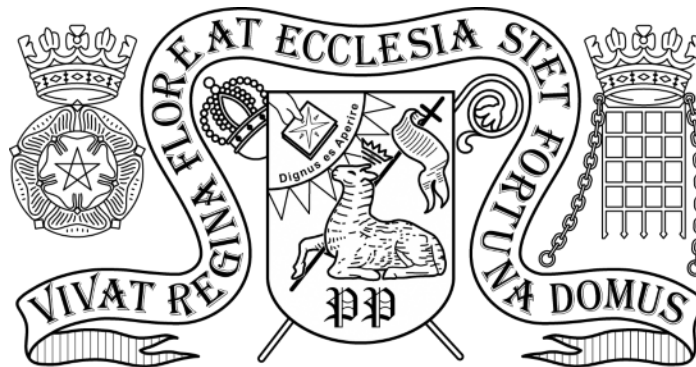
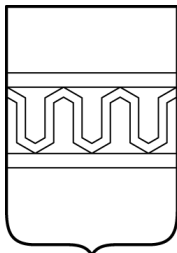


SCHOOL



The New Hoghtonian

The Newsletter of the Preston Grammar School Association - Issue 4 - January 2015



GOODAIR

The Officers of the Association and the Editorial staff wish all our readers a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2015



HARRIS

Letter from the Editor.

The Association has enjoyed another successful year, with the usual range of happy and sad events. The wet and cold weather in the Lancashire area in the last couple of months has not interfered with our programme, and the steady whitening or loss of hair (or both) among the membership is being borne cheerfully.

The forthcoming "outings" - to Fulwood Barracks Museum on the 29th January and the Annual Dinner on 14th March - are eagerly awaited. The Barracks visit promises to be particularly interesting this year following completion of a major refurbishment and extension.



MILLER

Our Archivist Brian Rigby is well into the task of sorting, cataloguing and preparing permanent storage of our ever-increasing collection of memorabilia. We have been fortunate to be given custody of a document archive of the PGSA Football Club to add to material already in our possession. If there is other material out there which has a connection with the School please let us have it so that we can ensure its long-term survival. The Headmaster (to revert nostalgically to our pre-1968 terminology) of the School, in its current guise as Moor Park Business and Enterprise School, Peter Cunningham, has arranged for permanent allocation of a storage facility in the main building in which to keep all our materials. For this we give him our grateful Thanks. In our next Issue we are planning to include a complete Inventory of the collection.

We also want, from you our Membership, all the individual stories and biographies which make up the overall History of Preston Grammar School, to be recorded and remembered before the chance slips away. So get writing and send them - email or snailmail - you have the addresses!



THORNLEY

DMS

The Association's web sites are at <http://www.pgsassociation.org.uk/> and <http://www.pgsa-plus.co.uk>

The PGSA Military Interest Group

Visit to the Normandy D-Day Invasion Beaches - 2014

On 3rd October at 0400 seven members of The Association (Messrs Billington, Jenkinson, McDowall, Olivine, Sergeant, Swindlehurst and Yates) and two guests (Gordon Hayward and Jenny Olivine) left Preston Bus Station by coach bound for Normandy (Ian Mather joined us from London) for a four-day, three-night break. The journey from Preston to Dover took in the sights of Blackburn, Burnley, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham and Manchester! Eventually we reached Dover much later than expected, where we collected Ian. Once across the Channel we had a long journey to Caen, arriving at our hotel at 22.00.

On day two we went to the British Sector, starting at Pegasus Bridge and the Gondrée Café (we took our lunch in a café directly opposite the Gondrée) and the Pegasus Bridge Museum, where the original bridge is located. After paying our respects at the Ranville War Cemetery we travelled to the British landing beaches, starting at Sword Beach. We went on to Juno Beach, visiting the Juno Beach Centre, and then onto Gold Beach, before ending the day at Arranches to see where the Mulberry Harbour was constructed.

