The New Cavalier

Prince Rupert School
1947-1972

THE WILHELMSHAVEN ASSOCIATION

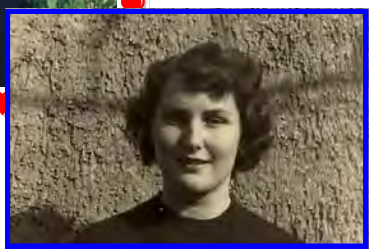
Newsletter 49 April 2010

Congratulations

To Madeline (Hallett) Thomas and Peter Thomas Drake 53-56 who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the beginning of April 2010

As readers of the **PRS Blue Book** will Know Madeline and Peter met whilst at school and married three years later, see page 19 & 22/23 for the full reports

Madeline and Peter at PRS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our very own TWA Founder and Honorary President Liz (Bird) Hughes (Howe 61-64) celebrating a very special birthday on 14 April

Frau Liselotte Bischoff formerly Fraulein Schultz—Drake Boys Matron from 1955 and after her marriage, employed in administrative work at the School until 1972.

To LILO

Happy ..th Birthday for the 27th March 2010 from all TWA members who would like to bestow on you 'Honorary Membership' of the Association in recognition of the fantastic support, friendship and loyalty you have given over the years. Without your help, our friendship and recognition by the town of Wilhelmshaven would not be how it is today. xxx

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Dear Members
A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.
Thank you again to all those who sent very encouraging words re the Newsletter, much appreciated as always. Please continue to send in your reports and in particular—'where are the 60s and 70s folk?' There must be stories to tell!
Here are some website links which may interest members:
http://www.princerupert.de …. *this is the website of the existing PRS in Rinteln and*
Www.blauer-beton.de/anderes/abrissbanterkaserne/abrissbakas.html…
this link shows many videos of the school site being demolished, have a hanky handy.

Please continue to visit the TWA website; Andy updates the NEWs Section regularly.
Please note that the original document that Frank Wilce sent me with the V Tech 1955 photograph is on there and includes the signatures of past pupils. The missing names from NL 48 are on page 10 of this Newsletter.
Next newsletter due out at the end of July, all items by 18th June, thank you.

Kind regards ***Sue Burroughs (Collingwood 64-67) Editor***
PS *See back page for the link address to the Members website and the PRS Blog run by Paul Levitt*

Next Bi-Annual Reunion will be held the weekend 3rd and 4th June 2011 – location still to be decided Put in your diaries now…….

Mini Reunion coming up…….

Monday 21st June 2010 from midday

'Bridge at Gamston', Radcliffe Road, Gamston, Nottingham NG2 6NP

Contact Carol Goronwy (Collingwood 64-66) TWA Secretary for details

Just drop in, no booking necessary reunion held every 3 months

Last date for items to be submitted for Newsletter 50 is Friday 18th June 2010
☺

Changes to the Committee

John Simes *(Rodney 55-57)* joined the committee in 2001 as the PRS Historian. John has resigned from 'front line service', but intends to continue with his research on PRS and all matters connected with Wilhelmshaven and its German Naval history. John was the driving force behind the production of the Prince Rupert School Book published in 2004 and also produced a unique 'File of Facts' about PRS, amongst them names of staff members, teaching and non-teaching, the sports and academic trophies, and the popularity of girls and boys Christian names, culled from back copies of The Cavalier. Most of these Files of Facts can be viewed on the Web Site.

Joe Kinson *(Rodney 47-50)* has been on the committee since 2000, initially as Vice Chairman and latterly as 47-ers Representative, but before then he was one of Liz's first band of volunteers helping with the search for former pupils and staff, particularly from the very earliest years of PRS. He has resigned from 'front line service', but intends to continue as a member of one of John's History Forums alongside **a new recruit, his wife Val (Dore) Kinson** *(Collingwood 47-51)*.

Jackie (Steed) Lodge *(Grenville/Collingwood 52-56)* joined the committee in 2007 as a member of the Reunion Sub-Committee and Minute Secretary but has now resigned.

On behalf of all members of TWA I thank John, Joe and Jackie for all their hard work as committee members and for their wholehearted support of The Wilhelmshaven Association.

New Web Master – Andy (Vassiliou) Renou *(Rodney 62-66)* – At the Reunion in May last year I announced that Andy had volunteered to take over as Web Manager. Those members who are regular visitors to our on-line site will have noticed the changes to the design of some of the pages and the regular updating of the news pages. The change over has also saved us money with a new webhost.

Welcome Back – Richard Loveday *(Howe 60-64)* – Richard rejoined the Committee last summer after an absence of some 5 years. He is a member of the Reunion Sub-Committee and has also been helping Barbara Steels with the transporting of some important items of memorabilia from Wilhelmshaven.

The latest list of Committee members with their contact details appears on Page 31.

Lois Hammond ((Hood/Howe 54-57)
Chairman

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Coming up in Newsletter 50…….

- What are the two mystery items that were collected?
- A very special find…..
- Reunion Reports
- Bi Annual Reunion details
- More Memories
- Extracts from your letters
- More humour

And much, much more……

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

It is all in the words

A PEEP BEHIND THE SCENES

PRINCE RUPERT SCHOOL, WILHELMSHAVEN

PART 2.

Ed note: *In the last issue, Andrew Henderson wrote about the tense situation in Berlin from June 1948 – May 1949. This affected the travel arrangements of pupils attending PRS. The Cold War had now begun and the story continues… John Duxbury and Andrew Henderson had met with a special visitor….*

At first we listened with only mild interest to what we expected would be a routine task associated with the proposed evacuation – embarkation procedures perhaps or even lifeboat drill: but soon he had our full attention.

The Orders

My position as Art Master would sufficiently explain my appearance with sketching parties in the dock areas of Emden as elsewhere. Emden, the nearest German port to the United Kingdom lay some twenty five mile west of Wilhelmshaven. My special concern however would be to survey the approaches to the docks, to note obstacles, calculate distances and make other observations that would help Duxbury, a seasoned infantryman, to draw up a plan that would enable us to establish control of the outer harbour and hold it for three days.

Our three training ships and the armoury were manned and serviced by men of the former Kriegsmarine and our Working Party would be drawn from them. At present they would be told nothing – earmarked only. Spirited and disciplined they needed no training – only the word,

John was given charge of a canvas bag which contained bundles of the new Deutschmarks, sheets of petrol coupons specially printed for an anticipated emergency, a number of sealed, unmarked canvas-wrapped packages and a detailed War Office map of the area dated 1943.

The captain of each ship in the harbour was to be given a sealed packet, ordered out to sea with instruction to break the seal only when clear of the harbour. Incoming vessels were to be dealt with likewise. After three days we could consider that our duty was done. And then? ---------- "you are free to fend for yourselves in any way you judge best suited to your situation" (I made a mental note to sail with the last ship!).

The Cold War settled into a pattern of unfriendly stand-offs and the sense of immediate menace lessened. John, who had taken to keeping the Bren gun under his bed, now returned it to the armoury. Our weekly parades and the forward planning of the annual cruise(6) left little room for more warlike considerations.

