

The Swan



THE MAGAZINE OF THE SWANAGE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

86th Anniversary Reunion
1929 - 2015

THE SWAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
SWANAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
(The final, final edition - 2017)

Contents

A Site for Sore Eyes.....	3
Our derelict school continues to remain a blot on the landscape	
A Smashing Success.....	5
In which Dick Riding recalls the events of the day.	
The SGSA 2015 Reunion.....	7
Shelagh Ball's vote of thanks to all those that made the Reunion an undoubted success.	
The Group Photographs.....	8
Eighteen pages of photographs of year groups taken by Ed Coleman.	
The Lunch.....	26
Candid photographs of the sit-down lunch taken by Steve Matthews and Bill Squibb.	
SGS's First Football 1st and 2nd XIs - 1932-3.....	32
A photograph of boys from the School's first intake of September 1929 taken on the occasion of a friendly match with three masters playing for the 2nd XI.	
On Meeting and old Colleague.....	34
Bill Squibb tells how after six decades he renewed an acquaintance with a former school friend.	
The Fickle Finger of Fate.....	36
Dick Riding recounts the short life of Derek Reypert, former SGS pupil and Oldfelder .	
A Nostalgic Visit to Purbeck.....	39
Paul Brown waxes lyrical.	
Swanage in the 1870s.....	40
The entry for Swanage in <i>County Topographies</i> , published by Kelly & Company in 1875.	
More Swanage Cameos.....	44
Historic postcard views of Swanage Bay.	
The 1988 SGSA Reunion.....	46
As reported in the <i>Western Gazette</i> , with photographs taken by Dick Riding.	
Clay Mining in Purbeck.....	53
Two new books published by former SGS Head Boy Chris Legg.	
'Swanage' the Locomotive.....	54
The story of a <i>West Country</i> Class locomotive built in 1950 and currently under restoration.	
Kidson's Corner.....	56
Our former SGSA Chairman has submitted photographs of his time at SGS in the 1950s/60s.	
Swanage's new Lifeboat.....	60
Bill Squibb was on hand when Swanage took delivery of a water jet propelled lifeboat.	
The last Oldfeld House Group photograph.....	62
A rare colour photograph taken in July 1974 - photographer unknown.	
Church Ladies with Typewriters.....	64



Our school as we'd like to remember it; cared for and a pleasure to visit.

A SITE FOR SORE EYES!

Swanage Grammar School was closed in July 1974, 43 years ago. The school was opened on September 10 1929 and over the ensuing 45 years sent more than three thousand souls into the world with a sound education. Some of the school's first pupils were born a century ago, during the First World War; five of them in 1915.

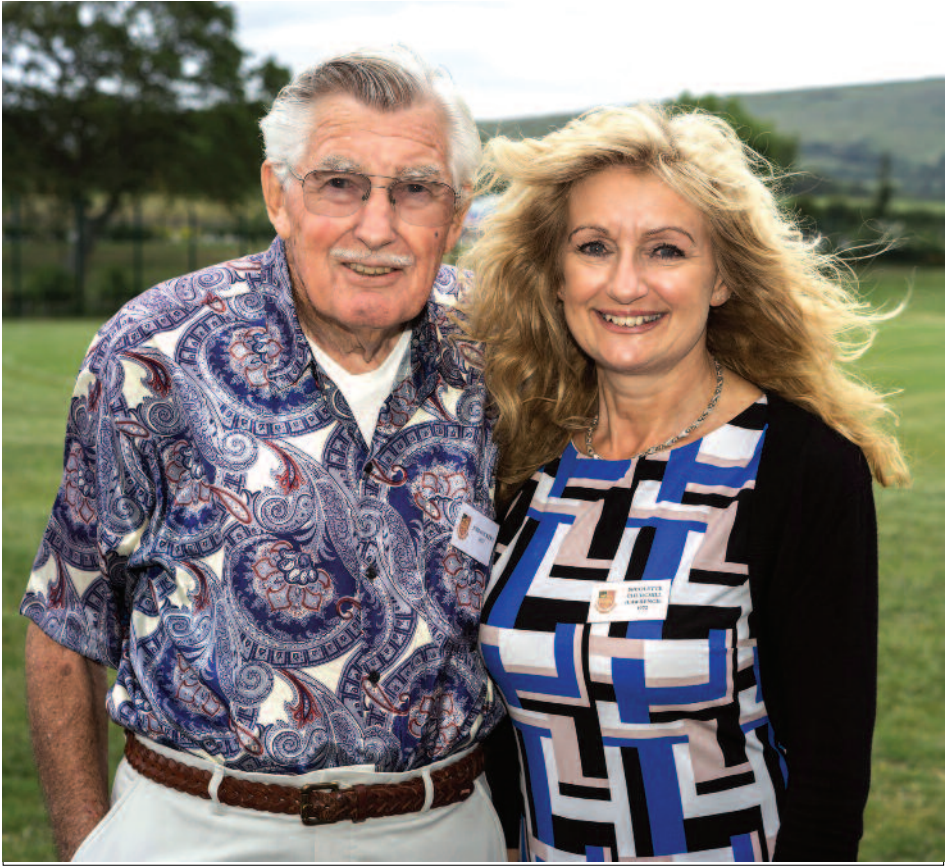
Since the departure in 2001 of the Allnatt Centre, a part-residential Field Study Centre opened on the school site in 1977, the once handsome red brick edifice and the surrounding grounds have been allowed to deteriorate despite ambitious plans to re-develop the site. Many worthwhile schemes have been put forward: to build flats for non full-time occupation or old-people's homes; developing the school into a hotel with conference centres, or conversion to holiday flats, to name but a few. To date each scheme has been turned down for one reason or another.

To be fair some progress has been made redeveloping part of the site, witness the new St. Mary's Roman Catholic school built on the old north tennis courts. As for the rest of the site, it remains a disgraceful sight... Visitors coming to Swanage via the Ballard and Nine Barrow gap into Northbrook Road, drive past the new Roman Catholic school only to be confronted by a derelict and crumbling edifice surrounded by scrub and barbed wire.

Eighteen years have passed since the school was last occupied by the Allnatt Centre and still no decision has been made on the site's future. This is a disgrace. Come on Swanage, do something about it - soon.

If you think this 2009 view of the entrance to our school is a depressing sight you should see it today. The entire school site looks like a casualty of Chernobyl.





The very essence of the Swanage Grammar School Association

A delightful photograph of the oldest and the youngest former grammarians present at the Reunion: John Vickers (1937) and Nicolette Lawrence (1972).

The Group photographs

Unfortunately, while Ed Coleman was taking the excellent group photographs no-one was noting the names and positions of the 'sitters'. Subsequently, Steve Matthews and Dick Riding spent more than two days trying to identify everyone. Sincere apologies therefore to the 'unknowns' and those people who have inadvertently received new identities, or partners!

A Smashing Success

DICK RIDING's personal take on one of the most successful and enjoyable SGSA Reunions to date.

