

## The Wilhelmshaven Association

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# THE NEW CAVALIER



## PRINCE RUPERT SCHOOL

### WILHELMSHAVEN 1947 - 1972

Newsletter 74

SUMMER - 2018

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*Wilhelmshaven was revisited in June by around 30 former pupils and staff for a mini-reunion in conjunction with the local Jade Festival weekend. Attractions included tall ships from as far away as Russia that were moored adjacent to the former Bonteheim site.*



## Editors Letter

Summer term - what can we say that hasn't already been said? Well, one boy who made an undignified landing at the riding stables still has lingering memories of school that will bring a smile (see this issue). Will it be your amusing story that we read in the next issue? Speaking of which, it will not have escaped your attention that we are very close to producing our 75th edition of New Cavalier. Time for a little celebration we think!

To return to this current issue, we bring you several interesting letters in response to our Spring magazine. And many of the girls will be shaken if not stirred by the inimitable voice of Miss Tebbs who actually regretted being so stern at school (yes, you are reading this correctly). Sadly, Monica is of course no longer with us, but we're sure there must still be some pupils out there who can tell us a tale or two. As one girl once put it, 'A visit to Miss Tebbs, I'm afraid to say, made even the bravest of us shiver in our shoes!'

Mini-reunions tend to abound in the year between biennial main reunions and this year is no exception. You can read about those held in London, Fleet, and our latest in Wilhelmshaven, in this issue. If you have met informally with former school friends and thought it not interesting enough to mention, we are always pleased to hear from our readers.

Once again, we draw your attention to next year's big gathering (31st May to 1st June) at the De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel in South Cerney. Interestingly, an RAF station was built here in the 1930s for pilot training in biplanes. In 1971 the base was transferred to the Army and renamed the Duke of Gloucester Barracks. If you or your family were stationed here, do let us know.

Without any more ado we wish you happy reading and indeed... happy holidays!

Your editorial team,

*Paul Levitt & Andy Renou*



## Report from the Chair.

The day after we returned from an enjoyable mini-reunion in Wilhelmshaven, I learned that Jens Graul had died very suddenly. Having spent much of the week in his company, this came as a tremendous shock. He had been his usual self and was obviously enjoying the company of former PRS-ites.

The association between TWA and Jens Graul started when the idea of having a permanent memorial to Prince Rupert School was suggested by David Starkie. Jens in his official capacity as Minister of Kulture in the town established the site for the Memorial just off Ems Strasse on the former school site. Jens was involved in many of our subsequent projects from which our links with the town have been formed. Space does not allow me to mention everything but at this time when we have just completed the delivery of virtually all of our Memorabilia including the 7 Honour Boards to the Stadt Archiv and Küstenmuseum, the significance of the help Jens gave us to organise this, is very important and something that means that these items of the history of Prince Rupert School are now safely stored in Wilhelmshaven – the place from which they all began.

Despite the sadness of the sudden death of Jens, we will still have some ongoing projects – namely, the

proposed exhibition of the history of post war Wilhelmshaven at the Küstenmuseum, the Coronation tree sapling project and an interest in the the Wadden Sea project currently being developed on the old school site. I am in contact with various people in charge of these areas and hope to forge new links so that TWA continues to have a place in Wilhelmshaven.

I think Jens knew how grateful we have been for his support and whilst very sad, I personally have very many happy memories of my acquaintance with him on behalf of TWA.

The St Nicholas Church window – we were presented with this over 10 years ago when the school site was demolished. It appeared at a couple of our reunions but has been in storage until recently and now has a new home in the Vicarage of the St Nicholas Parish Church in Newbury. This can be viewed in the future but not yet as the installation is still to take place.

Wearing my Archivist hat now, I have suggested and the Committee has agreed to this, that we close our Memorabilia collection to new items for storage. We can still digitise any new paper-based items but will return them to their owners. For 20 years I have been responsible for this fascinating collection but the time has come to think of the future and it gives me peace of mind that the home in Wilhelmshaven has been found.

Anyone visiting the town can arrange to view the items in the Archive and at the proposed exhibition at the Küstenmuseum.

The 2019 Reunion weekend will soon be with us! We had our meeting at the Hotel yesterday and it is a truly lovely venue. Please make your bookings both for your accommodation at the Hotel, following the booking instructions, and reserve your ticket through Carol Goronwy. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion.

*Barbara (Miller) Steels (Hood/Rodney 57-61)  
Committee Chair and Archivist*

## Mini-reunion in London



Bangers near Liverpool Street Station in London, was the venue for a get together of former pupils organised by Bob Innes on Thursday 19th April. In addition to Bob Innes, attendees included Dave O'Callaghan, Graham Watson, both with their wives, Roger Hall, Heather (McClure) Grist, Heidi (Nixon) Weatherby, Liz (French) Zayed, Jenny (Savery) Bond, and

Vicki (Spencer) Armour, who caught the Eurostar train from Paris to join the party for the day. Unfortunately, Roger Stokoe was unable to make it due to having recently had cataract surgery. Also unable to attend was Judy (Davis) Bennie. The next get together in London is planned for October 2018.

## Golden Wedding



Congratulations to Jim and Barbara Hanlon who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Swindon at the beginning of June. Our photo shows the happy couple on their big day in 1968 and we look forward to receiving a picture of them at their recent celebration party. Jim would like to thank everyone for their concern and best wishes following his recent health scare.

The Wilhelmshaven Association Biennial Reunion 2019  
Friday 31st May & Saturday 1st June 2019 will be held at  
De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel, Lake 6, Spine Rd East, South Cerney,  
Gloucestershire GL7 5FP.

Tickets: £77.00 per person for two days – £55.00 per person for Saturday only  
*This does not include accommodation – see below for more information.*

Members may bring a guest, however, if their guest is an ex-PRSite, then the guest must also be a fully paid up member of TWA for 2019/20.