Eventually, John decided to rejoin the Army and he too left for home.

Before going John passed over to me a file of the Battle Orders he had drawn up as Adjutant of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (to turn my mind to ground fighting), a German cavalry sword, 1914 pattern (he had three) and the canvas bag. His final words were" You are now N.O.I.C.(7) Emden"

Stand Down

A new Headmaster(8) reduced the size of the Naval Contingent and I was re-commissioned into the Territorial Army in a smaller Combined Cadet Force. The Emden enterprise, significant enough at the time, had now dwindled almost to extinction, evaporated as it were, with my Wavy Navy lace. I had tried without success to get a sight of John's plans for the defence of the docks. I had good reason to do so. John had been quick to establish his claim to the Bren gun and his fighting Military Cross justified his choice but, he had a pronounced cast in both eyes and I was determined to ensure that any post allotted to me lay well outside of his personal field of fire. But he produced no plan, nor did I ever visit Emden to work up the information we would have needed. The occasion had begun to lose its sense of urgency almost from birth. In later years I never met a former pupil or member of staff with any recollection of a rehearsal or even discussion that could be remotely associated with a plan for the evacuation of the school. But the bag and its contents were indubitably in my hands and however unlikely it seemed I was Naval Officer in Charge, Emden.

The fate of the Bag.

In 1954 I too prepared to return to the United Kingdom. Among the packing cases and exposed goods and chattels the half-forgotten bag appeared and assumed an almost menacing prominence. The Royal Navy had removed to distant Kiel. No documents, check lists, inventories, instructions or signatures had ever accompanied the bag. My cautious approaches to the base at Kiel, unsure of whom to ask for and unable to state my business never got me beyond the first desk. A diplomatic request for advice concerning 'certain Admiralty stores in my possession' got me as far as the Petty Officer Storekeeper. I persisted until one day Herr Obermeier, Captain of our gate guard, escorted a visitor to my home in Hegel Strasse. Amidst the disorder this man quickly established his credentials, made clear the purpose of his visit, wasted no words, accepted the bag and its contents and left.

One item was inadvertently withheld. Jane and I had long used the War Office map to explore the vast empty spaces of the East Frisian Littoral. These wetlands of intricate waterways and shifting sands, home of the hare and wild goose were the setting where half a century earlier, Erskine Childers had staged his immortal 'Riddle of the Sands'.

I still keep John's Battle Orders and I prize the map, the key to a magic landscape. The cavalry sword, well, that went long ago to the local Dramatic Society.

And the BAG went----------?

Thanks again to Mr Henderson, Art Master 47-54 for permission to publish.

(6)This probably refers to the trip taken to Rotterdam in 1950 on TS Prince Rupert.
(7)Naval Officer in Command.
(8)Smitherman left end of Summer Term 1951. Harry Slimming was Head for one term until Pacey came.

A Visit to Wilhelmshaven in July 2009 brings the unexpected……

On the 3rd July 2009 a group of ex – PRS pupils and a few of their partners began to arrive in Wilhelmshaven for a short stay. After many years of owning the former sub-marine base and our Prince Rupert School site, the German state had recently agreed to sell the site to the Town of Wilhelmshaven. Many of us had marvelled at the fact that our former School buildings had remained for such a long time. For those of us who have been able to visit the site over these years, we have been able to reflect on our time spent as pupils or staff at the School and shared these special memories with our former school friends and our families. With the new ownership of the site, decisions had been made that it was time to develop the area for the future growth and employment of the Town and it had been decided to demolish most of the buildings with a view to the development of a business park and to landscape the area to enhance the appearance for the future.
Having visited the Town on a few occasions since 1997 and made the video on the History of Prince Rupert School, I had a desire to make one last visit so that I could see the site at the very end of its life, as I had known it. Over the years since Liz Bird formed TWA, we have made some good friends in the Town and on each occasion we have visited, we have been ensured of a warm and very friendly welcome.

Our visit started with my husband and I arriving by car with Gareth Thomas, who was on the staff at PRS from Jan '65 to July '70. Gareth taught mathematics and did duty in Drake with Bob Alexander. In Sept 1966 he became housemaster of Howe and then later Shackleton. He had lived and taught in South Africa for 26 years and had only recently discovered TWA. Richard Loveday (Howe 60/64), joined this trio and all 4 of us were treated to dinner with Liselotte Bishoff, (Drake matron, then in admin 55/72). Wilhelmshaven was at its best as we had inadvertently chosen the annual Jade Weekend Festival– the weather was hot and dry, the sun was shining, and the sky blue. The festivities of the weekend were underway with an enormous number of visitors to the Town, ambling around the numerous stalls and displays that lined the approach to the Deich Brücke and along the towpath which so many of us had walked on our weekend deich walks. After walking over the Kaiser Wilhelm Bridge, on the other side of the water, a wonderful fun fair was in progress. The Naval shipyard was open to the public and a train from the 70's had come out of a museum in a local town and was making trips along the towpath rails that still remain.

Saturday afternoon was spent at the Pumpwerk where Lilo had arranged for about a dozen of TWA supporters from the Town to join us. Peter Deichman (formerly Rees of Drake 59/60) and Nick Siminson (Rodney 59/61), Nurse Elke (1961/68), Averil Neuman (formerly Miss Jelleyman 71/72), Barbara Aden and her sister Elvira (daughters of Herr Hesse, sportsmaster 47/72). Also present were Jürgen Tadiken, George Peters and a number of locals who had and still have a keen interest in the School.

Dr Jens Graul, in charge of Kulture in Wilhelmshaven arranged for us to attend a reception on the German Naval Ship 'Mecklenburg Vorpommern'. This was a formal affair attended by many high ranking German and Danish Naval officers, Town dignitaries and a German MP. At sundown a joint ceremony of the taking down of the Danish and German flags and the singing of both National Anthems was an interesting spectacle.

I am sure Lilo won't mind me saying this, but she found it particularly emotional as it was the first time she had been present at the formal singing of the German National Anthem. The weekend festivities ended at 23.00hrs with a firework display. Nobody seemed to know where the display was to be sited and we were on board a ship anchored by the side of the Bonteheim – we had been told that we would get a good view. The water was calm, the sky was clear and little boats started to appear in the water below us. Then it started – we thought it would be from the Kaiser Wilhelm Bridge area but the location was right up by the new Columbia Hotel, totally in the other direction. It was a superb display and on completion everyone started to drift home. We had a 15 minute walk back to the Kaiser Hotel which turned out to be an interesting experience as so may people were riding bicycles home – it was totally quiet except for the ringing of cycle bells as we were approached silently from behind.

