



GRENVILLE ASSOCIATION

incorporating
Stella Maris
Old Girls Association

www.grenvilleassociation.co.uk

2008 NEWSLETTER

A note from your Hon. Sec.

Last year I wrote, with reference to our annual reunions:

“We need to change the format as well as the date, that is obvious, but how do we change the format? Do we attempt to suit all ages and all tastes and end up suiting no-one? Do we have a choice of several smaller events? There are many options facing us at the moment and we may not get it right the first time we try something new (or even the second!) but we do need your attendance and your feed back in order to find out what you want. If you attend once and find it is not to your taste, please let us know what you would like, rather than just giving up on us!”

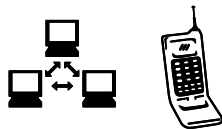
Unfortunately, it appears that quite a few of you gave up on us without even trying the new date and format! With only 36 places booked for the dinner we were forced to cancel the event – this was a great disappointment to those of us who had spent time trying to arrange something that we felt would have been an enjoyable weekend.

Please read Ashley’s letter and fill in the questionnaire, or better still, complete it online and send to me with the click of your mouse! (www.grenvilleassociation.co.uk) To access the questionnaire, visit our website and while you are there, why not take a look at the forums pages, where you will find lots of interesting threads (conversations) and messages from ex pupils – you may even find someone who is looking to make contact with you.

At the end of the Summer Term I was pleased to be able to make a presentation of Sporting Excellence prizes on your behalf at our end of term assembly to Sam Petty, a dedicated athlete who has achieved national recognition in both triathlon and biathlon events, and Beth Radford an all round sports woman. Between them these students have represented the school in Cross Country, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Netball, Rounders and Squash. Sam wrote a very nice thank you letter just prior to his successful trips to the London Triathlon at Docklands and the British Biathle Championships in Manchester in August last year. At our Prize Giving evening in September I also awarded the annual Association book token prizes to two of our successful Sixth Form students. Circle Pang achieved outstanding A level results in despite English being her second language and Matthew Verney, one of our dyslexic students, working solidly and with dogged determination for two years, achieved excellent results.

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous 2008,

Fo Edmonds



NEWS



We have recently been asked why there is not so much news from ex-Stella Maris pupils in this newsletter. The simple answer is that they do not send me very much! However, Stella Maris girls should note that I can no longer print a summary of the news which Sister Mary Immaculate receives every year, and which she very kindly used to summarise and send to me. We have both recently been concerned that there may be an issue regarding the legality of publishing the content of private letters to her. Therefore could I please ask that any of you who do send sister a newsy letter would also consider sending a copy to me? Thank you.

Fo Edmonds, Hon Sec (UserFo@aol.com)

<p>70 -75</p>	<p>Austin, Peter Peter wrote with a change of address in April 2007. He fondly remembers being made very welcome by Bryan Morris and David and Carla Young. Bryan allowed him to make model aircraft in the Biology lab, where he regularly fumigated the lab with aircraft dope! Peter and his partner Amber live in Combwich and they have three children; 2 girls and a boy. Peter works for Radiodetection in Bristol as their global IT manager.</p>
<p>85 - 90</p>	<p>Biddle, Piers Piers came to the 2006 reunion and had a very good time and he was looking forward to seeing everyone at the September 2008 reunion.</p>
<p>88 - 90</p>	<p>Brinjes, Jonathan Jonathan contacted me with his new address and e mail details. His latest update is as follows: "I Left GEC for Panasonic Mobile Communications where I was able to develop a "Virtual Keyboard" patent using the principle of parallax to know finger positions. If anybody is interested in this and wants more info they just have to Google my name and this will come up among other thing, such as my astrophysics paper and Grenville of course. "Unfortunately as Brinjes means something in Albanian, the list of results is getting ever longer! "Got married on 18th February 2006 and I also left Panasonic last year, we are now living in East-Yorkshire. I am currently with BT as a Test Consultant, but foresee change on this front. Finally we are expecting our first child - due June 2007"</p>
<p>62 - 69</p>	<p>Cooper, Jean (now Fox) Jean wrote to update us with her contact details and to say how much she has enjoyed past reunions. She is hoping to gather some of her contemporaries for this year's reunion.</p>
<p>80 - 84</p>	<p>Cucksey, Simon Simon runs a very successful landscaping company in South Bucks. He and his wife of 17 years, Sandra, have a daughter, Danielle. Simon returned to Grenville a couple of years ago and was glad to see some of the old faces.</p>
<p>90 -95</p>	<p>Davis, Paul "I thought I would drop you a quick line to let you know what I am up to now. In Jan of this year I got married and am now settled with my wife Franki in Leighton Buzzard. Work wise I have just taken a job as manager of train maintenance on the Central Line. In my spare time I am still restoring classic cars at my own workshop for myself and various customers. I find this very enjoyable. I hope to make it to an old boys' weekend soon but am finding it a struggle due to work commitments."</p>
<p>56 - 63</p>	<p>Evans, Mike Mike was in School House then Tallis, and sent us this update: "Just to say how much I enjoyed reading the Assoc Newsletter on line. As I grow older there are of course fewer names I recognise (or do I mean remember??) but I still value contact with my Alma Mater in this excellent format and offer</p>