The De Vere Cotswold Water Park is on the outskirts of Cirencester, surrounded by lakes and has 328 well-appointed bedrooms, all of which have air conditioning, workspaces and free Wi-Fi - Facilities include:

- Gym, fitness centre and Spa
- Indoor pool
- Lounge/bar areas for relaxation
- Outside terrace overlooking the lake

*Provisional Programme:*

**Friday evening** - The reunion weekend will begin with a welcome drink followed by a Meet and Greet Hog Roast.

**Saturday morning and afternoon** will be a to spend with your friends, use the hotel facilities or explore the surrounding area. In the afternoon we are hoping that there will also be a presentation on the exciting new developments on the old school site.

**Saturday evening** is the formal Dinner followed by a Disco Dance. For the **Saturday dinner** you can opt to be seated with your friends or take pot luck. Your booking form will give details of the menu options, **you must make your selection when booking your ticket.**

The new digitised collection of memorabilia will be available to view throughout the weekend.

**Your booking form was enclosed with the previous (Spring) issue of the New Cavalier** – if you wish to pay by credit/debit card the safest option is to log onto the TWA website and use the PayPal system.

**You do not need a PayPal account – just your card details - full details on the form.**

To enable us to plan the event please return your booking form and deposit ASAP. Don't forget to complete your choices for the Saturday dinner.

**FULL payment must be made by Friday 29th March 2019**

**Accommodation**

We have initially reserved 50 double/twin rooms in the hotel for TWA members at a preferential rate and more will be made available if required, subject to availability. Rooms not booked by 29th April 2019 will be released back to the hotel.

*The B&B rates per room / per night are:*

- £88 per standard room based on double/single occupancy – *no discount for single.*
- Upgrade to a standard room with lake view for an additional £20 per night.
- Upgrade to a Deluxe double with lake view and balcony for an additional £50 per night.
- Suites are available at an additional £90 per night.

There are a limited number of twin and family rooms. Car parking and WiFi are free.

**To book ring De Vere Cotswold Water Park direct on 01285 864444 if you are calling from the UK or +44 1285 864444 if you are calling from overseas.**

*You must quote the booking code TWA Reunion to receive the preferential rate. Please note that to take advantage of this rate a deposit of 50% will be required at the time of booking and that final payment is to be made 1 month prior to arrival. All payments are non-refundable and non-transferable.*

If you choose to extend your stay to include either the Thursday or Sunday night or both, the same room rate applies. *Please note that check in time is from 3.00 pm.*

If you or your guest are disabled in any way, it is strongly recommended that you advise the hotel of this when making your booking and again on arrival. This is a multi-storey hotel and all bedrooms are accessed by lifts with emergency access via the stairs.

**You must book your own accomodation before Monday 29th April 2019.**  
*(preferably earlier to avoid disappointment)*

**Getting there:**

*By Car* - Hotel is situated off the A419, 3 miles from Cirencester and 20 minutes from J15 of the M4 or J11a of the M5 Sat-Nav Post Code GL7 5FP

*By Train* - Kemble is the nearest railway station and connections can be made via Swindon or Cheltenham. *By Bus* - from Cirencester

*By Air* - Bristol Airport and Birmingham Airport are the nearest, Bristol is an hours drive and Birmingham about 2 hours.

**Alternative Accommodation:** There are many options in and around Cirencester, this link has more information: <http://www.cirencester.co.uk/visitorinformationcentre/>

I was particularly delighted to see in the previous issue the picture of Kevin and me at the RAF Jever Winter Ball, which I had not seen before. I don't remember any of the other people in the photo apart from Bebe Sharman, who was already identified and can confirm that he was quite a card!

*Pat (Kilner) Callan*

In the photo of Kevin and Pat Callan on page 10 of the previous issue, the guy in the mess kit looks to have the confidence of the C.O. I think that mess kit was only just coming back in then after the war, so he was up to the minute. My father didn't get mess kit until a year or so later. Being Army, his had a red monkey jacket, narrow navy blue trousers and Chelsea type boots with spurs that fitted into a slot in the heel. The first time he wore them the spurs caught on the stairs and he fell headlong. Being in the CCF I got the job of deputy Batman: I cleaned my father's boots, sword, Sam Brown, etc., while his Batman sat in the kitchen making toast! About that time my younger sister came home from school where she'd learnt in RE about King Herod, Salome etc that day, but couldn't understand why all Salome wanted after her dance was John the Batman's head on a plate. I could! Kevin certainly looked dapper as ever in your photo. He always had a personal style and charisma that many of us in Drake were a bit in awe of: he could silence a noisy prep room by just walking in, but in an instant could become Henry V. He could tango while we shuffled around the dance floor. He still had that

easy charm even to the end.

*Jim Mills (Drake 53-56)*

We sent the RAF Jever Winter Ball photo to Jennifer Jones (nee Peel) who taught history at PRS and is married to Peter Jones who was a pilot based at RAF Jever with No. 4 Squadron. She confirmed that it is Kevin Callan and his wife Pat (nee Kilner), adding that they were not yet married on the photograph because they married the day after Jennifer, who was married on March 31st 1959. Jennifer kept in touch with them over the years mainly through Derek and Enid Hill, the school Medical Officer and his wife who were at school with Pat. My wife, Josephine and her sister Heather Watson were both at PRS in Howe Girls. Their father was the Headmaster at RAF Jever Primary School. Jo left PRS in 1958 and Heather two years later. Jo and I got married at RAF Jever on 17th December 1960.

*Mick Ryan (formerly of RAF Jever)*

*Ed. – Mick's response was in his capacity as webmaster of Jever Steam Laundry, the site where the photo in question was found.*

If memory serves me well, the little nag from the stables used by PRS was called Umka - although I've no idea if that's how to spell it. I do remember riding another horse (FIDI?) there, behind Umka and in an indoor paddock. The bloke who was in charge at the time was whip crazy and used to delight in snapping his whip behind the horses and scaring excessive movement out of them. I remember this day because Umka broke into a whip-induced trot

and each time whoever was riding her came down on her flanks, Umka broke wind. I later quit horse riding because Fidi was not a jumper and, with me on his/her back, was even less inclined to try. I should also add, jumping is something for which I have little enthusiasm, on or off horseback. Anyway, I was persuaded to try jumping on Fidi over a farm gate by Herr Whipman's sudden snap behind Fidi. At the last moment Fidi came to an abrupt halt. Unfettered and full of fear, anticipation and momentum, I carried on and cleared the fence on my own, landing in an undignified heap!