On day three we travelled to the American landing beaches, starting at Omaha Beach by visiting Normandy American Cemetery with its manicured lawns and symmetrically-shaped trees. Buried in this cemetery is one of the Nyland brothers on whom the film "Saving Private Ryan" is based. From there we visited the excellent Overlord Museum, with its bomber plane, tanks and many other well-presented and interesting exhibits. We lunched in the pleasant town of Ste Mère Église which is featured in "The Longest Day" (the church in the centre has a mannikin dangling in a parachute snagged on the steeple!). After lunch we visited Utah Beach and its Museum. We ended the day at the German War Cemetery at La Cambe. In contrast with the Allies' Cemeteries, this is minimal and somewhat austere; its memorial gravestones are small and horizontal at ground level, with groups of five grey/black crosses at regular intervals.

At 0800 on day four we set off on the return journey home. The nine of us arrived in Preston around midnight whereas Ian was home well in time for his evening meal.

Photographs are available on our websites.

All in all it was a very enjoyable experience although, from a personal point of view, I think that the travelling, especially outward bound, was taxing. Anyone who has any thoughts on where and when we can visit in the future can contact me via the Secretary.

Trevor Sergeant

Remembrance Day 2014

The 2014 Service of Remembrance, held at the Minster on 9th November, was attended by over 30 Members and Guests of the Association. The Service was taken as usual by the Area Dean and Vicar of Preston, the Revd Canon Timothy Lipscomb, who gave an excellent address.

In this, the Centenary of the start of the First World War, Canon Lipscomb focused on the 'job descriptions' of those fighting in it, and how the Old Boys of the Grammar School would have matched up in terms of the qualities that they would have brought to the table. He considered discipline, teamwork, collegiality, fairness, fitness, the understanding of hierarchical structure, belonging, and pride in the Establishment and everyone connected with it. These were some of the principles that would have enabled the Old Boys to make the horrific transformation from the schoolyard to the battlefield. He noted that whilst today he observed frolics at the Annual Dinner, he was also reassured that the current standards were just as high, so that in this age of more clandestine and remote warfare, with no cavalry charges or trenches, he had no doubt that the qualities of the Old Boys would again be up to scratch. But whilst today's Old Boys had continued to develop their education and skills, and could send emails and go on Facebook, it was essential to pay homage to those who had never had that opportunity. It was important to worship the Sanctity of Life, but also to hope that those who did not make it would rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

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The reading from Ecclesiastes was given by our President Colin Monks, who also laid the Wreath on the Memorial. The Kohima Address was by Tony Olivine.

After a splendid rendition of Elgar's "Nimrod" Variation by David Scott-Thomas, the congregation reassembled towards the rear of the Minster, where the sumptuous buffet and convivial company were enjoyed by all for quite some time!

Colin Monks and Charlie Billington.

Hot Pot Supper 2014

On Friday 28th November 2014, 25 Members and guests arrived at the usual venue, the Fulwood Conservative Club on Blackpool Road, for a most enjoyable evening and an excellent Hot Pot Supper, followed by Apple Pie and Cream. And of course convivial hosts provided an ample supply of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages as required.

Numbers were slightly down on previous events, though there were apologies from 10 other members who would have attended but for holidays and other commitments, and PNE were playing – albeit not at Deepdale.

It was good to see members that I had previously never met, including Brian Hall, the well known ex-footballer. It led to slight confusion as my mate Brian Hall was also there, and who is often mistaken for his namesake, although they look 'nowt like each other'.

There was some lively debate, and the usual reminiscing about the old school, its teachers and pupils and the antics that they used to get up to. I wasn't able to participate in much discussion as I was cook-in-charge for the evening, dishing out dollops of hot-pot to malnourished individuals. As far as I'm aware, no-one suffered any ill effects.

It was a strange scenario for me as I normally never get involved in the preparation, cooking or serving of food, only the consumption of same. I daren't tell my wife as she has believed for over 50 years that I am incapable of carrying out such duties, but may decide to impose them on me in the future.