	<p>congratulations to you and those who developed, contribute and maintain the website.</p> <p>"For my sins, I was one of the earlier pupils at Grenville, then under the leadership and vision of Walter Scott. Reading Anthony Thorburns' (I do remember him) letter reminded me too that Grenville had a special offering to those of us who perhaps did not fully develop their academic skills within the prescribed educational period. Interesting that our present Government is planning to extend the time young folk spend at school.</p> <p>"I enjoyed 35 years with Barclays Bank, mostly in management but, through ill health, had to take early retirement in 1999. My wife enjoyed 20 years or so as a schoolteacher and the last 6 years managing a hostel for homeless. Those of you who may remember me at Grenville would be astounded to learn that I married a teacher! She too retires shortly and will have more time to spend with our six grandchildren. Fortunately our daughter, an AIDS and HIV specialist with her family and our son, a detective in the Surrey Force and his family all live within reasonable reach. Further deterioration in my health has forced me to give up many of my pursuits (I still manage to ride a motorcycle and drive a Plus 8 Morgan) but I can still be found on a Thursday stewarding at Brooklands Motoring and Aviation Museum (Weybridge, Surrey) and would be glad to show any old boy/girl around. For those with families, half terms and holidays are particularly active with many of our old cars and m/cycles in use on a Thursday. The second Concord, gifted to us by BAe, has been restored and is the only version in the south of England, is well worth a visit.</p> <p>"I doubt that I will ever be able to attend a reunion but wish the Association every success."</p>
89-94	<p>Fraser, Neil</p> <p>Neil wrote in to let us know of an exciting TV series he has been involved with. His firm of Genealogists were shadowed for 7 months for a BBC daytime programme called "Heir Hunters", which was shown in June; running daily for three weeks from 4th June, the programmes were on weekdays at 9.15 am.</p>
56-58	<p>Green-Price, John</p> <p>John wrote, in response to the 2007 newsletter, with his news. After working for a wholesale supplier in the seventies and running some shops in Croyde, John spent 21 years running his shop on Saunton Beach."I loved this work and was fortunate enough to meet some lovely people visiting the area on holiday. I retired just over 2 years ago when the lease expired, but still keep in touch with people in the 'bucket and spade' trade. My wife, Ali, works as a physio for the local health authority and used to help me in the business."</p> <p>John remembers Mr Scott and Mrs Dunlop from his time at Grenville and still has one of his old school reports!</p>
94 - 99	<p>Harries, Ceri</p> <p>Congratulations to Ceri, who graduated from Winchester in Early Years' Studies. She is now teaching in Essex.</p>
88 - 92	<p>Hiyoshi, Kei</p> <p>Kei recently made contact through our website, asking to contact some of his former classmates. He has since e mailed to express his appreciation of this service and to say how thrilled he is to have been able to get back in touch with friends after more than 10 years.</p>
68 - 74	<p>Leon, John</p> <p>Things have moved on since John arrived in France in Sept 2005. He writes: "I can say I'm integrating well, unlike many ex-pats who seem to be unable to live outside of "the empire " and accept that the French have their own language and culture. I now own 2 flats in Begerac which I let out and I am slowly building the foundations of a business, however SLOWLY is the operative word. Life is far less stressful than it ever was in the UK and to that end is very enjoyable. Apparently it is now possible to fly direct to Exeter from Bergerac, so maybe an appearance at the next reunion is not out of the bounds of possibility. A Happy New Year to all."</p>
75 - 79	<p>Lidstone, Dawn</p> <p>Dawn contacted me to say how many memories the photos of the Stella Maris site</p>