*Bob Lintott (Howe 59-64)*

I have only happy memories of my time at PRS. When I first went there we were stationed in Berlin and the most vivid moment was the overnight train journey through the eastern sector. I remember being in a sleeper with British troops with rifles in the corridor outside our compartment. The train had to stop at a checkpoint and we could hear the Russians walking on the track inspecting the train. I was in Howe girls and going through all the photos bought back many memories. I remember the domestic science building, which had a flat where we would take turns staying for weekend and looking after ourselves. I remember the snow and skating. We used to go into town on Saturdays and buy hair dyes. For school dances I remember how we all used to wash our net petticoats in sugar water to make them stand out. I laugh about it now. Although I loved him dearly, the trouble with having an elder brother at school

was that my parents always heard if I did anything wrong. Not being very mobile due to health issues, I unfortunately won't be able to attend a reunion, but I can't tell you how much pleasure I have had going over the school website and reading about various people.

*Pam (Bennie) Goodwin (Howe 58-60)*

I didn't go to your school, but your first headmaster, John Smitherman, came to my school (Woolverstone Hall) in 1950, when it was launched. He interviewed me in London and was my headmaster for two years before he left to go somewhere else (I should know where, but I don't). In addition, my first physics master, Fred J. Mudd, taught me from 1958 to 61 or thereabouts before going to teach at PRS. He was a great teacher and I loved physics classes. I manage a website for Woolverstone Hall School and am researching various things for which much evidence is lacking. One thing I am trying to do is to find out what happened to Fred Mudd, how he did, how long he stayed at PRS and so on. He had a great influence on Woolverstone Hall in its first years and I would like to write some kind of tribute to include some information about his career after he left us. I would imagine that he, like Mr Smitherman, will have long since died, but you never know. So, if anyone knows anything about Fred Mudd (or indeed Mr Smitherman) I would be really pleased to read it. I have never been to Wilhelmshaven or Rinteln, but I did teach English in Buxtehude near Hamburg from 1974 to 76 and lived and taught in Freiburg from 2010 to 14. I would imagine that



PRS and Woolverstone Hall shared many similarities: we had a lot of boys from the forces worldwide but also from London. Neither closed because they were no good. The UK leaving Germany meant that PRS had to close and Woolverstone Hall School just became too expensive for the then London authority. Schade!

*Chris Snuggs*

*Ed. – We checked in The Cavalier and found Fred Mudd mentioned in the staff list from Autumn 61. In the Summer 62 issue he is mentioned as having taken part in a so-called 'balloon debate', but in the Spring 63 issue he had left the staff. If you have memories of either Mr Smitherman or Fred Mudd, please get in touch.*



Mr and Mrs Smitherman. Photo by courtesy of whs-archives.net

I have a website for my old school, Peterborough County School for Girls (now closed), and occasionally publish articles copied from the school magazine. A girl who moved from the Prince Rupert School to Peterborough in 1960 wrote the following article: <https://peterborocountyschool.wordpress.com/2018/05/05/1960-61-school-days-in-germany/> - Rosie Rowley

*Ed. – As not everyone is into computers, we have reprinted the story below.*

Prince Rupert School is in Wilhelmshaven, a German naval town, situated right beside the North Sea. The school is for children whose parents are in the Forces, and stationed in Germany; consequently, each term there are many newcomers, and at the end of term many leavers. Usually there are approximately seven hundred pupils and fifty members of the teaching staff. The school itself is a comprehensive school, as there are grammar, commercial, technical and modern streams.

Life at Prince Rupert was very full. There were four main houses, each divided into two, girls and boys. The boys' houses were situated right on the sea front, and they came to school by bus every day, except in summer when the headmaster thought it would do them good to walk, for they were generally (as most boys are) very lazy! Naturally there was keen rivalry among the houses, and I'm glad to say I was in Collingwood, "the best", for we held eleven out of the eighteen cups presented for various activities.

The school day began at seven o'clock when we were all very efficiently woken up by Matron. Assembly was at nine o'clock and the last bell of the day was at ten past four, when everyone would rush for tea. At ten past four it was a familiar sight to see the master on duty chasing away the boys who had "accidentally" missed their buses.

Miss Tebbs (the sister of Peterborough's Miss Tebbs) was the senior mistress and it was to her that we girls had to answer for all our crimes. A visit to Miss Tebbs, I'm afraid to say, made even the bravest of us shiver in our shoes!

I was very disappointed when I learned that my father would be returning to England. I heard from my parents that I would most probably be going to the Peterborough County Grammar School for Girls, and one day in the library I came across one of their school magazines. It was then that I learnt that the Prince Rupert School Miss Tebbs had a sister at Peterborough. Then some witty person said, "Fate has taken a hand; you are obviously not going to be allowed to leave your shady past behind." I have found school in England very strange after the three years at Prince Rupert School, but am gradually settling down.

Note: Miss M. C. Tebbs, who was at Peterborough County School in 1960, taught mathematics. Her sister joined the school staff in the 1970s and taught English.

*Heather (McClure) Grist (Collingwood 58-61)*

*Ed. – Presumably you remember writing this Heather?*



Keep on dancing!

When her four children began to leave the nest, my elder sister, Betsey Ann Field (nee Oglesby) became very active at her local dance group in Woking. Eventually she moved to a flat just two minutes walk away from tower Bridge where she was able to pursue her dancing career with the Saddlers Wells Company of Elders. She has become somewhat of a poster girl with the company and continues to be active there while in her late seventies. Last year she was one of a small group to be invited to Japan to run a series of elderly dance workshops. Her various appearances have led to some commercial advert filming and also to an appearance as a dancing extra in the ballroom scene for the recent "Taboo" TV series in which she is lifted high off her feet as the main character walks by. Betsy has not yet joined TWA but I often pass on bits from our magazine.