By 10.45am the Swanage School Hall was buzzing with activity. Most of the *alumni* and guests had arrived and were seated at tables catching up on each other's lives since the last Reunion back in 2009. I was delighted to be sharing a table with four older Oldfeld contemporaries, namely Mark Ford, Ray Broome, Paul Brown and Gerald Haunton. Paul had travelled all the way from Lancaster and was staying in Swanage for a few days. Mark lives in Dorchester, Ray in nearby Tincleton and Gerald, who we called Halley, from Ross-on-Wye. We decided to eat together and it reminded me of far-off days at Oldfeld in the mid-1950s when the four of us ate under the same roof.

The loudspeakers, one of which was practically under Ray's seat, suddenly burst into life, nearly causing cardiac arrests at our table, as my direct contemporary the Revd Ann Parker, known as Butty to one and all, welcomed everyone before commencing the Anniversary Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service. Ann Gould had bravely volunteered to attend to the keyboard and we began with the hymn: *Lord, behold us with thy blessing*. As the last note faded Ray Broome was at the microphone ready to deliver the Reading. Whenever I see Ray I always recall his evening renderings of *Oh mein Papa* on his trumpet in the gym adacent to Oldfeld - where the acoustics were perfect. There followed the sobering list of names of departed *alumni*, read by Wendy Azzaro and Nicky Lawrence, both 1972 intake. There was a collective intake of breath from many tables as the name of Ian Ganes was read out - this, fortunately, turned out to be incorrect. Ian's wife, Prue, later 'phoned Bill Squibb to say that news of Ian's death was entirely exaggerated! But sadly the list gets longer with each Reunion. That old favourite *God be in my Head* followed at the end of which Paul Brown stepped over to the microphone to lead the prayers and the *Lord's Prayer*. Ann Gould on the ivories counted us in for the rendering of the SGS Commemoration Hymn: *For all who here have builded, we thank Thee, Lord, today*, written of course by SGS's first Headmaster W. P. Bannister (1929-32). Ann's Benediction brought the Service to a close.

It was time for the group photographs. Sadly, only John Vickers represented the 1930s and so he joined the 1940s lot, the first group to sit for photographer Ed Coleman. This has always been a lengthy process, rather akin to herding sheep, but on this occasion it seemed to work without a hitch other than with my own group, the Class of '53. Poor Robin and Claude Whiffen were stuck in traffic and it would have been unthinkable not to include Robin. He eventually arrived and Ed was able to do his stuff.

As we sat down to lunch a tremendous CRASH caused a second or two of silence. One end of a serving table, also close to our table, collapsed under a hundredweight of plates - I exaggerate of course - but it sounded like it. Fortunately the food had not yet been brought out and only a few plates were smashed. The table was sorted, the food brought in and then we were called table by table to be served by a very obliging and efficient staff. Our table managed to be one of the last but there was plenty to go round, much to the joy of former Oldfelders!

After a wonderful selection of puds the tables were cleared. The loudspeakers bellowed into life, causing everyone on our table to duck, as Chairman Alan announced the start of the Business Meeting. To everyone's relief this part of the proceedings was short.

During the afternoon there were concerns among some that *Forty Years On* did not seem to appear on the programme. They need not have worried. Those meaningful words were handed out and there followed an emotional five minutes when we all looked back and forgetfully wondered, though for some 40 years had long passed...



There followed the cutting of Joan and Nigel Dragon's splendid cake. Whenever you are in Corfe Castle make sure you make for The Square and pop into the Dragon Bakery, 'where the finest bread and cakes can be found, an experience almost as exciting as visiting the Castle'

Previous to the cake cutting a glass had been placed in the centre of each table containing small brown envelopes. We were each invited to put no less than £3 into the pot and withdraw an envelope. Some of the envelopes were empty but two contained a ticket enabling the recipients to claim a prize from a nearby table loaded with goodies. It was a good idea and nearly £740 was collected.

After this it was time for us to go. Sensibly, proceedings were programmed to end at 6pm and shortly after that I dismantled my display of memorabilia, packed it into the car and headed back to Winchester with a contented smile. It had been a wonderful day; the SGSA Committee did a first class job and all concerned are to be congratulated for the organisation and execution of a well-planned event.

The 2015 SGSA Reunion

I volunteered for the task of co-ordinating the 2015 reunion and the committee and many of you have taken the time to thank me for my efforts; which has been much appreciated. However it took the contribution of everyone to bring it all together and I would like to thank all my fellow committee members, and their partners, for their contribution and support.

Alan Aldridge - see below - who has just resigned his position as Chairman, managed to carry out his duties in that role at the same time as studying for a degree at the Open University. He has just achieved a second class open Honours. His wife Roza has painstakingly minuted our sometimes disorganised meetings, so that there was more of a chance that what we had volunteered to do did indeed get done! I wish them both well in their new home in Swanage. Ann Parker has also resigned having fulfilled her duties whilst looking after her flocks as a vicarette! (Forgive me the politically incorrect description. It always makes me smile when a friend uses it.) They will all be missed.

A huge thank you must go to each one of you who made the effort to come to support your reunion because of course without you it would be nothing. We had attendees from the USA, Austria, South Africa and from the far flung corners of this country. An SGS education is having an influence all over the world! I have had letters from people who were sad not to be able to make it, full of affection for their old school, teachers and classmates.

It was reward enough for me to see you all enjoying it so much. Given the links we have forged with the new Swanage School I hope we don't outgrow our new home. It is a very suitable venue and we hope to continue and strengthen those links. I have heard many reports that this last reunion not only regenerated old friendships but has created new ones. That of course is the whole point of the SGSA and the reunions; long may both continue.

Shelagh Ball (nee Green)





Nancy Greene (1940), Gwen Sparkes, John Vickers (1937), Diana Saville and R. Terry Meates (1944)



Diana Higgins (1943), Leslie Keates (1943), Rosemary Greenfield, Diana Saville and Paul Cox (1943).



Mike Fountain (1945), Roy Vickers (1946), Jennifer Smith, Bill Squibb and Gillian Cull 1945.



Back Row: Peter Green (1949), ?, Ray Broome (1949), Gerald Haunton (1949), a guest, Mark Ford (1950).
Back Row: Nigel Humphries (1950), Maureen Shaw Keates, Pat Cornelius (1950), Jill Sanders (1951), Julie Denness and Paul Brown (1950)



Peter Fooks (1949), Una Cooper (1948) and John Revell (1948).



Back row: Ken Selby (1951), Rex Hawkins (1951), Richard Prior (1951).
Front row: Valerie Roper (1951), Rachel Sellick (1951), Ann Masters (1951)
and Dawn Churchill (1951).



Class of 1952 - Back row: Peter Hunt, Richard Turner, George Turner and Nick Gosney
Front row: Gillian Chapman, Avris Sutton, Brenda Viney, Jean Lawrence, Margaret James, Mary Morgan, Jennifer Peerless and Mary Skiller.



Back row: Bruce Chapman (1954), Dicky Riding (1953) Cherry Loader (1953) Roy Harding (1953), Hugh Payne (1951), Mike Brown (1954), Marion Dodd (1954), ?, Robert Smith (1954) and David Bale (1954). **Front row:** Robin Whiffen (1953), Maxine Webb (1954), Hilary Roper (1953), Pat Hodge (1953), Joan Dunham (1953), Chris Stretton (153), Deidre Edwards (1955) and Judith Midgley (1954).



Back row: Joan Hazell, Barbara Hunt (1955), Christine Phillipson (1955), Yvonne Dorey, Anita Hicks (1955), Judith Davis (1958), Alan Hiscock (1955), Jo Simpson (1955), Ann Gould (1955) and Brenda Hardy (1955).