The raffle was held, our ex-President John Whalley awarding the prize of a bottle of Bacardi to the worthy winner Ian Yates and the guests departed happy and replete.

Jim Goring

Following the above extravaganza, I met up with 4 other old reprobates from Form 5B of 1956/7 on 9th December at the Italian Orchard for a Christmas Meal, the reprobates in question being John Pearson, Peter Bonage, (the other) Brian Hall, and Dave Simpson.

It was a most enjoyable evening, with much discussion and reminiscing, where we all got to know much more about each others' lives over the last 50-odd years, both the highs and the lows.



Jim Goring

MALCOLM FIRTH (PGS TEACHER 1957-1961)

Bill Stansfield has recently sent us the following update on Malcolm Firth, who taught PE at PGS for 4 years from 1957, and has just turned 80. Quite a few members will remember him, especially if they were keen on sport and enjoyed his PE lessons.

I have kept in touch and got his permission - much nicer to talk about teachers whilst still alive, as has happened with "Dicky" Dewhurst and "Carrots" Foreman.

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Malcolm recently had a health problem, but he seems to be getting on fine, as he and his wife Kay have been on a couple of cruises since. Back in the day he moved to Garstang, and Don Field and myself went up to help him sort out his garden! I also called in after cycling up to School Camp and back (same day!) flaking out with hunger! I came across him again when teaching at QEGS; he was Head Lecturer at Blackburn Tech, where I did a gymnastics and trampolining class. Here is a résumé of Malcolm's career, written by Malcolm himself:

"I joined PGS straight from my two years National Service and three years at Loughborough College in September 1957 at the age of 24 as an Assistant PE Teacher, staying there for four years and one term before moving to North Staffs College of Technology in Stoke-on-Trent. We moved from Garstang and took up residence in Newcastle-under-Lyme not far from Stoke where the College was situated. After 18 months in this position I saw a job advertised at Blackburn College of Technology and Design to be the first PE Lecturer. So I applied and was offered the job. I started in September 1963 and took charge of the development of PE and Recreation. Gradually I increased the PE staff over the years and there were 5 teachers and one technician. We also added Recreational Management and PE Training for prospective PE Teachers prior to their Teacher Training College.



We lived at Copster Green and our two daughters went to Samesbury Primary School and then on to Clitheroe Grammar School for Girls. I stayed in this post as Head of PE and Recreation until the summer of 1984, reaching the grade of Principal Lecturer having been in post for 21 years. I took early retirement at the age of 50. I have now been retired for 30 years and have not regretted it at all. We moved to Cambridgeshire and stayed there for 10 years and then on to Somerset, having now been here for just over 10 years."

Bill Stansfield (Harris, 1953-1959)

Visit to the Museum of Lancashire - October 2014

On Tuesday evening 21st October, despite the horrendous weather and the fact that PNE were playing at Deepdale, 17 members and guests paid a visit to the Museum of Lancashire in Stanley Street Preston. As on our previous visit, the welcome was most hospitable, and tea and coffee were served prior to our tour of the building, which itself was most impressive.

Though recently renovated, many of the building's old features have been retained. It was originally the Court House where many miscreants, including impoverished young children, were harshly sentenced to severe punishment, and even transportation to Australia, for such petty crimes as stealing a loaf of bread. There is an excellent exhibit of the Justice System, highlighting the pioneering Lancashire Police Force from its inception to the present day. There are numerous other superb displays including Roman artefacts, early working life in the mills and agriculture, the birth of entertainment with music hall and cinema, the terrors of life in the World Wars, and the blitz.

Apart from the static exhibits there are two rooms used for local people and companies to have their own temporary displays, so it changes throughout the year. A temporary exhibition currently on show displays one of the greatest-ever historical 'finds' – The Silverdale Hoard.