*Denis Oglesby (Drake 54-57)*



*Betsey in action, the lady on the right.*

A sporting also ran



In the Autumn 2017 edition you invited tales of sporting excellence, but I can only offer the story of a near average also-ran. In my childhood I quite early learned that I had no sporting strengths. Then I saw a film about a marathon runner. Wow! Marathons were won by NOT RUNNING FAST! I was inspired. This could be the solution for weedy little me! It started at age ten when I went out into the quiet road outside our house and just ran round in a circle for quite a long time and was rewarded by not dropping dead! Then I went to PRS as a first and second year boy and did the occasional cross-country run round the harbour during PE lessons. I was not very fast but was often overtaking faster boys by the time we were half way round. At one point I tried to

take this further by spending several evenings jogging endlessly up and down the concrete road next to Drake house. Heaven knows what all the other boys/teachers thought. Remember those woollen socks we had in those days? In no time they were full of holes so that episode ended quickly.

I did similar at my UK day school, nothing exceptional. It turns out that I am a “morning” type and most cross-



country events were afternoon affairs. On the one occasion it was held on a morning, I slowly drifted to the front and came in first, tragically unnoticed by the teacher. When all were re-assembled the teacher asked who was first, I stuck my hand up but a number of sniggers indicated a general lack of belief. After leaving school I soon felt I was becoming “old” and unfit so I bought some running gear and started running late at night in the dark as this was the time when the very few runners on the street invariably attracted calls of “Up one-two-three” or even the interest of the local constabulary. Other interests took me onto the North York Moors and one day I spotted occasional runners passing by. On asking I found out that once a year there was a “Lyke Wake Race” across the N. Y. Moors all of 40 miles from east to west (into the wind!). I found the sheer madness of this inspiring. Within a year or so I joined the Lyke Wake Club becoming involved in the craze of aiming to walk that route within 24 hours and soon decided to enter the annual race.

The race caters for all abilities with a generous handicap starting system. I completed the 40 miles in a respectable 8 hours compared to the athletes who took about 5 hours and tale-enders doing about 14 hours. There were certain drawbacks, I lost several nails off several blackened toes and had to spend the following week at work with one fallen arch and one foot with a throbbing big toe resting on top of my

desk. Fortunately even the office bosses were supportive having done the Lyke Wake Walk several times.

Some friends and I also repeated the race and I continued over a period of 25 years until aged 50. On one wetter than normal occasion I crossed a raging beck by climbing through some small trees! Another year I even won the handicap trophy. In the end my wonderful support couple split up and work took me too far from home to do much training. Now 74 with a few aneurisms and a slightly leaky heart valve I still jog the occasional 3 or 4 mile runs at speeds well below those of more respectable veteran runners.

*Denis Oglesby (Drake 54-57)*

*Ed – In his after-PRS life, Denis studied mechanical engineering and embarked on a technical career. He retired somewhat reluctantly in 2010 at 67 due to a minor health scare, but still finds time for rambling, backpacking, model aeroplanes and is the author of a book on the subject. He still has the remains of a letter-writing outfit he won at PRS for keeping a tidy room at Drake Boys with Richard Tomlinson and Richard Halliday.*

Your mention of the school train in the previous issue reminded me of the day this photo was taken by my friend, Richard Tomlinson, from the train as it departed from school. I was left standing there because in the fifties





there were TWO steam trains bringing us to and from school, something I enjoy telling - when I get a chance - to anyone familiar with Harry Potter! At end of school term we had to mark our suitcases with either "Train A" or "Train B". Something I remember from those days is how German locomotives had FIVE driven axles, as opposed to a maximum of four in the UK.

Denis Oglesby (Drake 54-57)



### There's gratitude!

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by former PRS Headmistress, Monica Tebbs, to Liz Bird following the Newbury reunion in 1995.

*"I am sure your postman is till busy bringing sincere thanks and congratulations. I have never come across such capable organization, sheer genius. It was for all an unforgettable event. Such spirit in today's world is a miracle, as is the gratitude of our former pupils! I was quite overwhelmed - considering the ogre I was. I don't think there is a school in the whole world that could compete with the affection and appreciation we saw on Saturday. Mr Pacey would have loved it all. His heart was always in the school. I can't understand why more staff didn't turn up. No subsequent reunion can possibly be as enjoyable as this first great one, and that is why I might hesitate to come to the next one. I have felt quite sad since returning home. Sad that the reunion has been and gone, sad that I gave so many detentions and chased so many girls for various reasons. But I met with no resentment. I suspect that those who had any kept well away from me."*

### Edwin Follows



Mr Edwin Follows (left) in conversation with a parent at PRS.

In the previous issue of New Cavalier we featured an article by former pupil, Roger Follows, who was the son of Mr Edwin Follows, who taught art at PRS from 1953 until his death in 1962 (see pages 5 and 6). We subsequently received this photo of Mr Follows, which was taken in the mid-1950s. The group photo below shows Roger (front centre) in his final year at PRS.





## Bunker facelift



And the winner of the competition for the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center Wilhelmshaven competition is...Dorte Mandrup and partners of Denmark!

The new building will house the administration of a three-country corporation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, working to protect the Wadden Sea – an area that is considered one of the most important inter-tidal ecosystems in the world.

The area surrounding the building site presents the perfect setting for a naval harbour. Even Napoleon had his eyes set on the bay, and development as a naval base began around 1850, but today there only few remains of the naval quarters with a single, unmovable bunker appearing as a gigantic rock on the seabed. 'After studying the context of the site, we decided to integrate the

heavy bunker into the new building. It is a natural anchoring point on the otherwise open field, which also allows us to use as little land and resources as possible. This practical and aesthetic application, gives way for the bunker to act as the building foundation for what at night becomes an shimmering and open lighthouse for the area,' says Dorte Mandrup.