Back row: Lorraine Day (1956), Tony Bamber (1956), Alan Aldridge (1956), Gillian Lamb (1956).
Front row: Valerie Symes (1956), Joanna Hill Brown (1956) and Rozanne Franklin (1956).



Back row: Mike Bown (1958), Iain Kidson (1957), David Grounds (1957), David Alexander (1958), Paul Baird.
Front row: Jane Scrivener, Linda Nott (1959), Penny Boxall (1958) and Angela Bown (1957).



Back row: Steve Matthews (1961), Davis Slingo (1961), Eric Churchill (1960), Chris Harnett (1961).
Front row: Sally Hebdon (1961), Joyce Baker (1961) and Heather Harrington



Back row: Laurie Budd (1962), Howard Fortescue (1962), Sue Thurtle (1962), Derek Collins (1962).
Front row: Denese Price (1962), Linda Kemish (1962), Nicola Reavenall (1962) Rosemary Payne (1962) .



Back row: David Kerley (1964), Mike Inman (1963), Edmund Wright (1963), David King (1963) and Chris Adams (1963).
Front row: Merrilyn Fearn (1963), Celia Gosney (1963), Judith Tanner (1963), Angela Kingsbury (1963) and Sara Jane Parsons (1963).



Back row: ? , Robert Selby (1965), Chris Gosney (1966), Nigel Clark (1970),
Front row: Martin Sagar (1967), Jane Dobson and Graham Spiers (1967).



Simon Saville, Valerie Bushrod (1970), Francesca Gardiner (1970), Clare Negus (1970), Diane Blakestone (1970) and Shelagh Green (1970).



Cindy Ramm (1969), Lorraine Child (1969) and Ann Vickers (1969).



Back row: Val Bushrod (1970), Simon Saville, Francesca Gardiner (1970), Diane Blakestone (1970), Claire Negus (1970), Shelagh Green (1970). **Front row:** Norman Tattersall, Ronald Wrixson (1971), Wendy Azzaro (1962), Nicholette Lawrence (1972) and Eve Botterill (1971).



True friendship

***Two photographs
taken 62 years apart.***

In the top photograph Gerald Haunton, Paul Brown and Ray Broome together on the occasion of the 1953 Oldfeld House photograph.

The lower photograph shows Paul, Gerald and Ray at the Reunion.



To order prints of any of the group photos please contact:



edcoleman
PHOTOGRAPHY

Weddings | Portraits | Events

www.edcolemanphotography.com

ed.coleman@talktalk.net

Mob: 07885 991297





Below, Denise Price, Sue Harnett, Chris Harnett, Dave Slingo, Eric Churchill, Sally Hebdon, Rob Davies, Joyce Baker, Jane Scrivener, Steve Matthews, Linda Nott and Philippa Rayner.



The Lunch

**Held in the
new Swanage School**



Right, before the onslaught; a colourful and appetising choice of food was in plentiful supply.

Below, lunch was consumed in a light and roomy hall.





Above, Eric Churchill and wife Sally Hebdon.

Left, Nancy Greene.

Below, a very merry Cherry Loader, Tom James and wife Christine Stretton.



The Lunch...



The Boss - Shelagh Green, now Ball.



Below, Francesca Gardiner, Simon Saville and Valerie Bushrod.



Left, Judy Midgley and husband Keith.

Right, Paul Baird, Rozanne Franklin and Joanna Hill Brown.

Below, Linda Nott.



Right, Dave Kerley, guest and Bob Summersell

Left, R. Terry Meates and wife Joyce Baker.

Below ? , John Vickers and Bill Squibb.



The Lunch...



Above Dick Riding and Mark Ford.

Left, Philippa Rayner.

Below, Howard Fortescue, Laurie Budd and Sue Thurtle.





Above, Jennifer Peerless, Brenda Viney and Jean Lawrence.

Right, Ken Selby and sisters Hilary and Valerie Roper.



Above, Eve Botterill.

Right, Judith Tanner, Edmund Wright and David King.





Swanage Grammar School - Masters

Back row: John Colmer, Ken Dunfold, Geoff Demott, Dick Senior, Freddy Masters, W. Lindsay. **Middle row:** Freddy Cooper, Llewellyn Hardy, Ronald Churchill, Mr. S.C. Sellie and John Courtney. All the SGS pupils were born between 1915-1919, except



1st and 2nd XI versus SGS 1st XI 1932-3

Wheelwright, Lawrence Eastment, John Snelgrove, George Harris, Mr. Oakleigh and Mr. Black, Eggleton and Ken Parker. **Front row:** James Villis, Eddie Corben, Victor Lillington and Cooper - 1920, and most were the school's first intake of September 10 1929.

ON MEETING AN OLD COLLEAGUE

BILL SQUIBB recalls a chance meeting with **SGS contemporary ALAN LANDER** after an absence of six decades

Prompted by the detailed information in *The Swanage Gazette*, I went fishing on Sunday afternoon 7th June 2015. The Swanage Fish Festival promised a most generous gathering of activities at Prince Albert Gardens. My search was finally rewarded, with the help of Deputy Mayor Mike Bonfield, at a rather remote outpost on Swanage pier. There, standing amongst



beautifully hand-crafted Dorset-style lobster pots and a pile of Willow or local withies, stood Alan Lander.

"Hello Alan, meet Bill Squibb your cousin; – haven't met or spoken for 66 years", I said. That was when in 1949 Alan decided to jump ship and sling his hook from Swanage Grammar School and do something useful. I left SGS in 1950 after the usual brain storming agony of exams. Alan and I were in the same age group and agreed that SGS had given us a good education.

Different careers

Having spent 43 years in the aero engine design industry at Bristol I retired early 22 years ago and returned to Swanage. Alan, on the other hand, has spent a lifetime in all things related to local and deep sea fishing; a stalwart representing all activities and welfare of men who go down to the sea in ships and boats. The Fishermen's Mission benefits greatly from his constant support. He, with others, have produced a charming well-illustrated colour glossy booklet entitled *Making a Dorset Style Traditional Lobster Pot* in which Alan guides one in this fast fading art. After finding your bundle of withies of varying required thicknesses, step by step he builds with his own hands a work of art and hopes you have followed his lead! I can only imagine the frustrated agony of wrestling and grappling with straight withies in one's futile attempt to bend and secure the springy tentacles that refuse to be tamed. Alan had smaller specimen pots and his book on sale, with the net proceeds going to The Fishermen's Mission.

Note: a withy or withe is a flexible willow stem typically used in thatching and for gardening. Several species and hybrid cultivars of willows, often known as osiers, are grown for withe production.

Left: the vintage picture, circa 1910, provided by Alan shows the Chapmans Pool fishing gang. Andrew Squibb, 'Bill's grandfather' is standing. Alan's grandfather is seated second from right. Miller Lander is first left (smoking pipe).

Right: Alan Lander, in pink shirt, and Bill at their historic meeting.



THE FICKLE FINGER OF FATE

Derek Victor Reypert was born on 11 July 1932 in Scotton, near Catterick in Yorkshire. This tiny village's claim to fame is that it was the stamping ground of a young Guy Fawkes; some say he was married there. Derek's family had moved south when he arrived at SGS in 1943; his father was a Staff Sergeant at nearby Bovington Army Camp.