	<p>redevelopment had brought back.</p> <p>"I viewed the photos with a mixture of sadness too that I will never be able to go back. Certain aspects of the school were so pretty such as the gardens. Even the little chapel was sweet. To view the sunny photos of, say, the gym, and then to just see a pile of rubble made me feel very sad and nostalgic.</p> <p>I left in 1979 at the age of 14 (as did my elder sister, Kim aged 16) and never re-visited but my parents have moved to Bideford and attend the church behind the school (where we boarders trooped on a Sunday evening). When I visited them over the summer I tried to peer over the church wall, through a gate thinking I'd get a glimpse of the garden....It would have been such a blow to have seen a row of houses and tarmac. Sometimes it really is better not to 'go back' but just to keep those memories inside in a warm, sunny place."</p> <p>Dawn, a teacher, is living in Swindon with her partner, Bruce ("what would the nuns think!") and baby, Tom, 8 months.</p>
<p>75 - 79</p>	<p>Lidstone, Kim now Shanks</p> <p>Kim's sister, Dawn sent us this update.</p> <p>Kim, also a teacher, is living in Newbury with husband, Damian. They have 2 children, Charlie, (5) and Annabelle (4)</p> <p>Both Dawn and Kim would like to come to this year's reunion and hope that their parents, who are now back in Bideford, will babysit the grandchildren!</p>
<p>53 - 62</p>	<p>Lockhart, Christina, now Carpenter</p> <p>Christina still lives in Totnes and is now a full time carer for her husband; "no more County Bowling and gadding about!" She has just successfully completed a two year NAFAS diploma course and has had success at the Devon County Show and Taunton Show in the floral art classes. At the time of writing she was preparing for an entry in the Malvern Spring Show; a huge challenge, where the competition will be high.</p> <p>Christina would love to hear from any of her contemporaries who are passing by and hopes they will give her a ring. Christina regrets that she will be unable to attend the 2007 reunion due to a knee replacement operation – "the legacy of hockey and netball no doubt!"</p>
<p>78 - 85</p>	<p>Lovering, David</p> <p>David contacted us in May 2007 with his updated details. He looks back on his school years at Grenville with much fondness. The teachers were dedicated and enthusiastic about their subjects, good discipline and Christian guidance was provided and plenty of time was allowed for the enjoyment of sports.</p> <p>He highlights several teachers worth mentioning: Hugh MacDougal was an excellent House Master and really made history exciting, David Young's chemistry lessons were full of explosive surprises, Anthony Paris brought Shakespeare to life, Chris Charlton for his enthusiasm and time on the hockey pitch and, of course, David's interest in Physics was nurtured by his father, Eric Lovering!</p> <p>After leaving Exeter University with a Physics degree David joined a manufacturing firm (Gooch & Housego plc) in Ilminster, Somerset, designing hi-tech optical components for lasers. During 17 years at the company he travelled frequently to the US and Europe and expanded his responsibilities from R & D through Sales, IT, Production and Personnel into Business-unit Management becoming Director of Acousto-Optics.</p> <p>Living in Taunton and currently enjoying a voluntary career break with a more relaxed life-style, David qualified as a badminton coach, playing and instructing at clubs in the local area. He also enjoys surfing, hill walking, web site design, flight simulation and looking after horses with girlfriend Jane.</p>

<p>81 - 83</p>	<p>Myatt, Tom Tom added his news to the website forum: "So much has happened with us since our last contribution. Three years ago we came over to Canada on holiday, stayed in Victoria and fell in love with British Columbia. Last year I secured a new position working for Community Living BC as an IT Director, implementing a UK based software package. We have been here in Vancouver now since April 2006 and are undergoing a Provincial Nomination hopefully to gain permanent residence. Grenville College will never leave me and I am always thinking back to the great times I had. I visited Bruce in S.Africa about 5 years ago and he is now manages international consultancy for SAS. Like in Grenville, I still strive to achieve after my big brother [Bruce Bond-Myatt]. Emily now is 9 and Joseph 4 and loving living here in Canada.</p> <p>I would be interested in knowing if MY mini golf course still remains at Moreton House! I would like to know what ever happened to Derek Cheah, he used to cook up some cracking meals!"</p>
<p>90 - 97</p>	<p>Phillips, Gwyn "Having completed my MSc at Queen Mary & Westfield, went on to do several random jobs for Universities. Joined the Home Office in 2005, work as an Advocate in the Immigration / Asylum courts in London representing the government. Live in Ealing, with a friend from University."</p>
<p>81 - 86</p>	<p>Rooker, Al (Kipling & Tallis) "Sorry I'm late. I was on detention for the last 21 years! This is my first news update since leaving. Obviously there has been a lot of news since then, but I will try to keep this brief.</p> <p>I didn't do too well in my O levels due partly to the fact that I fell asleep in one of them, but also because I used to skive off lessons, and games quite a lot, and hang out down the music rooms. Well my post school life continued in the same vein really. I spent many years skiving off, and working in the music industry as an engineer and producer. In 1998 I married Kate. I gave up working full time with music to raise three children, and help Kate develop her driving business. I now have an IT & advertising business, but still work with music here and there. I'm still living near Plymouth, and when I'm not working I enjoy going out on, in, or under the water - sailing, power boating, diving, surfing etc, as well as astronomy, motorbiking, and playing music of course.</p> <p>I have some very happy memories from my time at Grenville. I'm hoping to get in touch with some of my fellow Gren-villains from 81 to 86, and hope to come to a reunion soon. I haven't been in contact with any old comrades since Al Dunn phoned out of the blue about 10 years ago. Andy German (head boy '82?) was living a mile up the road from me, but recently emigrated to Australia with his family. I often drink in the local pub with Nick Lethbridge, who was in Tallis house about 20 years before I was (60 - 63) - we sometimes share a Grenville yarn over a pint, and reminisce over the same teachers who managed to survive us both. DICY Young is one of them I seem to recall!"</p>
<p>82 - 87</p>	<p>Tsang, Terence Terence is now living in California and recently joined the online members' community.</p>
<p>61 - 66</p>	<p>Tyndall, Bill This from Bill in May 2007 - He would be pleased to see any members in the Malvern area.</p> <p>"I am still involved with the Talyllyn Railway plus, until our move, I also helped with the Romsey Signal Box Project. This project also has links with the Instow Box set. If any old boys in the area would like to meet I would be more than happy. I am very grateful to Grenville; when I entered the school I felt I was a dunce. But thanks to Mr Scott's vision I was able to progress and eventually enter the Army become a vehicle Mechanic and all sorts of other jobs over the years. My Late father was a pupil along with Wo at Clifton and my father told me that Wo had said that if he could he would start and run a school so that pupils would not suffer as he did.(Wo was also a Dyslexic). The rest as they say is history."</p>