The site around the bunker will be transformed into an organically shaped surface with lows and highs, functioning as rainwater pools. In dry periods the surface will be almost completely dry and can be used for activities like roller skating, skateboard, cycling and social gatherings. In wet periods, only the highest points will form dry paths between the pools. The bunker building will house office space and meeting facilities, sitting neatly on top of the heavy concrete structure that will also serve as heat storage. The bunker itself will be exposed through a double glass facade, enabling natural ventilation. It will function as exhibition, event and archiving space.

During the day the building resembles the reflective surface of the Wadden Sea, which again is reflected in the surface of the rainwater pools. And at night it acts as a lighthouse that visible from a distance.

'The art of the successful transformation lies somewhere between the past and the future,' says Dorte Mandrup. When

faced with the task of transforming or adding to an existing building, Dorte Mandrup immerses itself in a process of analyzing existing structures and functions and of researching future needs and desires. Somewhere in the middle – in the present – lies the potential for innovation. It is found by either stripping down to a fundamental, original structure, or by preserving an idea or a quality.



Dorte Mandrup will rejuvenate the mainsite.

## School reports de-coded

Have you ever wondered what the well-known platitudes in your school reports actually mean? One teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave us this insight:

Satisfactory progress: I can't think of a single interesting thing to write

Easygoing: bone-idle

Lively: thoroughly disruptive

Sensitive: never stops whining

Helpful: a creep

Reliable: grasses willingly

Confident: cheeky devil

Enjoys PE: a thug

Works better under supervision: can't turn your back on him/her

Needs encouragement: thick as two short planks

Better at practical work: illiterate and no imagination

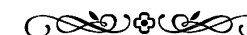
Independent minded: obstinate

Vivid imagination: never short of an excuse

*Ed.- Clearly not the teacher who in my first report wrote, 'Paul spends most of his time talking about things that don't concern art!'*

## In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the passing of the former pupil, Pam (Degan) Brown (Grenville/Collingwood 51-54)



## In Memoriam

TWA friend and stalwart, Jens Graul, died unexpectedly on Sunday 8th July at his house in Sengwarden-Wehlens aged 67. He leaves a wife and two grown-up children. Born on the 21st December 1950, Jens studied architecture in Aachen before joining the Wilhelmshaven town planning office in 1978. In 1986 he became a councillor and a decade later gained his PhD from Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg with a dissertation on Structural Change and Conversion in Wilhelmshaven. From 1988 to 2002 he was a member of the board of the Friends of the German Maritime Museum in Wilhelmshaven and co-edited a series of publications on military and naval history. The fruits of his work as an author are remembered particularly with the publishing of,

'Captain Edward Conder RN and the New Beginning 1945'. Throughout his 34-year career with the Wilhelmshaven city council, Jens held a number of appointments, culminating in Director of Administration at the head of several departments. Beyond his official retirement on 2nd January 2014, Jens became head of the Wilhelmshaven Culture Office. TWA founder, Liz Bird, paid tribute to Jens in last summer's edition of our magazine when she wrote that the association has developed a rare and very significant and possibly unique relationship with the town of Wilhelmshaven. In particular, Jens Graul, our man in Wilhelmshaven who is often seen at reunions, has become a friend to all of us. His presence and unstinting interest in the TWA-Wilhelmshaven relationship has been invaluable, she said.



*Jens at his desk in the Wilhelmshaven Rathaus prior to his retirement in 2014.*

## In Memoriam

In the previous issue, we announced the passing of 47er, Peter Rodney Carter (9th July 1932 – 5th March 2018) and have subsequently received the following tribute.



Peter, with his brother Michael, was the first pupil to enter PRS in Howe House in 1947 the day before the official date of July 1st. He quickly adapted to the ethos of the school joining in all activities and made his mark in house and school teams for riding, tennis and football. Peter left to join the Army starting his career in the obligatory basic training in the Royal Engineers having qualified for entry into the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Life was hard under the Guards RSM's but he soon adjusted to

the regime and became a member of the football and tennis teams.

Peter was commissioned (1953) into the Royal Signals and served in Munster Lager (3RHA) before posting to the Canal Zone, Egypt. Here his riding at school stood him in great stead as he became a member of the polo team gaining a handicap of +4, being a member of the regimental team winning the Middle East Polo championship.

Returning to England he served in Southern Command HQ, Wilton as the army Public Schools Liaison Officer for the South of England but after 6 months became disenchanted and requested to learn to fly. He passed the aptitude test at RAF Uxbridge and was posted to the Army Air Corps station at Middle Wallop. Qualified he was posted to a VIP Flight ferrying Senior Officers and Ministers to Ireland, England and Europe.

Accompanied by a colleague in 1961 flew an Auster in the monsoon season to Singapore where he met Mike Booth, now a Midshipman, his roommate from PRS. This journey was fraught with mishaps requiring crash landings on unmapped ex WWII landing strips in the jungle. In the same year he married Jill. This was still not exciting enough: he joined the Empire Test Pilots School, Farnborough where he flew all types of piston and jet aircraft. Posted to MoD Boscombe Down in the Rotary Test Squadron and later became Commanding Officer. During



this period he was involved in Anglo-French aircraft programmes in Paris and Marseilles and with Boeing in USA.

He retired to an attractive village in Somerset. Peter and Jill attended most of the many 47ers get-togethers being a welcome raconteur he was always involved in all company.



Peter organised the first trip of the 47ers to Canada and was thus instrumental in the coming together of many of the 47ers living there. His driving over there was as adventurous as his flying. Peter is sadly missed by 47ers and friends, who hope to continue seeing Jill.