Paul Cox, also from the 1943 SGS intake, remembers Derek as a friendly easy going type and, together with Tony Burt and Ray Newbury, they all played in the Under 14 cricket team. Indeed, Derek gained his cricket colours and particularly excelled as a bowler. In a game School versus Parents in 1948, for example, he bowled six dads out for nine runs, and in the following year disposed of five of the Perveril House batsmen for a mere eight runs. He was also an excellent high jumper and in 1949 broke Senior's major's long-standing record by leaping 5ft. He was also a good hurdler, achieving places in the annual House Sports events and scoring valuable points for Durlston House.

Starting school as a day boy Derek spent September 1948 until July 1949 at Oldfield when SGS Headmaster J. W. 'Boss' Turner was housemaster to around 30 boarders. After leaving SGS in 1949, Derek finished his education at Northern Grammar School near his home in Portsmouth and joined the RAF for his National Service, as did his pals Paul Cox, Tony Burt and Ray Newbury.



Derek Reypert, aged 17, photographed at Oldfield in July 1949 a few days before he left SGS.

Getting his wings

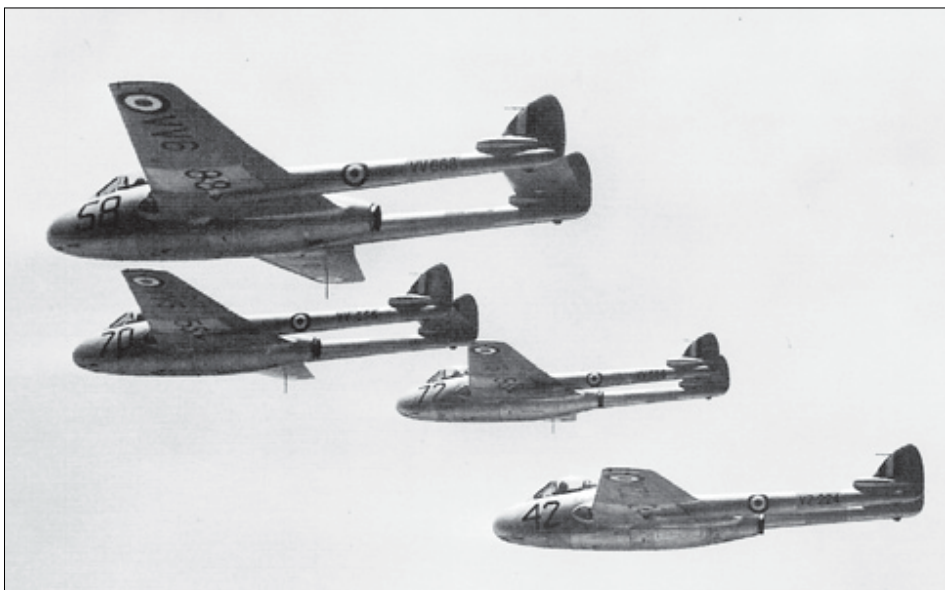
Derek learnt to fly at RAF Cranwell, the Service's premier flying school in Lincolnshire. When he visited school, dressed in his Cranwell cadet's uniform, Boss Turner merely muttered, "they must be reducing standards". Derek not only successfully 'Passed Out', he was awarded the Sword of Honour and was promoted to Pilot Officer in July 1953 and posted to No 208 Advanced Training School at RAF Merryfield, a former World War Two airfield at Ilton in Somerset. With the onset of the Korean War the airfield became an advanced pilot training establishment in 1951 and was equipped with de Havilland Vampire and Gloster Meteor jet trainers. Derek trained on single-seat de Havilland DH Vampire FB 5s, the fighter bomber version of one of Britain's first generation jets. The prototype Vampire had first flown in April 1945.

The Vampire, unusually constructed of metal and wood, was powered by a single, slightly thirsty underpowered de Havilland Goblin jet. Instead of a standard fuselage the Vampire was of twin boom layout with the pilot seated in a small pod that also contained the engine located behind him. The cockpit was so narrow that it was not possible to fit a



This page, DH Vampire FB.5s of the type in which Reypert lost his life on 27th October 1953.

Martin Baker ejection seat. The only way to vacate the aircraft in flight during an emergency was for the pilot to undo his harness, invert the aircraft, let go of the control stick and let gravity do the rest, hoping that he did not clobber the tailplane. To carry out this procedure successfully one needed plenty of height. Accidents at Advanced Training Units were commonplace; converting from piston-powered aircraft to jets was in its infancy. On average Merryfield lost one pupil each month during the early 1950s and by the



time Derek arrived at least two pilots had been killed in landing accidents.

By the autumn of 1953 Derek's training was proceeding well. On October 27 he was programmed to fly a cross-country exercise from Merryfield in Vampire FB 5 VV618 with a refuelling stop at RAF Valley, in Wales. Reaching Valley and refuelling, Derek took off, presumably to return the 140 or so miles to Merryfield. Not long after, just before 4.30pm, disaster struck. The port drop fuel tank suddenly detached from under the wing and fell away, hitting railings by the church at Rhymney not far from Merthyr Tydfil. It is unlikely that the tank was dropped by accident. In order to eject the tanks the pilot had to pull up a lever marked 'Jettison Fuel Tanks' located below the leftside of his seat. Whatever the cause the loss of a single tank would have caused an uncontrollable asymmetric imbalance. Derek would have tried in vain to keep his aircraft from going out of control. The Vampire was seen to climb steeply into cloud and then descend in a shallow dive before crashing into common land between Rhymney and Dowlain a couple of miles from Merthyr Tydfil. Derek was killed instantly; fortunately no one on the ground was involved. He lies in Ilton cemetery, together with other casualties from Merryfield, some of whom he had known, and others from nearby RNAS Yeovilton. Derek's headstone, provided by the RAF, reads:

**Pilot Officer
D. V. Reypert
Royal Air Force
27th October 1953 Age 21.**

Of Derek's SGS compatriots, Derek Cox is still very much with us; he attended last year's reunion and helped with this biography. Ray Newbery died in Australia a while ago and Tony Burt apparently lives in Wales.



A Nostalgic visit to Swanage

By **Paul Brown**

We last went down to Swanage on a bright and sunny day, the ferry's often busy, so we went the other way, but as we drove through Stoborough and headed on to Corfe the sky began to darken and the weather turned right off.