On the Sunday, Jens Graul arranged for us to have a trip around the harbour on a small boat, finishing off with a visit to the Marine Museum. Again the weather was good and we had the opportunity of viewing the dockyard from a different perspective.
Having missed all the entertainments of the Jade Weekend, the rest of our group began to arrive on the Monday. Jim Mills (Drake 53/56), Ian Lennox (Howe 52/57), John D'Rozario (Rodney 53/57) and Sue, Jim Hanlon (Drake 54/58) and Barbara. A surprise visitor, Peter, John and Sue D's son, returning from a trek to the far east, arrived in time for his father's surprise 70th birthday party dinner on the 7th July at the Bootshaus restaurant, where 21 people attended. David Starkie (Drake 56/57) had also joined us by now.
We had a guided tour over the School site, arranged by Jens Termöhlen, architect in charge of the site. Demolition vehicles were on site and the work had begun. A large vehicle with a long claw was inside our Church, having gained access through a partly demolished wall at the side. It was sad to see this but I am glad that I did because this was, for me, the end of a very emotional attachment to the former School site with the realisation that this really was the end of an era. (Or so I thought then……..)

Our final day on the 9th July started at 9.00am with an official reception at the Rathaus with Herr Menzel, the Town Mayor and Dr Jens Graul, minister of Culture. Proudly displayed in the room was the brass bust of Captain Conder, which was presented to the Town during the Captain's stay after the war when he was the Naval Officer in Charge and who was there at the time of the opening of the School. Following the official photograph taken on the steps of the Rathaus, we boarded a coach, arranged by Jens Graul, and had a very interesting guided tour within the Naval Base. In the afternoon, Jens had arranged for us to have a boat trip around the outer harbour where we were shown the site of the new deep-sea container port that is being constructed and which it is hoped will provide prosperity for the Town in the future. (Well some of us enjoyed this trip – 3 people who will remain anonymous arrived a couple of minutes late for departure and waved to us as the boat pulled away from the Quay – they blamed the traffic!)
Unbeknown to the rest of our visiting group, I was invited for another trip around the School site by Jens Termöhlen. This time the heavy equipment was at rest and I was able to walk in some of the buildings that had been out of bounds for safety reasons on the first visit a couple of days earlier. Jens asked me if there was anything else TWA would like from the School site. In a rash moment I pointed to 2 items ……and you will have to wait for the next edition of the New Cavalier for the rest of this story plus another exciting discovery!
Barbara (Miller) Steels (Hood//Rodney 57-61) Responsible for TWA Memorabilia

V Tech 1955—NL 48 page 11

Can you help identify any of these folk? Great response and here are the names.

Top Photo

Top row: L-R Edward (Stroe/Tug) Wilson (Bonteheim/ Rodney) he was a great diver ; Geoffrey Acton (Collingwood), Alex Briggs (Collingwood 51-55), ?Robin Sutherland, Peter Solis, Anthony Christie (Howe), George Watson (Rodney), Armin Pangborne (Rodney)

2nd row: L-R Melvyn Edwards (Collingwood 53-56), Colin MacDonald (Howe), Frank Wilce (Howe52-55), Maurice Lammas

Taken outside the Metalwork Room, the teacher was Mr David Robinson

Bottom Photo: L-R: Ithel Matthews, D Frodshaw, Bill Rowe, Colin McDonald (Howe)

Thanks to **Frank (Tony) Wilce (Howe 52-55)** for sending in these photographs and John Simes, Alex Briggs, Melvyn Edwards, Patrick Roberts, Robin Cheek and David Lloyd for knowing names.

Glenn Rankine (Rodney 1959) NL 48 Photograph page 13 – update on information

Runners thought to be on the PRS running track due to notable Poplar trees in the background:

Also thought it was 200m/220yd sprint at a PRS?KAS inter school occasion. That area is now a housing estate and you can access it via Google Earth…… *thanks John Simes*

Left to Right

Gordon Birch (KAS), Richard Evans (PRS), Roderick Gover (PRS) and JB Smith (KAS)

Thank you to both John Simes (PRS) and Mary Clark (KAS, Ploen) married to Barrie Paice (Collingwood 53-55).

Ed note: *Incidentally, Mary told her hubby Barrie that she thinks our bi-annual reunions are far superior to the KAS reunions!*

Photo at swimming pool – NL 48 page 21

Left - Gloria (Goldsmith) Henderson (Howe 47-48)**,** on steps, half hidden behind, two of the Drake triplets, Barbara, Elizabeth and Margaret Little, 1947; Left alongside, The late Mrs Christine (Drummond) Slimming, I am guessing at Pat Biggs;

Right of steps - looking at old team photo, could be G. Butcher.

Right- looks like Bernice (Griffiths) Treacher (Drake 47-50). Must have been taken when we were back at school early in September 1947 - clothing - and swimming pool has been repaired.

Ed note: *thank you to Heather (Maule) King (Drake 47-50) and to Carol G and John S for this information.*

Memories ....

My memories are a bit dim now, although reading through past copies of the Newsletter the brain has been jogged into action, albeit a bit slow!

After arriving from Fayid, Egypt back to Germany, my father was stationed at Hohne near Celle, I was sent to PRS. I was in Drake early 54-55; boy was I a slow learner but to give the them (the teachers) their due they really tried and some of it rubbed off; especially off my backside after various slipper applications and the cane; I was able to endure all this due to sideline distractions: Barry Allan playing his trumpet (Oh Mein Papa), the radio AFN (The Yellow Rose of Texas) and the real bliss of being invited to Roger Gable's (Drake 53-57) home at RAF Jever by his parents at half term - warmth, good food, homeliness, wonderful!

John Salter (Drake 54-55) and Sam Galbrieth (Collingwood) going off to PRS

I found house dances a bit grim, I loved the girls alright but dragging myself round the floor to Charmaine, well!! and the Gay Gordons weren't too bad (do they still do that dance?).

Ed note: *Yes, I was at a Burns Night recently and my sister and I were dancing the Gay Gordon, to continue……*My scarf was once pinched by Margaret Scurr (Drake girls) I was very happy, the exchange of yellow crush pins but oh dear!!! the Sunday walk around the Deich, with everybody hanging out of Drake boys windows to cheer us on!

I seem to be rambling on, may I mention food? Waiting for my turn at having a soft fried egg at breakfast, hating Cheese Soup, loving Farmers Breakfast and looking forward to the next cake sent from home. I was once in a room with Peter Jeffrey (Drake 53-57); did he really sneak out at night to get bits of a Submarine and cut his head open coming back in again?

Ed note: *this could be a question for our PRS Historians John Simes and Joe Kinson.*

John Salter (Drake 54-55)

John S with his mum, you can see the PRS crest clearly in both photos

More Memories……..

I was at PRS (mainly a day girl) from '55 to '62, and in Wilhelmshaven from 1954 with my sister Virginia and brother Nick. Our Dad was Mr Bill King, teacher of languages, sometime Housemaster of Collingwood Boys (so I lived on the Fliegerdeich for a year), Deputy Head (and Acting Head for a short while). He left Wilhelmshaven in 1965. Maybe you remember him? I do feel that members might be interested in photos showing the school as it was, maybe showing themselves, or friends they could identify.