There is a wealth of information and material on display, which both brought back memories and invoked nostalgia, whilst causing much discussion amongst the group. If you haven't been, it is well worth a visit.

Jim Goring

MEMBERSHIP

Obituaries

Since the last issue of the New Hoghtonian, the Association has lost seven Life Members, namely

Jim Mercer	Harris 1954 - 61
Dr Geoffrey William (Geoff) Connell	Miller 1939 - 46
Raymond Herbert (Ray) Pugh	Goodair 1937 - 41
Richard Kevin Fletcher	? c1942 - ?
Canon Jim Hamilton	Miller 1933 - 40
Prof James (JAM) Bell	Miller 1937 - 41
HH (Bert) Andrews QC	Goodair 1938 - 46

In addition, another Old Boy, **Mark Stephen ("Barney") Barnes** (Goodair, 1965-72), passed away as recently as 10th January 2015.

There is not the space here to reproduce the full obituaries – these were previously sent out by email and they are posted on the Website. Nevertheless, please note that amongst the names there were some very long-standing friends and active Members of the Association, not least the three former Presidents, Bert Andrew, "JAM" Bell and Jim Hamilton. They will all be sorely missed, and the thoughts and best wishes of the Association were (and are) duly passed on to their families, friends and colleagues. It is also a sobering thought that Mark Barnes was part of the penultimate intake at Preston Grammar School.

(A note from our Secretary) In spite of the above I believe I should keep a promise. Ray Pugh lived in Dorset, so my contact with him was generally limited to letters, Newsletter material and the occasional telephone conversation. It was his daughter, Gillian, who informed me of his passing, and during an affable chat she was very complimentary about the Association whilst at the same time persuading me that I should send her the New Hoghtonian which would contain her late father's obituary. So here it is!

Raymond Herbert Pugh

Ray, who lived in Poole in Dorset, passed away following a long illness on Monday 17th November 2014, at the age of 88. He attended Preston Grammar School between 1937 and 1941, and was in Goodair House.

Professionally Ray had been a Planning Engineer, and he was very keen on bowls and gardening in his spare time. However, despite living in the South he never forgot his roots, and he was a passionate supporter of Preston North End. Equally he remembered PGS and the Association with great affection, and he was often a contributor to the Newsletter.

The thoughts and best wishes of the Association go out to his wife and two daughters and the rest of his family, and to his friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

Gillian later wrote, "Whilst sorting through my father's papers...I have found several newsletters from PGSA and feel I ought to thank you and the Association for all the happy memories that these have brought. My father always spoke of his school days with affection and finding these newsletters has compounded it for me."

Thank you for that Gillian, I can't think of a better way to conjure up the spirit of the Association!

Charlie Billington

Staying on a positive note, the Membership owes a great debt of gratitude to the late Alick Hadwen, who passed away in May 2014, leaving the Association a legacy of £1000.00. Although he never held office, Alick was a keen supporter of the Association, and he spent a great deal of time researching the Grammar School, its history and that of its pupils and masters. Examples of his research are on the Website. We intend to use some of this legacy to have some film of the old PGS building and related topics professionally reproduced for a DVD, which would be made available to Members. Alick would surely have approved of this. Our thanks go to his sister Christine Medd, and to Napthens Solicitors for administering the legacy, and of course our special thanks go to Alick himself for remembering the Association in this way.

New Members

In the same period the Association is pleased to announce that it has gained three new Members. John Collins (Thornley, 1954-61) is well-known locally in the Preston area, being a City Councillor, and Bill Robinson (Miller, 1961-68) is equally well-known for having been the 'leading light' of the Old Boys' Football Club during the 1970s and 80s.

Gordon Hayward has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Association for his keen support over a number of years. Gordon, who counts several Old Boys amongst his friends, attends many events, including the Battlefields Tours, and he sponsored the recent PGSA Presentation on the Bomber Command, which was held at the Alma Mater. Many thanks Gordon, we hope you enjoy being a Member in your own right!