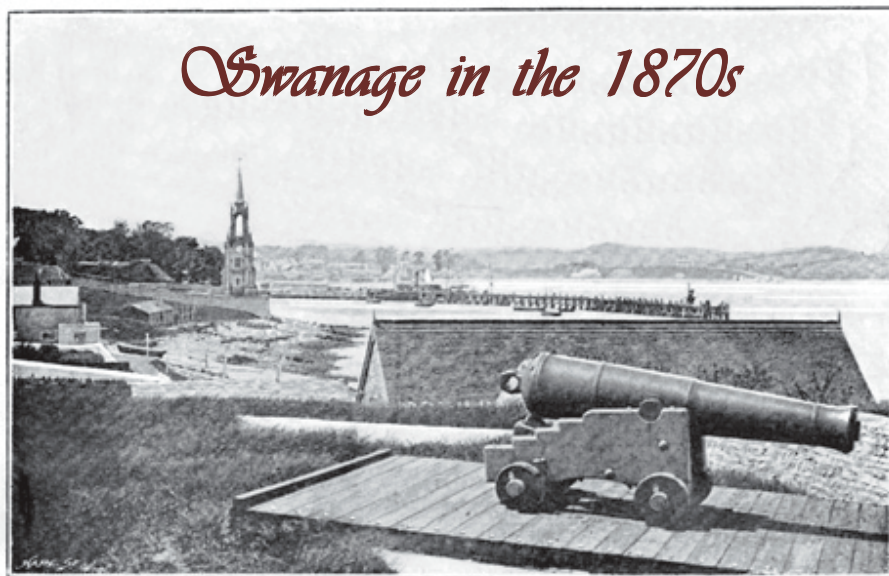
Turning left along the hillside how the mist and murk would cling; that view across the harbour - well, we couldn't see a thing!
We ran down into Ulwell and, alone and desolate,
the school was standing empty in a melancholy state.

We walked beside the station in the hope that we would see a romantic-looking steam train - but we found that there were three belching steam and smoke and smuts out into eyes and nose and hair, we gasped and choked and hurried on - that smoke got everywhere!

We wandered down the main street popping in and out of shops, the sky was even darker and we felt some warning drops.
'The car's not far, let's go there to avoid a passing squall,'
and then the rain came streaming like a mighty waterfall.

O the puddles in the car park and the squelch as we sat down on clothes that took a soaking as we panted through the town; we drove away via Wareham and across the railway line, and as we passed through Sandford... the sun began to shine!





Swanage in the 1870s

Battery. Peverel Point c1870

The following is the entry for Swanage in a book entitled *County Topographies*, published by Kelly & Company in 1875. The Preface of this book reads: 'The present volume consists merely of the description of the several places in this County as given in the *Post Office Directory* recently published, and is produced in this form to meet the wishes of persons who, not requiring the varies information given in the *Directory*, wish to possess a small and inexpensive work giving short descriptions of all the places within the County'.

SWANAGE is a parish, seaport and rising watering place, also a market and sea-fishing town of the Isle of Purbeck, in the hundred of Rowbarrow, union of Wareham and Purbeck, petty sessional division and county court district of Wareham, diocese of Salisbury, archdeaconry of Dorset, and rural deanery of Dorchester, situated 10 miles south-east from Wareham, 6 from Corfe Castle, and 136 from London. Wareham is the nearest railway station, on the London and South Western railway. The port of Swan-

age is under the port of Poole. The old part of the town consists of a narrow, irregularly-built street of about a mile in length: a new town is being erected on the Durlston Park Estate, the property of George Burt, esq. (of the firm of John Mowlem and Co., of London), a native of Swanage, who, with John C. Robinson, esq., F.R.S., of St. Aldhelm's House and Newton Manor, are largely contributing to the improvement of the town. The estate is laid out in building sites; about two miles of roads are made; the drainage has been designed in the most perfect manner, and about one mile constructed. An artesian well insures an ample supply of pure water, being pumped up by steam power to a reservoir 200 feet above the sea, and supplying the whole property: gas pipes have also been laid down in the main road: the plots can be let on lease at ground rents, with the option of purchase, or will be sold in fee. At the foot of the hill, adjoining the estate, is the Royal Victoria Hotel, visited by Her Majesty, then H.R.H. Princess Victoria, in 1835; it has also been visited by the Prince of Wales: it is a first class family hotel, with every comfort and convenience, and has a coffee room and Table d'Hôte and luncheon rooms, good billiard room, and hot and cold water baths: attached to it are a croquet lawn and archery ground. The bathing is good; the sands being firm, clean, and with a uniform slope at all states of the tide. To those fond of yachting, fishing, and boating, Swanage offers many attractions; good seaworthy boats and tackle can always be had. There is a pier, at which steamers plying between Poole, Bournemouth, and Swanage land their passengers. The rides and drives in the vicinity are beautiful. Swanage Bay is a good roadstead in all winds except easterly, affording anchorage for vessels of from 300 to 400 tons, within the heads of Peverel and Handfast points, whilst a movement is on foot for constructing a breakwater, which will greatly add to the safety of the bay as a roadstead; the long wooden pier is of great service for shipping the native products, large quantities of stone being sent from here annually. Purbeck stone, the staple of this neighbourhood, has for ages been an important article of export. Lobsters and

crabs and whiting are taken here. The properties of a spring of water here are analogous to those of Burton-upon-Trent, as analysed by Drs. Letheby and Graham, and are exclusively used by Messrs. Panton at their brewery, the produce of which has long been characteristically known as "Swanage Pale Ale." A trade in straw plait is being revived, giving employment to a number of women and children: it is bought up and made into baskets, mats and other fancy articles, by Mr. Colleau, of Sea View House. The market is held on Fridays. The Board of Health has been in existence since August, 1873, and consists of six members, two of whom are elected annually. The church of St. Mary was, with the exception of the tower, entirely rebuilt in the years 1859 to 1860 by voluntary subscription: it is a cruciform structure, in the Norman style: it has chancel, nave and aisles: the tower is very ancient, supposed of Saxon origin; its massive walls rise in four stages to a height of 80 feet, and contains 4 bells: there are several good stained windows. The ground now used as the cemetery is a little to the north of the church, detached from the building. The register dates from about the year 1500. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of J. H. Calcraft, esq., J.P., of Rempstone; the rector is the Rev. Robert Duncan Travers, M.A., of Caius College, Cambridge. The tithes were commuted in 1839, and the aggregate amount is £409 9s. There is a chapel of ease at Herston, named St. Mark's, and a school in connection with it. There are places of worship for the Independents, Primitive Methodists and Wesleyans; also a mission hall, erected in 1872 by members of different denominations; president of the mission, Rev. T. Seavill: the basement of this building is being fitted up as a workmen's hall and reading room. The Mowlem Institute, situate on the beach, was erected in 1863, at a cost of £1,100, which was entirely defrayed by the late John Mowlem, esq., J.P., of this town, and also endowed with £200, invested in the £3 per Cent. Consols, for repairs and insurance: the building is a handsome stone structure, and was "established for the improvement of its members in the arts connected with their callings, and in the principles of science

and useful knowledge generally :” it has a well supplied library, a handsome hall for lectures, attached to which is the reading room, well supplied with the London and local newspapers: the current expenses are met by annual payments of the subscribers, and a small nominal charge to casual visitors, which entitles them to full benefits of the institute. A Freemason’s Lodge meets here every month, of which Mr. Mowlem was the first master. A well-proportioned pillar in proximity to the Institute commemorates the naval victory King Alfred gained over the Danes in the Bay of Swanage, in 877. An obelisk of Swanage stone at the entrance of the town is to the memory of “Albert the Good.” A very handsome clock tower stands in the grounds of Grove House, and is a prominent object from the bay : it was originally erected on the Surrey side of London Bridge to the memory of the Duke of Wellington: the arrangements for the railway from Charing Cross to London Bridge necessitated its removal, when it was presented by the firm of Mowlem and Co. to Mr. Docwra, who re-erected it in its present position. On Peverel Point is the coast-guard station, with a battery commanding the bay. Jutting out from this point into the sea is a dangerous ledge of rocks: it is now determined to establish a life boat at Swanage. Life boats are stationed respectively at Poole, Chapman’s Pool, and Kimeridge. The charities are £2 10s. 5d. yearly for bread and clothing. The Earl of Eldon is lord of the manor. The chief landowners are the Earl of Eldon, Mrs. Serrell, George Burt, esq., and Mr. J. C. Robinson. The area is 3,163 acres, of which 240 are water and foreshore; rateable value, £5,662 16s.; and the population in 1871 was 2,151.