*Vic Longyear (Drake 47-50)*



### But was he innocent?

In October 1960, an ex-PRS boy was accused of murdering an elderly widow living in Shrewsbury. The accused, twenty-one year old George Riley, an otherwise normal youth for his age, had been out on the town with friends that fateful night and had more than enough to drink. He knew the victim well. She was an immediate neighbour, and he actually admitted to having broken into her home with the intent to relieve her of some cash that he knew was kept upstairs. But critically, he also admitted to having used force when she awoke and tried to stop him. The accused was not unknown to the police and they built a case around a statement that was made by him before he realised the seriousness of the case. The widow had died and the charge suddenly became murder! Despite the dubious evidence and the retraction of the original statement made by the accused, who was tired of the endless questioning, George was tried, found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. A reprieve was sought, but the Home Secretary of the day turned down the plea. Now, author Michael Wood is writing a book intending to get to the bottom of the whole affair and would love to hear from anyone who knew George Riley at PRS. If you did, please get in touch. George was a pupil at PRS from about 1950-53 and was also in the Sea Cadets. His siblings, Edward (born 1936), Patricia (born 1938) and Terence (born 1940) may also have attended PRS.



*We think George Riley is the boy on the right of this photo. Writer Michael Wood would like to hear from anyone who knew him at PRS. ☎ 02085791222 📧 michaeljwood@ymail.com*

### Accounts for the 12 months to April 5th 2018.

I am pleased to report that the TWA accounts were in a healthy state at the end of the 2017/2018 Financial Year.

Summary of the Accounts as follows (2016/2017 are in brackets for comparison)

#### General Fund

b/f 2016 – 2017 £3,528.56 (£3,083.96)

Total Income available including subscriptions and Merchandise sales £8,419.46 (£7,926.36)

Total Expenditure on Merchandise, TWA site Hosting, Stationery, Room Hire for Meetings, Newsletters Printing and Postage, PayPal Charges. £5,268.03 (£4,397.80)

Balance available to be c/f to 2018/2019 £3,151.43 (£3,528.56)

#### Contingency Reserve:

c/f to 2018/2019 £4,000

#### Facilitation Fund

b/f 2016/2017 £5,511.97 (£6,076.75)

Income from Donations £100 (£3,77.55)

Less Grants £309.98 (£664.78)

Balance c/f 2018/2019 £5,301.99 (£5,511.97)

If you would like further details then please contact the Treasurer, Carol Goronwy.



When Mike Booth (Howe 47 - 51) left PRS I doubt that he would have thought that 67 years later, he would still be in contact with so many former pupils from his era. Many of us kept a yearly diary, but I wonder how many would have kept them for decades? I certainly didn't keep mine at all! Mary Churchill, the late daughter of the famous Sir Winston did keep hers'. I know this because when the Foundation Stone ceremony papers for Churchill House were discovered a few years ago, I contacted her, then The Late Mary Soames, Baroness, LG, DBE, FRSL, to see if she could remember this. I was able to send her photographs of the event too, acquired from the Conder family.

Baroness Soames wrote back saying that she couldn't remember the actual event but she had gone through her diary for that year and she certainly had been in Wilhelmshaven at that time and stayed with a Naval Officer's family. I assume this to have been the family of The Late Captain ER Conder RN, in charge of the Naval Party 1735, based at our School site before we took over in 1947.

Returning now to Mike Booth- Mike also kept his diaries and sent me an account of PRS contacts, retrieved from these and letters mouldering in dusty boxes before being consigned to the skip. On leaving PRS Mike had kept in touch with John Ransom (Howe 47 - 51) who was at RMA Sandhurst and



*Churchill House Foundation Stone Ceremony on 13th June 1945, with Mary Churchill signing and Captain ER Conder RN on the right.*

on a visit there he met Malcolm Wise (Drake 47 - 50).



*Mike Booth*

It seems that Mike's career was to be influenced by his time in the Sea Cadets and 2 cruises with TS Prince Rupert as well as his experience as a war time evacuee returning from the USA, and as guest of the Royal Navy aboard HMS Sheffield. With National Service looming, the Royal Navy was clearly the service of choice and initially Mike joined the London Division of the RNVR as an Ordinary Seaman. In 1952, he was called up and started his national service at Victoria Barracks, Southsea where he met Brian Carey (Howe 47 - 52) and Ann Dyer (Howe 48 - 51) who lived locally. Following training aboard HMS Implacable, Mike was promoted to Midshipman, RNVR.

Mike's first overseas posting was the Malta based Frigate, HMS Wakeful. During his first year on the ship the crew provided earthquake relief in Kephallonia, performed guard-ship duties at the southern end of the Suez Canal, visited ports across the Mediterranean and successfully located the wreckage of the Comet jet airliner that had crashed into deep water south of Elba. During this time, Mike had decided that the Navy was the career for him and applied for and gained a permanent commission. He joined the last British battleship, HMS Vanguard, on which Chris George (Drake 47 - 48) was also serving.

In the winter of 1954, Mike attended a PRS reunion in London where he met others from his era at PRS, including Jack Moore (Mat/Drake 47 - 48) who organised the event and John Ransom and Jill Parslow (Drake 47 - 50) were also there. During the 1950's Mike met Trevor Creech (Howe 47 - 50), Dinah Hughes (Drake 48 - 50), Garry Grosvenor (Rodney 47 - 51), Tony Griffiths (Drake 47 - 52), Clive Thompson (Collingwood 48 - 50), Peter Mettyear (Drake 47 - 49), Peter Berry (Howe 47 - 48) and Peter Carter (Howe 47 - 50). In 1957, Mike attended another PRS reunion in London and Mr Smitherman (Head Master 47 - 51) was there along with other former PRS sites not recorded in the diary. In 1959, Mike served aboard HMS Belfast and while he was in Hong Kong he met Mr Smitherman again, who was now back teaching Army children

and enjoying working with the military following his job as Head at Wolverstone Hall. On this same visit Mike met Jimmy Jeans (Howe 48 - 49).

From 1965, Mike's records are incomplete, but he does recall the wedding of John Ransom and Jill Parslow and also entertaining some former PRS pupils on board various ships at various times. In October 1998, Mike received a letter from Joe Kinson (Rodney 47 - 50) and then a whole new era of meeting up with former school friends started again and this is another lovely story!