Pip (King) Anderson Rodney (55-62)

Bonteheim July 1956
Front row: Anthony Christie, ?, ?, ?, Dave Dalton
Middle Row: Mr Malins, Mr Roberts, ?, Mr fred Turner, Chris ?, Mr Bill King, Mr Kevin Callan.
Back Row: ?, Taffy Matthews, ?, ? Biff Jenkins, Patrick Roberts, Stan Gordon, ?, ? Jimmy Scurr
Same Parade as left—late 50s are you there?

Late 50s Sea Cadets let by Mr Roberts—are you there?

Senior Collingwood boys 56-57
L-R Back row: ?, Mike Lowne, Fred Lockerby, Front Row: Anthony Soden, Geoffrey Taylor, Michael Walker, Geoffrey Palmer, Paddy Nash

Memories are made of this as well…..

Nit inspection - first term 10 of us had to wear headscarves, very embarrassing, long cold runs on the Deich, mixed Rugby, 2 pairs of shorts, Geese in the school farm.
Lived in Hamm, Braunschweig, Hamburg and Bad Oeynhausen
Resume: I am not sure where to start – married into the Navy, lived in N.Ireland and various places in the UK. Australia, back to the UK again and then back to Australia. Trained as a Dental nurse; London City and Guilds, so have taught all sorts including Aboriginal and Adult Education. Run a small business, have three daughters, best memories of school were the PRS ones.

Ann Elsie (Rowe) Benjamin (Collingwood 50-52)

Resume: Started apprenticeship as a Fitter/Turner in Dover. Completed the same in the Royal Navy as an Aircraft Fitter. Served 15 years before emigrating to Australia where I am at present. Married twice, divorced and lost my second wife 7 years ago. 4 children, 5 grandchildren; pleased to have renewed friendship with school, pals.
Lived in Osnabruck.

James Mellor (Drake 58-60)

Crawling to the fence on Fliegerdeich and asking the passersby to release me.
Watching Mr Periam (of the wild hair) attempting to blow himself up, at least once a week.
Trying very hard at Geography to avoid the wrath of George.
Lived in Hameln and Minden
Resume: Need to write a book
Memorabilia – still searching the attic

Jim (known as Pin Head, brave 6th formers only) Sykes (Rodney 62-65)

Ed note: *had a good laugh reading this, see you must have been in my year*

5T- late summer 1955 or maybe 1954

Back row: Robin Sunderland, Geoff Acton, Alex Briggs, George Watson
Centre: Maurice (Mo) Lammas, Peter Solis, Frank Wilce
Front row: Anthony Christie, Melvyn Edwards
Thank you Alex Briggs (Colliingwood 51-55) for sending in this photograph

Even More Memories……..

Howe Senior Football Team 53/54
BR LR : B.Pretty,?, C.MacDonald, F.Hedley, J.Wlinter, E.Schoeman,?, C.Hallwell.
FR LR: T.Carroll, M.Ashenden, B.Voller, McCann, I.Lennox**.**
Thank You Cyril Clarke (Howe 54-55) for this photograph

Lots and lots of memories….far too many to mention.
One that always stands out, myself and Patrick Coleman reported for detention, once booked in, as others were arriving, we walked out instead of taking a seat. Walking back to Fliegerdeich I heard a voice calling. Someone from the Sailing Club was passing by, he turned into the shore picked me up and gave me my first sailing lesson. Not bad I thought, considering I was not a member. However that was the start of what became an interesting and enjoyable part of my Army career. Lived in Oldenburg
Resume: On leaving PRS…...
1956-59 Joined the Army Apprentice College
1959-80 Serving soldier in the Army
1989-95 Joined construction industries in logistics, Canary Wharf, Guys Hospital
1995- to present, rejoined MOD teaching
Semi retired at 65, still teaching and leading very active life
Married with 5 children and 5 grandchildren to date.

James (Jim) Scurr (Drake 53-56)

Bit of Humour ☺

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
Smile at someone who is hard to love.
Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

When a tiny error can make such a difference!
Thanks Paul Levitt (Drake 57-59)

See page 30 for the answer

Which year was this taken? View of the frozen sea from Fliegerdeich, Wilhelmshaven

1956
Thank you to Pip (King) Anderson for this photograph, not sure of the occasion, maybe Speech day but look at that view…

The view as it was in 1997 during the trip to Wilhelmshaven, one of those that I (Ed) took whilst there—nothing much has changed since those early days

All gone 2010, the view is not exactly as the two above but I hope to print that one in the next NL—this is part of the site though

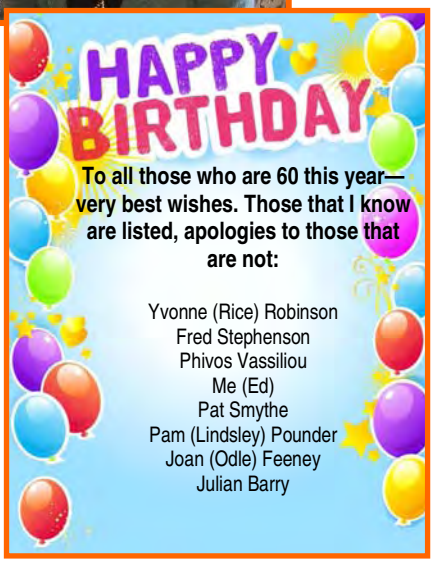
To our very own TWA Reunion Organiser Peter Pillar (Rodney 65-68) who will be celebrating a special birthday in July

John D'Rozario's (Rodney 54-57) 70th birthday
L-R Barbara Hanlon, Sue and John D'Rozario,
Thank you Lois H for this photograph

Marion (Hope) Chadwick (Drake 53-54) and Wendy (Burry) Bowra (Drake 51-57) attending the Prince Rupert Hotel lunch on Sunday 6th March 2010

Sue Burroughs (Collingwood 64-67) and Pat Smythe (Collingwood 64-68)

Lake District September 2009



Gallery

Any guesses to what these objects might be.....

See the next NL and all will be revealed

Our very own Carol G -TWA Secretary (Collingwood 64-66) and I braved the wintery weather to attend the Committee meeting in Warmington during February—note the TWA bag, comes in handy for all sorts of things.

Mrs Riggs and Marg (Ireson) Garford (Frobisher/Rodney 53-56) pictured beside the Kopf's desk. Marg was collecting PRS Memorabilia from the late Mr Rigg

Dr Jens Graul, July 2009, during the boat trip with Barbara Steels and others who were visiting Wilhelmshaven

See pages 8 and 9

The Late Mr John Strickland,
Thank you to John and Roz Strickland for sending this photograph

It's a small world…….

Last year we (Mike and Zena) splashed out on a trip of a lifetime on the Queen Mary, Singapore/ London (lower deck class).

After all the packing, securing our home and putting the dog (Mickey the Beagle) in kennels we finally boarded the aircraft to Singapore. What a relief….. time to turn on the music and relax and stretch out (plenty of spare seats available). Suddenly I heard a loud clicking noise close by and woke up to be staring at Babs Magee (Hood/Collingwood 59-64) taking my photo while I was dozing. What a pleasant surprise, then big hugs and laughter; I was then informed she had known for ages that we would be making the same journey.
News spreads rapidly between mutual friends from PRS.
Here is photograph of Zena and Babs aboard the Queen Mary.