Of the outlying farms the most ancient are Whitecliff, supposed to have been formerly a residence of King John, a mile and a quarter north; and Godlingston, formerly a monastery, a mile and a half north-west; parts of the remains are of great antiquity. The farm buildings of Godlingston are very complete. HERSTON is a hamlet, half a mile west; Tilly Whim, a remarkable ancient quarry in the face of the cliff, is distant 2 miles south.

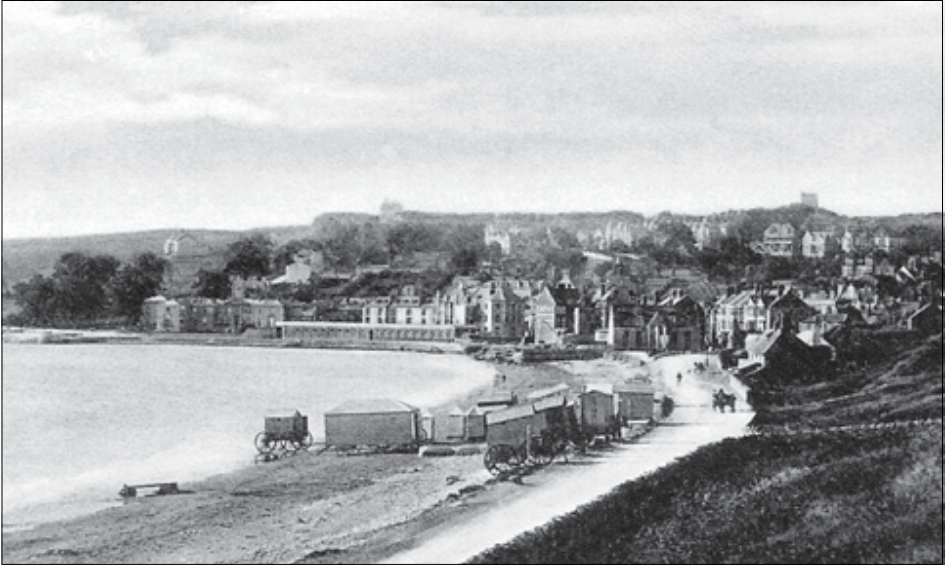


More Swanage cameos

Historic views of Swanage from DICK RIDING's extensive archive

Above, trippers awaiting their turn to be taken round the bay in proper clinker-built rowing boats - with not a garishly painted plastic hull in sight! **Below**, a paddle steamer moments from landing more trippers at the New pier whilst another paddler is moored at the Old pier.





Above, pictured in the late 1800s are bathing machines and bathing tents huddled together close to Beach Road before the sea wall was constructed in 1904. Originally bathing machines for males had to be sited at least 200 yards from those used by females, but this law was often flaunted at Swanage. **Below**, looking across Swanage Bay from a point south of the town. Bournemouth is visible on the skyline, an hour's journey by paddlesteamer; a service that was discontinued in the mid-1960s.



Ex-pupils recall their days at old grammar school

As reported in the *Western Gazette* on 15th July 1988

The reunion of former pupils of Swanage Grammar School - closed down 14 years ago - was a wonderful success said one of the organisers this week and plans are being made for another one next year.

The classrooms and corridors of the old grammar school, now the Purbeck Centre, a sporting and recreational holiday centre for young people, echoed again to the chatter of men and women who were there as pupils. Some had not set foot in the building in Northbrook Road for half a century.

The school and its playing fields was the setting for the grammar school reunion barbecue, the second part of the day of celebration for more than 300 ex-pupils who attended the school between 1929-74.

Following a meeting last autumn of some who were at the school in the 1950s, it was agreed to attempt a large-scale reunion - the last one being in 1974 when the school closed.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Oldfeld House, the grammar school's dormitory annexe in Walrond Road, which is now Harrow House centre for language and sport. Oldfeld closed at the same time as the grammar school.

Mostly the Class of '53: *Standing outside the Pines Hotel are Tom Bates, the late Miss Marjorie Scott, Catharine Leonard, Chris Stretton, Ann Butters, Patricia Hodge, Alan Senior, Roy Harding, Douglas Pye, Robin Whiffen (sitting), Hilary Roper, Cherry Loader, Pat Spilman, and Dicky Riding.*



Right, *Alan Senior, Hugh Robert and Vicki Dobbs.*

Middle right, *Gerald Haunton, Frank 'Loftie' Stretton and Ian Collingwood.*

The Oldfeld Association's founder Dicky Riding, Editor of *Aeroplane Monthly*, planned a reunion for that anniversary and it was agreed that it would be expanded to embrace the entire school.

Organiser of the [grammar school] reunion was Mrs Christine James, daughter of woodwork master at the school Mr Frank Stretton. Mr Stretton of King's Road, Swanage, known locally as a brilliant wood carver, helped in the plans.

Mrs James of Olney in Buckinghamshire and Mr Riding of Radlett in Hertfordshire planned the event with military precision.

There was a buffet lunch for 160 at the Pines Hotel when among those present were three of the original 1929 intake. Then the school was under headmaster the late W. P. Bannister and the numbers totalled 68.

Among the dozen staff members present was Miss Hilda Sheffield, now over 80, who joined the staff in 1930 for what she thought was a temporary post. She became senior mistress and deputy head, finally retiring in 1965.

An even longer-serving member of the staff present was Mr Jim Lindsay, who lives in Magnolia House, High Street,

Right, *Roger Sellick, son of S. C. 'Press' Sellick, and the late Sidney John Rogers.*



Right, *Cherry Loader and Ann Butters having a giggle - see also page 27!*

Swanage. The popular English master retired in 1968 and last year 70 of his former pupils subscribed towards an 80th birthday present. He was presented with a rare first edition of Thomas Hardy's poetry - the volume was on show at the reunion.

Miss Gwen Rawlings, Swanage town councillor, who taught art, games and mathematics at the school throughout the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s was also present.

Almost every year of the school's 35-year existence was represented by one or more ex-pupils from the total of 4,080 boys and girls who went through the school.

The buffet was followed by a barbecue so that ex-pupils and their wives and husbands who could not be accommodated at the hotel reception could join in. This, appropriately, was held at the former grammar school by permission of the Purbeck Centre management. The barbecue was staged by Andy Rochelle and Denea Wright who run the centre. The bar was run by Mike Skinner of the Crow's Nest and the former pupils



Below, members of the Class of '53: Jean Lawrence ? Penny Daniel, Margaret James, the late Anthony Cooper, Gillian Chapman, Avris Sutton and Joanna Hill Brown.



walked the corridors and classrooms.

Among the 400-strong total there were 35 former boarders from Oldfeld House. During its 26 years Oldfeld was home to 368 boarders, many of whom were from service families scattered all round the world.