The 47ers as they have become known, are a very special group of former pupils who were at PRS from the start or during the first few years. Quite a few attended for a few weeks in the summer term with Mr Smitherman and his new staff and the rest started in the first official term in September 1947 or slightly later. This group has so many stories to tell of those early days and I have been very privileged to become a sort of honorary member. In fact, in 2017, I attended a delightful Christmas lunch where they met up and enjoyed the company of each other. I might add that this group, now in their 80's were a delight to watch setting off long balloons to deflate around the room, pulling the string of bangers and blowing small round balls through pea-shooter type pipes. Did we ever do this sort of thing at PRS?

*Barbara (Miller) Steels (Hood/Rodney 57-61)*

They met at PRS



Sue and Garry were finally married on May 5, 2018.

Garry Hall (Howe 63-65) and Susan Rosson (Howe 61-67) were in the same form at PRS and first met when they sat next to each other in Mr McNicholas's class. They struck up a relationship and went out with each other for well over three years before Sue's mother was taken ill and had to return to the UK. At this point Garry and Sue lost touch. "I didn't know what had happened to her except for the fact that she wasn't there anymore. Later, when I moved back to England and started work, I saved up to buy a motorbike and asked my father to find out where Sue's dad had been posted. We lived in Dorset at the time and Sue was in Farnborough, so I went looking for her. It was about a four-hour ride on my BSA Bantam 175cc

machine and upon arrival I walked to the gatehouse like an old cowboy!" But there was some misunderstanding about Sue's whereabouts. "She was supposed to live in a place with 'cove' in the name. Well in Dorset there are plenty of coves, so I assumed she had move to the coast." With heavy heart he went back home and that was the end of the matter until fifty years later he contacted Carol Goronwy and was put in touch with Sue. "Her husband had unfortunately died the year before and she was in a dark place. As a friend I helped to put a smile back on her face via texts and e-mails. I had been divorced for many years and between us both we had five children and four grandchildren. Five months passed before I drove down to Farnborough and we met for the first time since Sue left PRS. We really got on great and just over eighteen months later I asked Sue's children, now grown up of course, for their blessing to marry their mum. After fifty-one years apart we were finally wed. The TWA deserves all the brownie points and gold stars that I can find."

*Ed. – a nice story Garry. Quite envious of your 175cc Bantam: mine was only 125cc!*



Fleet mini



The Fleet reunion (photo by courtesy of Jimmy Whitehouse) was held on the 3rd of June.

Sunday 3rd June saw us all back at The Lismoyne Hotel for a mini-reunion lunch. There were thirty of us, which was less than last time due to illness and prior commitments, but that didn't dampen anyone's enjoyment on the day. Once again, I ordered a hot sunny day and wasn't disappointed. It was a glorious Summer day in the country. We met up from 11am onwards and enjoyed Bucks Fizz on the patio while having a good catch up. Lunch was very good and everyone enjoyed their meal and a raffle that included one lucky lady Heidi Weatherby winning a bottle of House of Commons whisky signed by Teresa May and very generously donated by Alex Briggs (thank you Alex). We also had loads of memorabilia donated by Barbara Steels who sadly couldn't come, so everyone got to take home something. I even planted up some succulents from my garden to give away.

Thank you everyone it's always worth meeting up even if the numbers are getting fewer every year. We let the balloons go from my garden that evening. Finally, we raised £100 in our raffle and will put it towards whichever charity we decide to support at our 2019 main reunion

*Norma Dunlevy (Kelly) Howe 63-65*





## Collingwood boy remembers



*Alex Briggs (right) and friend outside Collingwood Boys in May 1953.*

On leaving school in 1955 I joined the RAF as an apprentice and was sent to RAF Locking near Weston-Super-Mare, where I found there were a few other former PRS guys, including Mike Keen, who was older and therefore senior to me. When I moved on from Locking after about a year, Mike and I swapped his old "Best Blue" uniform for mine, which was newer and therefore in better condition. But when I handed it in to the stores I got a rollicking due to the condition of a suit that looked much older than it should have looked. They still don't know the reason. Tony Carpenter (Drake 52-55) is another former PRS boy who was at school and also at RAF Locking with me. The last time I saw him, which was at the Plymouth reunion in 2005, he was living in Sweden.

I am a keen jazz fan and in the late 50's & early 60's went regularly to London

Kilburn & Festival Hall to see live jazz with Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, MJQ (The Modern Jazz Quartet), etc. During the interval at one Festival Hall show, two guys came into view, but their shoes were not quite as shiny as when I used to polish them at PRS! They were former Collingwood boys, Tom Fisher (now in Australia) and Ian Grant. The last I heard of Ian was that he had been in the catering trade at one of the big swish London hotels and if anyone know of his current whereabouts I would be delighted to hear from them.

My younger sister, who had joined the Women's Royal Air Force, first came home on leave with her RAF boy friend in his car. The car was a Maitret-type Citroen, which enthusiasts will know has the two inverted chevrons on the radiator. I commented that it looked like a "Corporal Technicians" staff car and when he stepped into our house I was amazed to see that it was David Guilfoyle, an ex-Collingwood boy from same year as me and last heard of living in Watford.

When I lived in Portsmouth during the sixties, I recall seeing - either in Marks & Spencer or British Home Stores - this big guy who was clearly a manager, telling the shop girls what they should and should not be doing. All of a sudden he looked in my direction and asked, "Don't I know you from somewhere?" It turned out to be no less than Rodney boy, Robert Jenkins, who was known as 'Biff' during my time at school.

Similarly, in the late eighties I worked in Benelux region and on a trip home to UK I travelled via Ostend to Dover. On arrival at Ostend I had time to kill before the next ferry was due and so I walked into town for a snack and a Belgian beer. As it happened, an Englishman ran the cafe I entered and who was the owner, yes...you've guessed it, 'Biff' Jenkins. So the next ferry or two was missed and I slept off the alcohol on the four-hour crossing to Dover.

