

STROUD BOY'S TECHNICAL SCHOOL - OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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April 2010

Welcome to the April 2010 edition of the Newsletter.

We are sad to have to record the deaths of our President, Tom Deacon and committee member Norman (Nobby) Francis Hall. Obituaries appear in this issue.

Annual Dinner 2009

The 62nd Annual Dinner was held in Marling's main hall on Friday 20th November. As usual it was very well attended, a capacity gathering enjoying the menu delights of Bar Quality Catering which was well up to their usual high standard. Our new President, Mr Keith Urch was introduced to the members and, in the absence of a representative guest from Marling School, read a communication from the acting Head Teacher, Alyson Mills thus affording the attendees the traditional opportunity of giving a rousing but good-natured 'boo!' It was encouraging to note that Marling is making good and advanced progress in justifying its recently acquired status as a specialist engineering school, a fact which reminds us that the Stroud Boys' Technical School is a constituent and vibrant part of Marling. The name may have slipped below the horizon but the glow of the forge and the hum of the lathe live on.

Our guest speaker was Roger N. Hook, 1960-65. A member of the well-known local family engineering company based in Ebley, Roger entertained us with a wry and amusing series of anecdotes which included an explanation as to why Mr Tarn had a recurring predisposition to flies perched on bicycle handlebars and how Mr Throup apparently harboured a secret ambition to be Britain's strongest man by carrying an anvil the length of the metalwork shop, a feat later closely mirrored by Roger as he ran the entire length of the canteen carrying a stack of extremely hot dinner plates to the staff table.

Roger concluded by reminding us that teachers possess rare powers to guide and mould our impressionable young minds. Powers that must be used wisely because they leave an indelible mark on our psyche and personality for the rest of our lives.

2010 - Centenary Year

2010 sees the centenary of the opening of the school at Downfield in 1910. To mark the occasion it is proposed to publish a new school magazine during the course of the year. This will be the first magazine to be produced since 1965 and will aim to focus on the years surrounding the amalgamation and its effects as well as items from the whole life of the school.

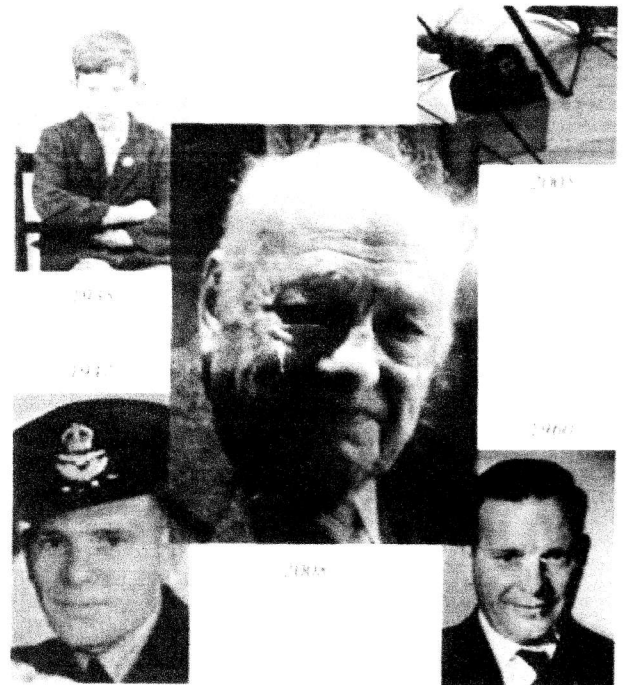
We are eagerly seeking contributions for the magazine and your editor (Chas Webb) would like to hear from you. Contact details are at the head of this letter.

2010 Annual Dinner

The 63rd Annual Dinner will be held on November 12th 2010 at 7.30pm in Marling School Hall.