For more than half its life as the dormitory department of the grammar school Oldfeld was run by the late P. Glyn Roberts. His younger son Hugh, as an old boy, was present.

Other sons and daughters of grammar school staff who had also been pupils included Rachel Sellick (now Lawford), whose father Mr S. C. Sellick was senior master for nearly 40 years until retirement in 1968.

Many former pupils married in later years. One couple was Bruce and Barbara Burge (nee Bastable) who were among the original 1929 intake.

The organisers of the reunion are planning another to mark the school's 60th anniversary next year. The date will be Saturday 25th June.

Above, Judy Midgley tucks into her pudding. **Below,** Cherry Loader, David Selman and Dicky Prior chatting with the late Michael Norman.





Above, Chris Stretton and the late Anthony 'Anth' Cooper.



Above right, Penny Daniel in earnest conversation with Roy Harding.

Right, former Head Mistress Hilda Sheffield with the wife of R. J. 'Bob' Loveless.



Below, the late Dennis Brown, Hugh Robert's and Penny Daniel.





Above, *Douglas Pye and Ann Butters.*

Below, *the late Gwen Rawlings, second from right, holding court.*





Above, *Joan Dunham and Catharine Leonard.*

Below, Valerie Roper and Margaret James.



CLAY MINING IN PURBECK

CHRIS LEGG has had two books published on a little-known industry located near his native Wareham

For many years the name Legg has been synonymous with magazines and books on Dorset. The late Rodney Legg authored countless books on the subject and was founder Editor of *Dorsetmagazine*. The Legg surname is still linked to books on Dorset by way of former SGS Head Boy Chris.

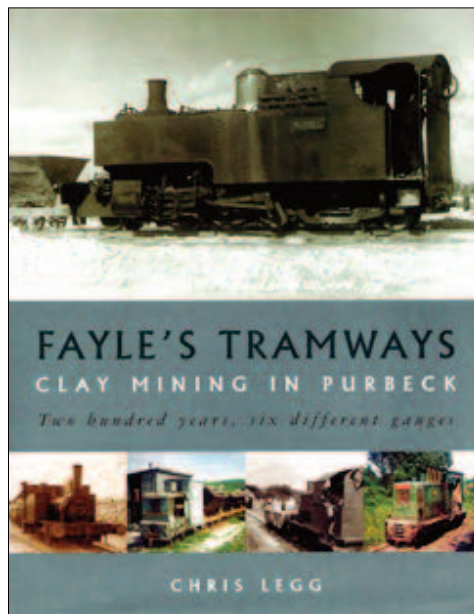
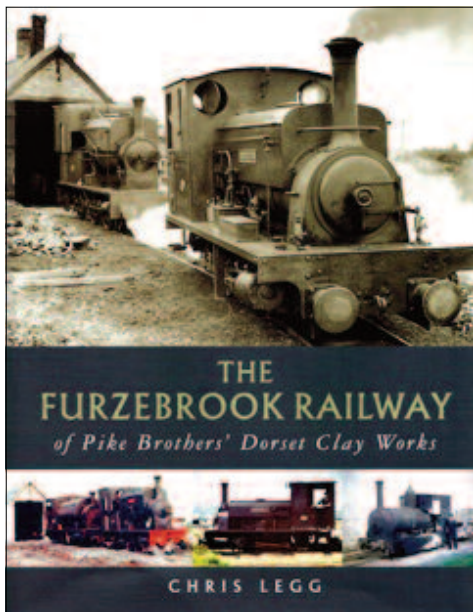
In 2014 Chris realised a dream when his book *Fayle's Tramways - Clay Mining in Purbeck*, 168 pages, price £28, was published by Twelvehead Press of Truro. As his contemporaries are aware, Chris grew up in Wareham with a farming background and because the land was divided in half by the Southern Railway line to Weymouth, railways became a lifelong interest. On leaving SGS Chris pursued a career in pharmacy, requiring meticulous and accurate recording. His interest in railways centred on the branch lines that were used for transporting Ball clay extracted

from Purbeck mines to the coast for export all over the world. This book, and *The Furzebrook Railway of Pike Brothers' Dorset Clay Works*, 208 pages, price £28, tells of the many aspects of clay extraction, including mining; processing and weathering; tramways; horses; locomotives and rolling stock; family connections and personalities; merchants and miners; accidents and rescues; education and the school train; shipping and the effects of war. Chris's friendship with the miners, managers and their families make these books very people-orientated stories.

The Fayles railway story is taken from the historic plateway of 1806 through the variety of lines, using six different gauges that saw use for nearly two centuries.

Both books are superbly produced and crammed with good largely unpublished illustrations.

For further details please contact:
www.TWELVEHEADS.com





‘SWANAGE’

Built at Brighton in 1950, West Country Class locomotive 34105, named *Swanage*, spent most of its 14 years working in Hampshire. After steam locomotion was replaced by characterless electric and diesel-powered stock ‘*Swanage*’, unlike many of its 100 class mates, was saved from the scrapman’s blow torch and is currently under restoration.

Oliver V. Bulleid’s Merchant Navy, Battle of Britain and West Country class locomotives, with their signature streamlining, were once common sights throughout the south of England. Indeed, as an Oldfelder throughout 1953-58, I invariably travelled behind one of these wonderful locos between Waterloo and Wareham at the beginning and end of each term. If you remember, the two rear most carriages were uncoupled on arrival at Wareham and taken on to Swanage behind one of those wonderful little M7 workhorses that used to push or pull their charges to and from Wareham and Swanage via Corfe Castle.

After completion ‘our’ locomotive entered service in March 1950 and was based at the Bournemouth sheds for most of its active life. Keeping the technical details to a minimum, the wheel arrangement of the 67ft long West Country class locos was 4-6-2 and the driving wheels were 6ft 2in in diameter. With a working weight of 128 tons the maximum permitted boiler pressure of 280 lb sq in was normally kept to below 250 lb sq in. The loco’s tractive effort was 31,000 lbs at 85% boiler pressure, and together with its tender weighed 82 tons of which the characteristic streamlining accounted for 17 tons.

After 16 years service ‘*Swanage*’ was withdrawn in October 1964 having travelled 623,405 miles. In 1966 it was sold for scrap and languished at Barry, South Wales until rescued in March 1978. It was acquired by the Watercress Line - Mid-Hants Railway - (M-HR) and is currently being restored. The loco was not a regular visitor to Swanage but did pay a visit in March 1993 whilst on short-term loan from (M-HR) at Arlesford.



These evocative colour photographs of 'Swanage' depict it during 14 years of service, mainly in Hampshire. Unlike others of its class 34105 retained its 17-ton streamlined overcoat, though its shape was a constant problem; smoke often obscuring the driving crew's forward visibility, requiring much modification to eliminate the problem.



Kidson's Corner

**Photographs from
Iain Kidson, former
Oldfelder, St.
Aldhelms House
member and past
Chairman of the
SGSA**

Right, back row from left:
Geraldine Cattell, Katrina
Ekema (now Fraser),
Georgina Clarke (now
Donnelly), Pam Litt (now
Foster). Front kneeling:
Barabara Chiverton, Sue
Hammond and Helen
Naylor.