Mike Keen (Collingwood 52-54)

Readers of the Newsletter might be interested to know that my article on Wilhelmshaven for "After The Battle" Magazine will be published in Issue Number 148 on May 15, 2010.
Jens Graul and Markus Titsch assisted with it.

The magazine costs £5.15 (£4.25 plus £0.90 p&p), and can be ordered from "After The Battle" by phone: 01279 41 8833, or online: http://www.afterthebattle.com/.
It will also be available at MOTORBOOKS, 13-15 Cecil Court, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4AN, freephone 0800 0267890.

Tony Colvin (Matthew/Collingwood 50-55)

Keeping PRS connections at 70

With the approach of our Golden Wedding celebration I have been thinking a lot about important people in our past lives – that is Madeline Hallett and Peter Thomas's lives, we are a couple who met whilst at school.

Considering how far-flung across the globe many ex PRS ites are, it has surprised me to see how many we are still in touch with. At our Golden Wedding ' do' on 3rd April 2010 there will be six ex pupils present. Ourselves, our sisters Margaret Hallett (Drake 54) and Patricia Thomas (Rodney Sept 53); then our friends Jenny Boyer (Drake 53-56)) and Tony Colvin (Matthew/ Collingwood 50-55). It would be so interesting to hear how many other ex PRS couples have reached a significant milestone?

I wonder whether the unpredictable, interesting and sometimes extraordinary experiences of a 'forces childhood' , moving all over the place, might be a positive asset in adjusting to the rest of your life….. including marriage? For us it has been good, sharing life with someone who understands the slightly 'Monty Python – esque' aspects of PRS and life abroad after 1946.

Keeping in touch at Christmas (and at other times) with old friends is something I really appreciate now: Jenny Davies (Drake), Terry Fraser (Drake), Jill Taylor (Drake 52-55), Chris Lisle (Drake) and Derek Fell (Rodney); the different lives we have led are fascinating, the three of us shared tapes about our lives some years ago.
And meeting up with so many people at the reunions is also a real treat – John and Sylvia Simes and Lois Hammond, Carol Goronwy and many, many others.
So grateful thanks to the dedicated TWA Committee and 'The New Cavalier' editor and contributors – it's wonderful being able to revisit and connect with people from those unforgettable PRS days and enjoy again all those memories. It's amazing that it has happened – must be that old 'Phoenix' spirit rising yet again!

Madeline (Hallett) Thomas (Drake Jan 53-Jul 57) and Peter Thomas (Drake Sept 53-Jul 56)

Ed note: *Congratulations to Madeline and Peter on your 50th wedding anniversary…….. the following is an excerpt from Madeline's letter.*

We (Madeline and Peter) met during the Autumn term1953 at PRS and we went out together from the Spring term 1954 (both in class 4b) until the end of the first year 6th form (July 1956).. Peter then left PRS to do his National Service, we wrote and kept in touch for the next three years. (I did try some other boyfriends!) but when Peter came out of the Army we got married as soon as we could on 2nd April 1960.
We have always felt very strongly that we wanted to be together. Now we have three children and five gorgeous grandchildren. VIVA PRS which bought us together!
I (Madeline) ended up as a Clinical Psychologist and Peter as a Psychiatric Social Worker – so perhaps we were affected by the 'wacky' regime?

See Page 22/23 For the full story on Madeline and Peter Thomas school days taken from the PRS Wilhelmshaven Blue Book with permission from John Simes PRS Historian

Canoe Expedition Revisited

Cavalier 1965, page 50, supposedly an article written by myself and the late Sue Wells; strange how the memory plays tricks – I have no recollection of ever writing this article although I do remember the expedition but not in quite the same way as it was written; also the writing was not of the standard expected of a 15 year old who only achieved grade 2 CSE English, a lot of editing I believe? Pat Smythe (also mentioned in this article) and I have discussed this particular jaunt at length; we both remember things that were not written down, so in an effort to put things right and maybe jog someone else's memory of that canoe expedition we are going to revisit that trip using information gleaned by using Google Earth, our failing memories and information from our historian John Simes; we will then make a calculated guess at where we started and at which bridge we waited for our lunch etc – all this achieved without physically putting a toe in the water.

Firstly Pat and I have many questions. What date was it? Presumably it was the Summer term and possibly the latter half of June as we were in T-shirts, there were five Wednesdays in June 1965, when was the end of term? I do not recollect feeling cold, in fact a comment was made re sunburn on one arm. German summers were and still are warm, in the same way as German winters were and are typically cold.

Where did we start and how many miles would it have been? How many miles can an amateur and if I rightly remember, a not very fit young lady, row MPH, I reckon about 3mph. I remember starting reasonably early, the article quotes 'driven by bus' and I am sure it was a mini bus and there must have been another mode of transport for the canoes. The article reports the journey took about twenty minutes, AA route says about 33 minutes along road from PRS, Wilhelmshaven to Priemelsfehn, (thank you John S). So my guess is we started from Priemelsfehn approximately 15/16 miles along the Jade Ems Kanal, this is about 15 main bridges along from the sea. I do recollect rowing for a fairly short time before we had reached the correct number of bridges for lunch, not just one as mentioned in the original article- I had thought about five – these may have been small foot bridges that we were counting and not main bridges which would have caused the confusion, therefore we arrived at about 11ish expecting our lunch and feeling very pleased with ourselves that we weren't even tired and (as we thought) had travelled half way already. The number 5 has always stuck in my mind, so my theory is that it could have been part of 15 or the amount of bridges we were supposed to be counting before stopping for lunch.

I do remember climbing out of our canoe and hauling it onto the side where we (a few of us) all messed about waiting for our lunch bus to arrive…. there was an electric fence keeping sheep, or was it cows, in the field so we took turns in giving ourselves electric shocks, the silliness of youth! Another recollection was our white socks which were very dirty and threadbare by the time we arrived back at school, we had been scampering about in them – where were our shoes? My mum remembers these socks as I must have taken them home complete with dirt.

So the next recollection is, waiting quite a while for the bus to turn up with lunch; it did eventually arrive with an irritated teacher telling us to get back in the canal and row on; no memory of a Bridge Keeper (as per the article). I do remember at every lock, or was it a lock, we had to take our canoe out of the water and walk around….looking via Google Earth the canal appears to be very wide and more like a river, in fact it looks in parts like white water froth which would equal choppy!

This would explain the incident described in the original article when the river became a bit choppy after passing a barge. I don't remember an adult or a senior person accompanying us in the water, were we on our own? Young girls and boys on their own; I see it says there were only five canoes altogether so therefore if there were nine of us, two man canoes, who was on their own? First form squirts I mention, heaven forbid, they would have been 11 years of age, surely that cannot be right and who was in charge of them, surely not us, fourteen year olds?