Before the Newbury reunion took place, I heard about it by way of the radio. The lady running the show, as we all know and can never thank her enough, was Liz Bird of Chandlers Ford. I lived in Romsey, five miles away. However when I found Liz's house it was in the next road to where I had spent many weekends visiting a close friend. Once again, PRS again was just half a mile away. Naturally, I attended Newbury and what a fantastic weekend it was. If you could bottle that you could have lived on it for weeks after. Then came the weekend at Wilhelmshaven in 1997, which once again was fantastic and we enjoyed weather we never experienced in term time at school. Bristol followed and again it was great greeting and meeting so many folk from the special school. So many travelled from around the globe for all of these reunions. The school must have been special for so many to still meet and keep in touch today.

But the coincidences don't end there for me. My parents lived for years

in Gosport, Hampshire and in the strawberry picking season we would often stop at one of the biggest, pick-your-own strawberry fields in the area. One of the loveliest properties adjacent to these Strawberry fields was that owned by a great lady who served, counted the money of your pickings, and organised the fruit farm area. Little did I know that the lovely lady of the house was in fact a very special PRS girl whom I can't thank enough for lots of things, especially "The Book". I am of course talking about Babs McGee, another Collingwood star who now lives in Australia.

*Alex Briggs (Collingwood 52-55)*



*Alex Briggs (left) and Tom Fisher at the Leeds reunion in 2015, exactly 60 years since Alex left PRS*



## Wilhelmshaven mini-reunion

Around thirty former pupils and members of staff descended on Wilhelmshaven in June for a get together in conjunction with the local Jade Festival weekend.

The town was awash with music venues, including the Pumpwerk, and there were many other attractions. Tall ships from as far away as Russia were moored adjacent to the former Bonteheim site and the entire route from Fliegerdeich via the Kaiser-Wilhelm Brücke resembled one huge fairground. The sunny weather attracted huge crowds and the writer has seldom experienced such a scene and festival atmosphere in the town.

The majority of us stayed at the familiar Kaiser Hotel, just a short walk away from the PRS main site. We couldn't access the site itself due to ongoing construction work. This is in the early stages, but there are big plans (see this issue) and we all look forward to seeing the final result, hopefully on our next visit. A reunion evening and buffet was arranged the following Monday at which several PRS associates attended. Some of us stayed on until Wednesday and during the course of our stay visited all of the usual haunts, including the pretty village of Jever, the former home of many ex-PRS pupils with RAF connections. Wilhelmshaven itself hasn't changed much since our last visit, but landmarks like Karstadt (now occupied by MediaMarkt) have changed hands.

Some of us visited the Kusten (Coast) museum, just behind the old Bonteheim site, at which PRS memorabilia will be exhibited in the not too distant future. We also discovered a bunker in the north of the town that has been set up as a museum.

*Ed.*



THE WILHELMSHAVEN ASSOCIATION  
DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018  
THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The Committee of the Wilhelmshaven Association would like to assure our members that we are handling and will continue to handle your data in accordance with the new regulation and, as always, in a professional manner.

Just to remind you, the data we hold includes your name (as you were known at school as well as now) address, telephone number(s) and email address, when you attended the school, and, (where appropriate), the names of siblings who attended the school, and where parents were stationed. We also hold records of Association events or reunions which you have previously attended.

By becoming or remaining an Association member and by paying your annual subscription you consent to the Association holding and processing your data. These details are held only by the Association's Membership Secretary. We use this information to keep the membership database up to date so that we can ensure that you receive the TWA Newsletter and any appropriate notices, relevant information relating to your membership, and your subscription renewal.

Committee members may also request members contact details from the Membership Secretary from time

to time solely for the purpose of the organisation and administration of the Association and/or any Association events, or to obtain information for the New Cavalier. We do not keep any bank or card details.

The Association may from time to time takes photographs or video film of members and their spouses/partners especially at Association events. These images may appear in printed publications, including posters and other display materials and on social media. We may also send them to the news media.

By continuing your membership of the Association you give implicit permission for these photographs and videos to be published, unless you advise the Membership Secretary that you do not wish any such photographs or videos to be published. However, we cannot take any responsibility for photographs or videos taken by individual members at events, or any such images subsequently published by them on social media.

We take every precaution to ensure that your current details and whereabouts are not revealed to any other member without your express permission. If another member wishes to contact you we will always ask your permission before passing on any contact details.

We do not provide or sell lists of names, addresses or email addresses to any other organisations.

You are classified in our records as a member of The Wilhelmshaven Association.

By the continuation of your membership, and payment of your annual subscription, or your application to join The

Wilhelmshaven Association, you give implicit acceptance of the above.

If you wish to leave the Association at any time, please contact the Membership Secretary to make arrangements to have your data removed from our records.

### New Finds

| Name at PRS      | Name now         | Years   | House       |
|------------------|------------------|---------|-------------|
| Michael Goudman  | Michael Goudman  | 68 - 71 | ?           |
| Jane Hare        | Jane Ryder       | 63 - 68 | Collingwood |
| Brian Perrins    | Brian Perrins    | 55 - 58 | Drake       |
| Desmond Thomas   | Desmond Thomas   | 59 - 61 | Drake       |
|                  |                  |         |             |
| <i>Re-joined</i> |                  |         |             |
| Garry Hall       | Garry Hall       | 65 -    | Howe        |
| Kevin Ludlow     | Kevin Ludlow     | 63 - 66 | Rodney      |
| Alan Parris      | Alan Parris      | 63 - 76 | Collingwood |
| Susan Rosson     | Susan Hall       | 61 - 67 | Howe        |
| Pauline Riddel   | Pauline Prothero | 64 - 67 | Howe        |
|                  |                  |         |             |

Garry and Susan have just married and become members again.

### *Joined after being located originally in 1994*

|             |             |      |            |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------|
| David Payne | David Payne | 71 - | Shackelton |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------|

**Password for members' new website is still effective till 31 August, 2018 – see rear cover.**

**New password from September 2018 is: RUP-ert-Sch@@L**