Charlie Billington.

From the desk of our Foreign Correspondent

TALES FROM NEW ZEALAND

I thought that the Association might like to know about the small enclave of ex-PGS scholars in the farthest Antipodes. There are three McGunnigle brothers (all PGS) now resident in New Zealand, two in Whangarei in the Northland province of the Dominion and one in Auckland. The family had a long history with the Grammar School. Three brothers attended between 1952 and its transformation to a 6th Form College, but the first McGunnigle to attend the School was Peter, their cousin, during the War years to 1945. All those who attended after 1952 achieved high academic qualifications that included two University degrees, one Masters degree, four memberships of professional institutions and a military title, as well as sundry other minor qualifications like teaching diplomas and steam boiler operating tickets to drive steam railway locomotives.

Alan McGunningle is a Chartered Chemist, Ken McGunnigle is a Quantity and Building Surveyor, and Bill (me) acquired a BA in History (in spite of Jock Shaw), and only missed out on a MA through illness that prevented me from completing the necessary final work in the time frame. Alan is not a Member of the Association, but Ken and I are. Alan and I moved to New Zealand in 1971 and Ken eventually arrived during the 1980s, after various jobs in the Middle East and Australia.

Reading your Newsletter was very enlightening, but I was sad to read of the death of Jim Danby. He and I were Corporal Instructors in the 2148 ATC Squadron (Grammar School).

I feel that our personal achievements have maintained the honour of the old Grammar School since we all have names loaded down with groups of letters after them. My personal career ranged from being an Analytical Chemist for the UK Atomic Energy Authority to research in the rubber industry, and finally a Teaching Diploma for secondary and tertiary teaching. Alan also started at the Atomic Energy Authority and then moved to research in the glass industry until he took up teaching. Brother Ken acquired a BSc at Coventry University before entering the building trade where he attained an AIOB and became a Chartered Surveyor. He also gained a MPhil in Acoustic Physics and now runs his own business. I added a BA to my MRSC (Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry) and Alan also acquired an ARSC.

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I acquired a military title after serving a short service commission with the NZ Army as an Instructor on ordnance and explosives. I wound up as a Major. It is quite ironic that I appear to be better qualified than most of the teachers who attempted to teach me at PGS. Alec Dumbill's assessment of me as one of the brightest members of his Physics classes appears to have been justified.

We all like New Zealand, especially the climate in the north of the country. We don't get snow in winter and it is generally warm, but can get very hot and muggy in summer, 25°C+ with 95% humidity. Our only problem is the occasional tropical cyclone that passes over us with 100mph winds, and a staggering amount of rain. We have some big mountains too, that provided lots of fun and climbing opportunities, especially in the South Island Southern Alps which go up to 12,000'

Give my address to anyone who would like to contact me. I am particularly interested in finding out about Steven Anthony Brooks ("SAB") and Trevor Andrew Thompson ("TAT" or "Jumbo"). If anyone can let me know how to contact them I would be most grateful.

Bill McGunnigle (c1952-1959).

Another welcome Blast from the Past

I was recently sent an email by my son (he was surfing pgsass. out of interest) enclosing a request from Jim Goring to locate some old boys from the '50-59 era so I thought I'd write and fill in a few gaps.

I was at PGS from 52-58 - my twin brothers Aland and Graham were also there as prefects -1948 intake. Graham lived at Southport and worked for the Midland Bank until he died early at the age of 52 from a heart attack. Aland lives on, now aged 78, in Palm Desert CA and, apart from a diet of dunking donuts, seems to be surviving well. I saw him last year over there. He worked for Boeing and Lockheed's on the stealth projects for over 40 years after BAC/English Electric Warton closed down in the 60s.