Lifejackets, Pat and I both remember these, they were grey canvas with some hard material inside back and front and dangled at each end of the canoe or were they both at the front? Health and safety had obviously not raised its ugly head in those days or did we start with them on and then removed them? It would not have been 'cool' to wear them, sign of 'wimpishness', peer pressure and vanity were prevalent during those teenage years, same as now.
The journey seemed endless once we realised our earlier error, I remember I had a nasty bruise on the base of my spine from sitting so long in the wooden canoe – bit of information, the boys made these canoes in woodwork, see Cavalier Spring 1965, page 42, not sure who is in that particular photograph on page 42, initially I thought it was Sue Wells in front of the canoe but she was not at the school in 1964….. anyone know? It seems the girls and boys in the Canoe Club varnished the canoes regularly (we don't remember that), see Blue PRS book chapter 8 page 159 (thank you John S and Sandie Logan Blake/Collingwood 70-72) and good to know they were still going in the early seventies.

So, Pat and I remember rowing for a long time before and after lunch, we had to make up time. As we paddled we felt worried as to how/when we would reach our destination. I don't remember a bus ride in the middle of the trip, I don't remember changing crew either. Pat thinks I was in the canoe with her, I don't recall, I had thought that Sue Wells was in the same canoe as me. On reading the article it seems as if we may have changed crews midway. Pat and I both remember rowing into the open sea; it was very choppy, light was fading and we were surrounded by enormous naval ships. We had to navigate in between them with the German sailors calling out and whistling; we felt very small and vulnerable – we did like the attention from the sailors though, it felt very exciting; we rowed around these monsters and swung around to the right – that picture is very clear in my head but then I don't see anything. Pat remembers us rowing to the bridge and being hauled out – apparently we were not supposed to have arrived there so we must have taken a wrong turning at some point; we arrived back at school late for supper. After considering what the time might have been I feel it must have been much later than 5/6 o'clock, as it was midsummer I reckon it was more like 8ish, light was fading and I do recollect my nervousness at the possibility of still being in the water when it became dark.

The end of the journey must have been at the Deichbrucke which is near Fliegerdeich, I do remember it was not far from school. I have the bridge by bridge account of what I think was the journey (see NL 50), if you go on Google Earth you will also be able to trace the journey; never realised then how adventurous we were, adventure and I don't normally appear in the same sentence, for Pat though it was just the start with many more to come.
So in conclusion, there must have been a few of us on that trip, someone out there must remember something, please let me know and maybe we can add bits to the story.
Sue Burroughs and Pat Smythe (Collingwood 64-67) with the help of John Simes PRS Historian—see photo gallery for a photo of Pat and I adventuring in the Lake District 2009

Memories of Two Sisters….

On reading 'One story leads to another' (NL 48) I quickly re read NL 46 about John Leggett's time in Austria.
My sister and I started our time abroad in Germany in 1950; in Goslar, Minden and Lubecke and after a brief spell home in Aldershot we went out to Austria, to Klagenwurt. We too remember climbing onboard the huge army trucks on Radetzky Strasse to go to school and also we had a short stay at Schloss Krastowitz whilst our mother was having an operation. The marble entrance hall and grad staircase, definitely no shoes – and the hand inspections before meals. We left Austria when it became neutral and tool the first train out to Monchengladbach.
Our arrival at MG meant boarding school and Wilhelmshaven, PRS, and imagine out surprise as we went into 'Hood' to be greeted by Matron from Schloss Krastowitz! We were assigned to Drake for the next two years and have many happy memories of 'midnight feasts' and cocoa and buns at mid-morning break and seeing ships launched from our upstairs windows.

Left to Right
Wilf Woods, Christine Harmer, Valerie Harmer, Davina Wynn (Drake 55-56)

The sea froze and my sister Valerie spent time in sick-bay with mumps – I had to spell out messages in the snow! Too soon we were on our way back to the UK, dad was posted to Nottingham where we have both settled with our families; we will never forget all our memories of life at PRS. Maybe this photo will trigger someone else's memories.
Christine and Valerie Harmer (Drake 55-56)

A True Romance

I met Peter Thomas in the Autumn Term 1953 when I was aged 14 and he was nearly 16, which I thought impressively old and knowledgeable. I was walking along the long corridor in Raleigh and towards me was coming a tall, thin boy I had never seen before. My stomach turned right over and I was really surprised, because that had never happened before – I felt quite disorientated. We were both in Form 4B and I soon found I was very, very aware of him in class at all times and was actually beginning to find he was quite irresistibly fascinating and utterly attractive to me; I wanted to be in his presence at all times. Well, of course, that was not what PRS was all about and a further complication was that I already had a boyfriend, the really great Chris Lisle, who came after other good ones: Mike Wright and Terry Fraser.

I actually stayed at PRS until the end of the Sixth Form, because my parents considered 'it was a good idea to get a girl out of the way until eighteen-years old and then she could marry someone appropriate in the Diplomatic Service'. Anyway, so along comes Peter Thomas, in my eyes intellectually very able, physically quite irresistible and to make him even more attractive, courageous in Boxing, which was even more impressive when he became Boxing Captain for the School.

There is a snag in this story: he did not really seem at all interested in me. In fact, I heard he rather admired Jennifer Boyer. Oh dear, what to do? Well, I worked much harder at schoolwork to compete with that smug Peter Thomas and make him notice me. The result was that much to my dismay, I was promoted to the A stream, so I was no longer in the same class as him.

There were crush pins, go-betweens, messages, saved seats, and somehow he decided he was interested after all, so we became an item in January 1954; it had taken me only a term to achieve my desire. Now my troubles really began. As I became more enamoured of him, found him increasingly interesting and became really crazy about him, friends, sport, class work and everything else just paled into insignificance. I caught a few minutes with him between lessons, went for extremely long Deich walks, went into town together, hanged out, being 'pathetic' behind the gym and behind Churchill and at the Sportplatz. We must have been a nightmare during the next three years when we remained inseparable. Young love, first love was very powerful, what with all those hormones, too. The German librarian was always saying: "Madeleine Hallett, stop talking to Thomas, or I will send you to Mr Pacey".

One rainy weekend afternoon we were out of bounds in Raleigh and the cleaner came rushing in and shouted: "Schnell heraus! Mr Pacey kommt!" We were so mesmerised that we did not jump out of the window to escape, as we should have done, but listened to his slow footsteps coming down the corridor and opening every door. He came in and found us and we made a lame excuse: Peter was teaching me to play chess.

Peter had given my whole PRS experience a romantic and sensual glow, but it came to a sudden end. My Housemistress had a serious talk with me and told me I must break up with my boyfriend and think of my future. She would make me a Prefect and Head of House if I did so, but I was unwilling and unbeknown to her, I was thinking about my future, too, but it was not the one she wanted for me. Peter had to go to see Mr Pacey and the news was not good. In the Headmaster's view, being nineteen-years old, Peter should forget about a second year in the Sixth Form and do National Service, and that is what happened.

The school probably thought we were too friendly for comfort, though they need not have worried, because the huge societal pressures did have a strong influence on restraining one's behaviour.

Peter did his National Service in Germany, so we managed to meet a couple of times in Berlin. I did my 'A' Levels, worked in a Consulate for the Foreign Office and had a couple of other boyfriends to keep my parents happy. Peter and I were married in April 1960, with quite a few PRS friends as guests, and over the years we had four children.

