

Commemorative stone personal record

Dick was followed by Ann Parker and I was taken by her quote about yesterday, tomorrow and the gift of today, called the present. Her words about being yourself, creative, original, the one, rang so true, whereas they made no sense to me during my school days.

The rain caused us to put up our umbrellas and I found myself offering shelter to Robert Smith (1954) and Matt Piper (1959) – I started in 1957. We have since become good friends through a walking group, whilst we scarcely knew each other at school.

Then Dave Saville and Pat Churchill walked across to unveil the commemorative stone and Dave was heard to mutter something about being the only staff still standing, and they removed the brown sheet with a large school crest on it to more clapping. They were both presented with bags of locally made Chococo chocolate by Bunny who attends the new Swanage Secondary School –the bearer of colours into the future. Very fitting, I thought.

We all sauntered through the park to the Swanage and Herston Football club for a glass of wine, sandwiches and the lightest cup cakes.

I found myself in a conversation with Mr Saville (it still doesn't seem quite right to call him Dave) about the time when he got us reading Lady Chatterley's Lover, during the famous court case. "Would you allow your servants to read this?"

He remembered Paul Richardson, a contemporary of mine. I remembered Paul because he was uncatchable in the cross-country run, but Dave Saville recounted another story. He got Paul to read a two-part poem of William Barnes (A Bit of Sly Coorten), with Dave reading John's words, and Paul reading Fanny's. The class was in peals of laughter, but Paul's wonderful Dorset accent was perfect for this poem. What I hadn't remembered, was that the Schools Inspector was listening in, and she was delighted that we were preserving the dialect.

This was, as Ann had previously mentioned, when all the measurements were in yards, imperial. This obviously applied to School Inspectors (not Offsted) as well.

The day was perfect, the weather got steadily warmer, and I got myself co-opted onto the committee. Well, to be accurate, Alan said he was going to co-opt me had I not volunteered. I think that the future looks very promising, we have both a healthy membership and a healthy bank balance.

We sang "40 years on" with gusto and real meaning. It's 52 years on for me and much longer for many more of our Association's members. "Last man standing"?

The beautiful stainless steel time capsule which was placed in the base of the memorial stone was supplied by Malcolm Batt's son Oliver. The inscription reads

SWANAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1929 – 1974

Installed by
Swanage Grammar School
Association
19th July 2014

To be opened in 2129

The capsule contains the following articles:
The first and last issues of The Cygnet (1936 and 1974)
Three issues of The Swan from 1989; 2009
(80th anniversary + reunion service sheet);
2014 (Final Issue)
A Festival Anthology
School photographs from 1932 and 1959
Commemoration Service sheets 1966 and 1968
Prize distribution programmes 1959 and 1965

GCE 'O' level papers 1952 in English Literature, General Science and Woodwork
Festival ribbons blue, green, red and yellow
School tie
Sports colours
Badges: Head Girl, Hockey, House Captain