IN MEMORIAM

Henry Vivian (Peter) Joll

I received this from Julien Henwood in November last year and we remembered Peter at the annual dinner. Unfortunately I omitted to include it in the 2007 newsletter - my apologies.

"It was with great sadness that I saw recently in The Daily Telegraph notice of the death of Peter Joll who at one time had been a master and later house master at Grenville College. After a short illness, he died in Musgrave Park Hospital, Taunton on 4th May (2006), leaving a wife Marion. Peter was living in School House when I went to Grenville at the age of 12 in 1957. He was still there when I left in '62.

Peter was such a delightful and memorable character. He wasn't married at the time I knew him. He was form master of Upper 3 and taught French. He spoke the language so well that a visitor to the school who was French could not believe that Peter was not a native of her country. In French classes he always called me Poule de Bois.

One of the things I will always remember about Peter was his playing of the double bass in the school orchestra and taking a desperate puff at his cigarette whenever there was a break between bars! I'll always remember those times - David Young on violin, occasionally viola; Peter Joll on double bass, lighted cigarette close by; Sheila Scott, the headmaster's wife, on cello; all good players in their own right, while the rest of us scratched away on our instruments in the background! I remember one night at Moreton waking up and hearing instruments being played in the headmaster's sitting room above followed by excited voices and hoots of laughter. A musical soirée was clearly in full swing and, whilst I had no evidence of this, I just imagined Peter Joll up there playing the fool on his double base! It sounded as though a good time was being had by all."

John Hadfield

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of John in March 2007. John was Head of English and Drama until his retirement a few years ago. Tragically he discovered his cancer shortly afterwards.

I worked with John and have reason to be grateful for his patience and wisdom during my PGCE year; when he bravely allowed me to teach a whole new topic to his GCSE class! Many may remember his passion for drama and his memorable "character monologues" at school concerts. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues here at Grenville.

Stephen Hill, 1951 - 2007

Stephen David Hill passed away in top gear at Bedford Aerodrome on 12th June 2007 aged 55 years.

We were all devastated by the sad news of Stephen's passing. He was a stalwart supporter of the Association and a great character. His passion for life and family matched his "work hard and play hard" attitude to life. He is sorely missed and our thoughts are with Alison and their children.

Colin Warden (staff) at school 1983 -1987

We were sorry to hear that Colin lost his battle with renal cancer on 25th June 2007, at the age of 47. Colin taught Geography and was resident assistant in Kipling House and leaves a wife, Liz and two children, Francis and Graeme. Our condolences to the family.

Martine Jackson

I am very sad to report that, after about 3 ½ years, Martine finally lost her battle against breast cancer and died on 25 September 2007. A great loss to the world of Radiotherapy, where Martine made a huge difference, in particular for patient care.



Grenville College Development

An update from the Chairman of Governors

After 14 years of work by Governors, Headmasters, Bursars and staff at Grenville College, we have, at last, obtained outline planning consent from Torridge District Council to develop part of the Moreton site for residential buildings.

Subject to Woodard Board approval, we are now well on our way to establishing the whole school on the Moreton site. This will involve a combination new buildings and the refurbishing of most of the existing buildings and much improved sporting facilities.

This is all very exciting but it is not going to happen over night and it is vital that Grenville continues to offer an excellent education while it is going on.

The website: www.grenvillecollege.co.uk will help to keep you informed of progress.

Col. Michael Portman

Chairman of Governors