Our love life began in wintry Wilhelmshaven all that time ago and it is still going strong in sunny Somerset!

Madeleine Hallett (Hood/Drake 1953 – 1957)

Peter Thomas (Rodney 1953 – 1956)

Thank you to John Simes (Rodney 55-57 and PRS Historian) for allowing us to use this piece from the PRS Wilhelmshaven Blue Book, more information on page 19

Tribute to the Late Gordon Witty – 03/02/55 to 08/10/09 whose death was published in NL 48.

Another bout of sad news with the passing away of Gordon Witty. I first met Gordon at the 1997 reunion and found him great company, always with a smile plenty of humour and extremely generous. He was at PRS much later than I but I'm sure we would have had lots of fun together if our times had coincided.
Mike Keen ((Collingwood 52-54)

With regard to details of Gordon's PRS career, he started in Mountbatten 1966 and then graduated to Drake Boys and latterly, Lawson. He left PRS in 1971.
There is an interesting side to Gordon's life of which many are unaware. After PRS he joined the army and was quickly identified as an outstanding yachtsman. His activities in this area gained him the BEM and he subsequently trained the Army team along with skippering and organising yachting events for commercial companies. I understand that he was also in contention for a place in the Olympic Games but ended up as a reserve.
Another interesting fact is that Gordon was invited, as a distinguished ex Wilhelmshaven pupil, to speech day at PRS Rinteln to give an inspirational speech. While Gordon was not an academic pupil, he certainly made his mark in the sporting world, which led to this invitation to speak at PRS Rinteln.

Gordon spent his PRS career in Set 5 due to dyslexia and won through to success which was recognised - via his BEM - by the Crown.
David Fullwood (Mountbatten/Drake /Lawson 67-71)

The late Anthony (Tony) John Skillan – Collingwood 55-58

It is with considerable sadness that I announce the death of my brother Tony, who passed away peacefully in his sleep aged 66 on Monday 26th October 2009 after an heroic 12 year battle with different forms of cancer.

After three years in Collingwood House he left PRS at age 15 and joined the RAF as an apprentice where he was given the choice of "communications or cooking".
He chose the former. It was a good choice for after 12 years in the RAF he went on to establish a lengthy successful career as a communications consultant for among others, the British Government, taking early retirement at 54.

I should also like to add that Tony was unfailingly cheerful and optimistic even in the most dire of circumstances. It seems silly to say that as he was 4 years my junior - a big age gap when you are young – that we did not spend much time together, something I now regret.

David Skillan

A Boxer's Prayer

I ask you not for victory, for somehow that seems wrong,
but only for protection, and the courage to be strong,
strength not to conquer, but just that I'll fight well,
and prove myself a sportsman, at the final bell.

I ask you Christ of suffering, that I should suffer pain,
I'll offer it for all my sins, so it won't be in vain.
And if perhaps he cuts me, and the bright red blood I see,
I ask that I'll remember, the blood you shed for me.
I need you in my corner, but likewise in the other,
so that I'll remember, my opponent is my brother.

And I pray that you'll protect us, from injuries severe, that will
give the fans their value, and cause everyone to cheer,
and make each single act, of either one be fair,
so no matter who the victor, in the glory both can share,
and if by chance he floors me, and the canvas I should meet,
like Simon of Cyrene, please help me onto my feet,
then should a little glory, somehow fall on me,
please help me to remember, that I owe it all to thee,
please help me go the distance, through rounds of danger rife,
not only in the boxing ring, but in the larger ring of life.

So I ask you not for victory, for somehow that seems wrong,
but only for protection, and the courage to be strong, strength of
mind and body, so I will fight well,
and the referee will raise my hand, at judgments final bell.

AMEN

In memory of Mr John Strickland

Ed note: *Thank you to the person who sent this to me, apologies I never noted your name……more memories of the Late Mr Strickland on page 27 , 28 & 29*

IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that we have heard of the deaths of the following ex pupils and members of staff:

Giles Precious (1971)	12 years ago
Michael Swift (Howe 52-59)	16 July 2009
Anthony (Tony) John Skillan (Collingwood 55-58)	26 October 2009
Mr John Strickland (Drake 51-53)	23rd November 2009
Mr David Precious (67-76)	15 Jan 2010

On behalf of the committee and all members we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Mr DAVID L PRECIOUS
6th June 1927 – 15th January 2009
Head of Music Department at PRS 1965 – 1976

David Precious died in January 2009 after a relatively short illness in Bramhall, Cheshire, where he and Rosemary, his wife, had a flat in the home of their daughter, Maxine.

David had lived in Devon and in what was then Rhodesia (where he met Rosemary), prior to joining the staff of PRS as head of music in the mid-sixties. During his time in Wilhelmshaven, he was a familiar figure in most aspects of school life. He taught music to examination level, was a duty master on the Fliegerdeich, and was also involved very much in anything musical in school life outside the classroom. He played the organ every Sunday in the school chapel and provided the musical accompaniment (usually at the piano and on his own) for the school musical productions. These were often Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, but another most memorable was 'Oliver', which, as well as being performed four times in school, was taken 'on tour' to Hamm.

Despite having been born with a deformity of his leg, which made a false limb necessary, David was not only able to play the organ very proficiently, he was also a keen cricketer and a formidable spin bowler. He was very keen to umpire cricket matches whenever possible, and had a fund of cricketing stories to include in his repertoire as a raconteur.

He and Rosemary had three children, Lloyd, Giles and Maxine. Lloyd works in the Middle East, and as mentioned above, Maxine lives in Cheshire and is a senior nurse. Sadly, Giles died twelve years ago in a tragic accident, leaving a wife and two young children. I don't think that David ever really got over this sad loss.

When PRS moved to Rinteln, Rosemary resumed work as a speech therapist at BMH Rinteln, and David continued with his music, eventually leaving PRS, but staying on in Germany, giving organ tuition and, despite only having a minimum knowledge of the language, running several German choirs.

In recent years, we used to visit David and Rosemary occasionally. We were delighted that he, Rosemary and Maxine were able to be with us in February, 2008 when Margaret and I celebrated our Golden Wedding. Whenever we met, we shared happy memories of the time we spent together at PRS.

Mr Leo McNicholas (Staff: 1964 -1976)

John William Strickland, 16th November 1920—23rd November 2009

It is with sadness that we report the death of our lovely father in November. He was 89 and had been battling prostate and secondary bone cancer over the last few years and more recently a couple of strokes. Notwithstanding this, his mind remained as sharp as a penny and we continued to share many wonderful happy moments with him, as did his many friends. Nevertheless he was truly ready to go and had made this clear to us very calmly, saying that he did not want to see another Christmas. Sadly his quality of life had suffered and he was frustrated at the loss of much of his cherished independence but got huge solace from his many happy memories of married life with Jean (who died in 2001) and in particular the happy years they spent in Germany during the 1950's.