I left PGS and after a year in France working with Bill Stansfield (also PGS) on a farm near Carcassonne, I joined the Royal Navy. 2 years at Dartmouth College and trained as a helicopter pilot/seaman officer. Left in 1978 and went commercial flying with Bristow Helicopters in the North Sea/Sultan of Oman's Royal Flight/ Metropolitan Police Air Wing until I retired in 1998 at the ripe old age of 57.

I am now 73 fit and well and still living in Dorset where I married Charmian in 1964. We had two sons, Simon and Nicholas, who also have two sons each. Charmian sadly died in 2007 and I travel abroad a lot with whoever can stand the pace.

My younger brother Simon emigrated to New Zealand in the 70s and now lives in the Brisbane area in OZ.

I loved your Website (only recently discovered) and after seeing the cricket/rugby team photos would like to apologise to all my colleagues at PGS for growing such a ridiculous goatee beard at 17...!

David Goodenough-Bayly

(Editor's Note: BAC/English Electric Warton did not close down in the 60s and is still operating very successfully under its current guise of BAe Systems).

IMPRESSIONS OF PRESTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

After the relative peace of life at Emmanuel School, the beginning of life at Preston Grammar School came as an awful shock. The cosy days (admittedly with a few canings) of the one class, one teacher, were now just a distant memory.

We set off on our first day, with slightly large blazer and dinky blue cap. We, being Roy Thomason and I, were guided in by Roy's older brother Peter. He was an old hand - Year 2. We cycled in single file up St Thomas's Road; it seemed a long way because I could almost touch Emmanuel from where I lived in Hammond Street. Anyway, we got there very early, found a place for our bikes, and stood and watched the playground fill.

I couldn't believe the amount of boys. There were obviously loads of boys in my year, easily recognised by the wearing of short trousers. Year 1949/50, and we wore short trousers! Still there, we were later surrounded by older boys, the 6th formers were more men than boys, 18 years old, but still wearing those daft caps. Our caps were royal blue, and you soon learned that the ones in navy blue caps were prefects. Dangerous guys! They could dish out punishment just as the tutors could. If a prefect saw you improperly dressed, even coming or going to school, they would have you. So the bell went, and we went in. After my old school, what a size! Where was 1B?

None of us knew, but we soon found our new home. In marched Mr Coulthurst, "Well, stand up." We stood. "When I enter the room, you stand." Then we sat down again. He introduced himself as our form master, and also our Latin tutor. Latin! Oh God! "What have I done coming here?" It soon became apparent that we had a different tutor for each lesson. But sometimes you had to go to special rooms for subjects like science and music and my big dread, woodwork. The shock of all this was nothing compared to the 3 lots of homework scheduled for each night. No more hours of football on Moor Park, other things to do.

After day one, we were introduced to the House system. Each boy was designated to a particular House. Miller (blue), Goodair (green), Harris (red) and Thornley (yellow). You became, or I did, very proud of representing your House at sport. Football and cricket were King in those days, but then the bombshell! We were predominantly a rugby school! We were to play this silly game Sept to Christmas, then soccer till Easter, that is, when the pitches weren't frozen. Then cricket in summer, when it didn't rain. Of course, with so many boys the youngest went to the sports ground behind the Shawes Arms on a Friday, Years 3 and 4, Thursday and 5th and 6th formers, Wednesday. We had great pitches down there, and a nice pavilion changing room. I don't pass that way much these days, but I think the old pavilion is gone. The groundsman I remember was Mr Adams. He had the final say on the fitness of the pitches. If it was thumbs down, we had the dreaded cross country running. I was in Miller House, and we seemed to do quite well at sport. Rugby didn't please me at all, but it's a game I've come to love. So the first year passed, and you fell into things. Some loved, some hated. Being only 5 years after the War many of the teachers were quite old, and possibly longed for the days of fee payers. I don't think some were tuned in to us back street boys. End of Year One. My amazing brain power in the exams saw me relegated from 1B to 2C. 2C in later years became the notorious 5C. The motley crew of PGS!!!

Allan Fazackerley (Miller, 1950-1955)