1962 and St. Aldhelms wins again! Back row: Richard Green, Gillian Coulson, Mr. Rees-Jones, Miss Marjorie Scott, Polly White and Libby Cooper. Front row: Ian Kidson, Judy Godsell and Peter Green.

Right, left to right back row: Bob Mitchell, Nigel Bailey, Paul Kidson, (Iain's younger brother), Steve Matthews. Front: Jo Bradbury-Pratt, Nicola Rugg and Sally Hebdon (Now Churchill), c 1962.



Bottom, inside the Arts & Crafts, also known as the Playroom c1962. Left is Nigel Bailey, second left is Keith Haysom. Oldfeld Housemaster P. Glyn Roberts has his back to the camera.



Kidson's Corner

*These photographs were taken at Swanage Secondary Modern School on the occasion of a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* put on by Swanage Grammar School c.1963. Seen at **right** are Peter Green and Felicity Lichtner.*

Included amongst the flower girls can be seen Jo Ostafew, Bridget Russell, Leigh Malt, Lesley Pond, Jane Hansen, Joanna Hill Brown and Libby Smith.





Below, the reverse side of this 1958 Oldfield House group photograph bears the signatures of 50% of the inmates.

D. C. Rogers.
 Charles Rogers
 Hugh Rutland
 Mary Hills
 D. Leonard
 John Phillips
 N. J. Smith
 Brian Norton
 Dick Davis
 R. T. Redum
 B. S. Bunker
 F. M. J. Butters.
 Desire Edwards.
 John Barclay
 P. R. R. R.
 J. Gilmore.
 Caroline Peters
 P. Binkell
 Heather Simpson
 R. C. Clegg?
 Linda Hall
 D. J. Smith



New Lifeboat at Swanage

At noon on Friday April 8th 2016 half of Swanage, or so it seemed, eagerly awaited the arrival of a new high speed water-jet propelled lifeboat. BILL SQUIBB was there too.

When I joined the throng of people walking to the pier, some early-bird were already occupying the outer upper-deck and half way back towards the solid section. I was in this late-comers group, not wishing to get frozen before the action took place. As things turned out this would be the best half-way position to see both sides of the pier.

Exactly at 12 noon a flotilla of small fast boats was first heard and then seen rounding Peveril Ledge, from the direction of Durlston Bay. The new boat had hot-footed from an overnight stay at Weymouth to be greeted and escorted by Swanage's old lifeboat and numerous other craft. The Swanage Sea Rowing Club with three long-boats added to the Regatta atmosphere.

A line-abreast slow invasion for helicopter pictures preceded the all-embracing cat-walk for the throng of swooning supporters. First, fast and slow passes were made bay-side, followed by head-on, departing action and stationary posing, all designed to give supporters the maximum number of photo-shoot opportunities from all angles.

The new lifeboat was then tethered to pontoons provided by Pat and Pete of 'Divers Down', situated in the gap between the old pier and the Buck Shore solid section. A police launch and *Spike*, a fast-boat of 'Divers Down' joined them. To complete the group, the old Swanage lifeboat was tethered to the pontoon on the Buck Shore side to provide numerous opportunities for taking further photographs.

The speeches that followed included an appreciation of Martin Steeden, the retiring cox'n, who deemed it opportune to retire so that younger blood could continue his good work in the new higher technology boat.

As a chilly wind was blowing many departed the pier for lunch as some VIPs and friends went aboard the new lifeboat. It is propelled by two water jets (not propellers), which can be swivelled for pin-point steering accuracy and are immune from damage or entanglements, and is driven by conventional diesel engines to provide adequate motive power for the modern water propulsion. The higher speeds available in turbulent seas require the crew to be strapped into tailor-made cushioned seats within enclosed accommodation. However, at the risk of being mesmerised by the speed the fundamental training must still rely on the action of the crew when the rescued party is reached. No amount of computerised equipment can supplement the individual action necessary by the crew, but to me there seemed to be very little space for those rescued.

The building of the boat house is progressing steadily and must include all planned accommodation for the boat, motivation equipment and personnel. The Fishermen's Jetty and main slipway have also raised problems, causing additional time and expense. The outermost (seaward) main slipway supports need deeper foundations to find solid bases.

The new fast jet powered Swanage boat and that of Yarmouth (IOW) will share our area of operation. Poole will no longer have an all-weather big boat, but instead have two ribs to cover Poole Pond. only.





Oldfield House 1974

Back row: *left to right:* not known, not known, not known, Patricia Archer, Julia Snowdon. **Next Row:** Karin Wheatley, not known, Sharon Marsh, Peter Goodman, Lynda Tyrrell, Michael Archer, not known, Timmo, Nichola Blackwell, Norman Tattersall.

Centre Row: Paul Medlock (Fritz), Elizabeth/maybe Maggie Spreadbury, Paul Spreadbury, not known, Stephen Bayliss, Sue Goodman, Mike Thirkettle, Sarah Burt, John Goodman or Goodwin, Irene Thornton, Steve Howlett. **Next Row:** Liz Thornton, not known, not known, not known, Dorothy Pentelow (Matron), Mrs Roberts, P. Glyn Roberts, not known, not known, Mike?, Susan Isard. **Front Row:** not known, not known, not known, not known, Clive Burt, Jo? Apologies for the number of unidentified boarders. If you can fill any of the gaps, please let the SGSA know. Thanks.

Oldfeld House Group Photographs

1949-1974

- 1949** With James W. Turner taken on south side of the house outside Junior Boys' Common Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1950** With James W. Turner, John Brigham and Hilda Sheffield taken on south side of the house outside the Junior Boys' Common Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1951** With John Brigham outside the Arts & Crafts Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1952** With John Brigham outside the Arts & Crafts Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1953** With John Brigham outside the Arts & Crafts Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1954** With John Brigham outside the Arts & Crafts Room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1955** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the east front of the house. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1956** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the Woodwork Room on the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1957** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the Woodwork Room on the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1958** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the Woodwork Room on the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1959** With P. Glyn Roberts on the south side of the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1960** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the woodwork room on the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1961** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the woodwork room. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1962** With P. Glyn Roberts on the south east corner of the games field. Joan Muspratt photograph.
- 1963** With P. Glyn Roberts outside woodwork room on the games field. Very poor quality W. Mockridge photograph
- 1964** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the south side entrance to the house. W. Mockridge photograph.
- 1965** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the south side of the house. W. Mockridge photograph.
- 1966** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the Woodwork Room on the games field. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1967** With P. Glyn Roberts on the north west corner of the tennis court. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1968** With P. Glyn Roberts on the south side of the house. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1969** With Arthur White outside the south entrance of the house. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1970** With Arthur White outside the Arts & Crafts. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1971** With Arthur White on the north west corner of the tennis court. John Rutherford photograph.
- 1972** With John Trythal outside the south entrance to the house. Photographer unknown.
- 1973** With John Trythal outside the south entrance to the house. Photographer unknown.
- 1974** With P. Glyn Roberts outside the south side of the house. In colour; photographer unknown - see opposite.

Dick Riding has scanned all these photographs and anyone wanting to have A4 copies please contact him on: richardtriding@gmail.com or write to The Old Workshop, Batlers Green House, Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 8PH.

Church Ladies With Typewriters

Those wonderful Church Bulletins are back! These sentences have actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And finally:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

