Beckett, Little Haven, 1 Salem View, Oxton, Prenton, Wirral. CH43 5UH