Obituary - Tom Deacon

ST. PAULS CHURCH WHITESHILL
20th October 2010



Thomas Henry Fielding Deacon

(17 February 1925 - 22 October 2010)

Our President since 1992, **Thomas Henry Fielding 'Tom' Deacon (1936-40)** aged 84 died October 22nd at his home at Whiteshill surrounded by his family. He leaves his wife Dorothy, to whom he was married for 64 years his son Roger, daughter Janette and four grandchildren. A long stay at Cirencester Hospital, a short home break then back to Gloucester Hospital with a heart problem. Only back home for four days and pneumonia finally took him from us.

Several old boys joined a packed congregation at the funeral service at St. Paul's, Whiteshill and our chaplain, the Revd Canon John Forryan, assisted and provided an excellent tribute to Tom - (sadly abridged through lack of space - ed)

Tom presided over some 16 dinners in his long reign as president not to mention the numerous committee meetings, of which he was chairman. He was excellent in both roles and was a stickler for timekeeping and always kept a firm hold on matters if members tended to stray off the subject being discussed. In calling us to order at the Dinner he often brought the gavel down with such force that he made the pots rattle as well as us. Then there was the lovely occasion when he called for the Loyal Toast and continued with the words "Gentlemen you may smoke" although a large "NO SMOKING" sign was evident on the wall behind him. Tom always looked forward to the Dinner and the meeting with old friends and it is sad that he has been denied this pleasure this year, although I know he will be with us in spirit. There are many other facets of Tom's life of which I knew little, but I do know that he will be sorely missed by all of us. At the same time I can say that we are all better people for having known him and thank God for his life.

Nobby Hall

Norman Francis 'Nobby' Hall (1943-47) of Ebley died December 9th aged 76. He was a member of our Committee since 1996 although poor health has not allowed him to attend meetings lately. Nobby had recovered from the leg ulcers that had troubled him but for three weeks prior to his death, he was treated for a chest infection until he fatally collapsed in the arms of his partner, Beryl, of fifteen years. Numerous rugby acquaintances forced standing room only at the service at Gloucester Crematorium and all applauded his departure through the curtains.

David Anthony 'Tony' Ashenford (1941-45) of Minchinhampton died October 7th aged 79 leaving three sons.

Mervyn Clift (1929-33) died October 9th aged 91.

Alec Theodore Camm (1940-44) of Frampton died October 30th at Gloucester Royal Hospital. A keen sportsman, he leaves an elder brother, John, who also attended our School.

Robin Michael Bilton (1949-54) of Stonehouse died in November.

Geoff Webb died on 25th November at the age of 72. A popular former Stonehouse licensee of the Brewers Arms and The Globe.

W.J. 'Bill' Vick (1951-56) died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Kirchlengem, Germany on 23rd February, three months before his 70th birthday.

Old Boy's news:

From Chris Blick:

Thank you for the Marling Newsletter. I was taken by the report to the Battle Fields of Flanders etc. Had a trip there in May this year and I hope that something can be arranged in the autumn of 2010 or Spring 2011. I am

currently working with a local tour operator to get something up and running and perhaps you could put a plea in the next Old Boys News Letter to see if anyone has an interest and what they would like to see and places to visit. (Chris can be contacted on phone 01453 751683, email chris.blick@talktalk.net)

From Terry Gardiner:

'My mother has died recently after a year of ill-health. I was looking through some old bits and pieces she kept and came across the receipt for my school uniform ready for me to start at Technical School the week after. Although it doesn't seem a lot of money now, I suspect it was a couple of week's wages in those days. It is surprisingly difficult to add up in £sd after all these years - I hope you find it as interesting as I did.'

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Sylvia Hopper emailed:

I just thought you might be interested to know that my dear husband Michael Hopper was included in the New Years Honours list. An MBE for 40 years service with the DWP, and for his work with various groups above and beyond the call of duty, diversity etc., within the DWP.

Ron Ireland (1946-51) has driven the Tornado steam locomotive five times recently including its tour through the Stroud valley.

That's all for now, chaps.

Get in touch! Keep in touch!

Chas Webb, Hon. News Editor