He was a man who showed incredible integrity, honesty and compassion, offering friendship to all he met, as many former PRS pupils will know. He lived a long and varied life, from his birth in County Durham (always proud of his Northern routes), working first on the LNER, then a wartime navigator in the RAF and a POW ("the best education he ever had") followed by a long and distinguished teaching career culminating in a Headship in Leicester where he continued to live.

He was a true communicator, always with a story to tell, a cheeky smile and loved by many. We will always miss him but his memory will stay with us forever.

John and Roz Strickland

Ed Note: *In the Photo Gallery I have put the latest photograph of Mr Strickland sent in by John and Roz; it is in colour and as you know colour is limited to outside/inside cover and centre fold*

Thanks to John Thompson (Matthew/ Rodney 52-56) for this photograph of the late Mr Strickland during his time at PRS

'A Boxer's Prayer' is on page 25, dedicated to Mr Strickland

Over the page are more tributes……..

Tributes to the late Mr Strickland

The late Mr Strickland

I visited Mr Strickland on a regular basis and was due to call round when I got the very sad news of his death recently. We had kept in touch and I know how much he loved to reminisce and would always ring me as soon as he received the latest New Cavalier.

Helen (Moore) Coulson (Frobisher/Howe 53-55)

The late Mr Strickland

John and Jean were such steadfast and valued friends of my parents, Jerry and Bruce Salmon, corresponding regularly until my mother's death in '97. At that point I took over and we kept in touch several times a year, as since the early 50's when I joined PRS, news of the Strickland family had been part of my life. In fact John and Jean had filled me with such glowing stories of the school that even though I had never been away from home before, I boarded my first school train in Oldenburg with excitement and a comforting degree of pre-knowledge rather than anxiety. It was wonderful that I was able to see John through the PRS reunions on quite a few occasions. He was one of the last connections to my parents and I will miss him. He seemed to dismiss age and throw himself joyfully into the Association activities, gaining so much from them. What a wonderful generation he came from!

Val (Bruce) Salmon (Rodney 53-58)

The Late Mr Strickland

I (Mike) received the sad news in late November last year of the death of Mr John Strickland, teacher and boxing referee/coach. I had the pleasure of communicating with him and had a long chat with him on the telephone not long before he passed away. During the war John was a navigator in Wellington bombers, his aircraft was shot down in 1942 near Wilhelmshaven which resulted in him serving three years as a POW.

After the war he became a teacher in general subjects; boxing was one of his favourite sports and John was a great help to all PRS boxers in and outside the ring. After leaving PRS John taught in Oldenburg, Hohne and finally as Head Master at a school in Leicester. We had a great deal in common and it is such a pity we couldn’t meet later this year.

Mike Keen ((Collingwood 52-54)

The Late Mr Strickland

I don't really have any real stories to tell, I was probably too young at the time. I only know that when I joined the school in January 1952 Mr Strickland formed a boxing club and we used to train in the assembly hall in Churchill as there was no gymnasium at that time.

Mr Strickland was a really great guy, very friendly and mild mannered, the type of person you always wanted to do your best for.

John Thompson (Matthew/Rodney 52-56)

The late Mr John Strickland

I was very sad to hear that Mr John Strickland had died. We had been in contact over the 'phone for a number of years, ever since I had written an article on boxing for The Cavalier. He rang me and we reminisced about PRS and especially the boxing club and the RAF. His love of boxing was infectious. I joined the club in 1952 just after John started coaching. I remember how keen he was to instil discipline and fairness and would push boxers to their limits in order to get them as fit as possible. John was always interested in any news of PRS especially ex boxers; just prior to his death he rang me all excited, apparently one of the Keen brothers had rang from Australia and had been talking with him for about an hour and I believe a video had been sent which he had just looked at and enjoyed immensely. He will be sadly missed especially by ex members of the Boxing Club.

Ron Everitt (Drake 52-53 H9)

Thank you to John Thompson (Matthew/ Rodney 52-56) for sending in this photograph

The Boxing Report on p36 & 37 of the Spring 1954 edition of The Cavalier

"The Boxing Club, inaugurated by Mr J Strickland in the early part of 1952, held its first tournament on May 24th 1952. Considering that the club had operated for so short a time, the standard of the bouts was high, and further bearing in mind the difficulties of matching in age, weight, and ability the contests were often surprisingly close.

In the Inter-House championships in February 1953, the entry was limited to twenty-five boys from each House, and in each case the maximum number of entries was received. This was a gratifying response, since 25 competitors represents a high proportion of the total strength of the Houses. Altogether 61 contests took place with Drake the winner."

A list of names of those who took part in the matches against King Alfred School in 1952 and 1953. These include:

A Hayley, P Worth, J Lamb, B Collins, P Jeffery, J Thompson, C Skeet, T Keen, J Gregory, G Small, M Pringle, T Keenan, P Billings, J Baxter, T Hynes and B Derbyshire.

PRS won both matches, 6 bouts to 5 and 10 bouts to 5.

John Simes (Rodney 55-57) PRS Historian

FINDING PEOPLE!

If you want to contact anyone on these lists or are still searching for your friends, then write, email or telephone Carol Goronwy (Collingwood 64-66).

New locatees since the last newsletter:

Name at school	Years	House
Trudy Allan	69 - 71	
Jim Dorman	65 - 67	Mountbatten
Judith Howes	61	Frobisher/Drake
Mike Howes	60	Drake
Laurence O'Toole	47 - 48	Howe
Barry Potter	58	Rodney
Bob Scorer	61 - 63	Rodney
Mike Shelton	65 - 68	Collingwood
Margaret Trollope	53 - 53	Collingwood
June Whittle	50 - 53	
Marcus Whittle	50 - 53	Matthew

Joined after being located a long time ago:

Krista Frane Hawkins	66	Howe
Janie Heredge	64 - 72	Collingwood

Rejoined:

Josephine Watson	55 - 58	Howe

Answer re photograph on page 19—Fliegerdeich January 2010
Thank You Richard Loveday ((Howe 60-64)
Yes! the sea is frozen again...

Have you met old school friends after many years?
Tell us about your reunion.
Send in a photo– as you were at school and now.

FLEET REUNION (New Venue) - 22 August 2010

Holiday Inn, Lynchford Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 6AZ

The response to the notice of the reunion in the last newsletter has been very good, Invitations to the event will be sent out in March. Anyone who would like an invitation please let me know. We have places for 120 so a prompt response to the invitation will secure a place.

Tel No: 01252 660954
Email. Pat.underhill@ntlworld.com

John Papworth (Howe 56-59)

The Wilhelmshaven Association
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Here is the annual reminder of the Names and Addresses of the TWA Committee Members:

Founder and Honorary President: **Liz (Bird) Hughes** (Howe 61-64)
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Chairman: **Lois Hammond** (Hood/Howe 54-57)
67 Larkhill Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 8XJ
Tel: 01743 353512. Email: chairman @prs-wilhelmshaven.co.uk

Vice Chairman and Facilitation Fund : **Terry English** (Howe 54-58)
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Tel: 01823 332558.

Membership Secretary/Treasurer: **Carol Goronwy** (Collingwood 64-66)
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