



Newsletter

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Welcome to the September 2012 edition of the Newsletter. The organ for all ex-Craft, Central, Technical and post-amalgamation Old Boys.

Editorial

A longer than usual gap since our last Newsletter means there is much to report and much to talk about.

The weather forecasters tell us that a mischievous jet stream running well to the south of the British Isles is responsible for the seemingly constant deluge we have been experiencing for much of the summer. However, being stoic, hardy and *British* we have borne this elemental onslaught with stiff-upper-lipped fortitude. The Diamond Jubilee has come and gone, England performed predictably in the European Championships and we finished third in the world in the London Olympics which, despite the naysayers, have been rightly hailed as a famous victory and success.

Work on the canal continues apace with a new cut making its snaky progress alongside Dr. Newton's Way. Much activity is also going on at Dudbridge lock, past the lower playing fields where a boating regatta was held in June, and under Chestnut Lane where a new bridge is being constructed.

Cashes Green Hospital has been largely reduced to a pile of rubble, Tricorn House remains obstinately intact and there are plans to replace the railway foot crossings with overbridges at Beards Lane and Downfield Lane.

Annual Dinner 2012

The 65th Annual Dinner will again be held at the Whitminster Inn Marquee on Friday 9th November 2012. 7:00 for 8:00 – midnight.

Tickets are available from the Secretary in the usual manner. Ticket price this year has been held at £19.95 and last date for orders is 29th October. (This will be strictly adhered to.)

This represents exceptional value. Tickets are available 'at cost' and we have the use of the Marquee gratis. We are again indebted to Mr. Bernard Trott for negotiating this superb deal with John McGoldrick at the Whitminster Inn.

'Corkage' of £3:00 per bottle will be applied as per last year. Special diets can, within reason, be catered for. Please contact the Secretary for details.

We hope once again to welcome Mr. Mark Cummings as our guest speaker and we are confident that the sound system will behave itself this year allowing all diners to follow the proceedings with crystal-like clarity.

We are indebted to Martin G. Young (1964-5), proprietor of Specialist Fire Solutions Ltd, who has agreed to sponsor The Draw this year.

As this is the 65th Annual Dinner we are hoping for a bumper turnout so please spread the word. If you know of an Old Boy who would benefit from a good night out and a slap-up dinner with some old mates then twist his arm!

Although membership of the Association is not a prerequisite to attend the Annual Dinner we would like to encourage all attendees to join. Full details are available from the Secretary.

Tales from the Workshops

#He flies through the air with the greatest of ease...

David Boulton recalls a particularly harrowing experience...

'My memory of 'Ganger' Neil

My particular memory of Ganger Neil relates to my staying on after school for woodwork club. Stan Marchant held woodwork club in the adjoining classroom to Ganger's metalwork room.

This particular evening I strayed into Ganger's club and his conversation at the time was regarding his love of judo and his ability to throw large people. Unfortunately for me his pupils dared that he could not lift me and barely before the words had left his mouth, I found myself on the floor the other side of the steel bench and suffering bruising for days. Bearing in mind that this occurred about 1954, no 'health and safety' rules were in existence so Ganger escaped without prosecution.'

Our new chaplain, Michael Withey, recalls a rather more benign experience in Stan Marchant's class...

'Cracks, Glues, Hope?

Stan Marchant was a kindly patient teacher as I remember him. In fact, I can't remember him losing his temper or flying off the handle. His patience seemed endless and with someone like me, who had no natural ability in the skill of woodworking, though I tried hard, his unflappable presence made an impression. I was one of those for whom dovetail joints never fitted, wood split and the lathe was a terrifying prospect. I did, however, have a go on it and managed a table lamp, still operational. But that split and my salvation lay in the gluepot!.

I seem to recall that the gluepot, like some bubbling cauldron, sat on a gas-ring and every so often sections of solid glue, like pieces of Easter egg, were broken and dropped into it. It smelled awful as it heaved away and belched its ghastly odour. Did we put in naughty extraneous 'extras'? Of course not! I think Mr. Marchant suspected foul play but never caught anyone in my day.

No, woodwork was not my forte, nor for that matter was anything technical, but I was in admiration of this teacher whose skill and expertise 'across the board', pardon the pun, was unquestionable. The photographs of furniture turned out by previous star pupils both inspired and depressed me.

Would I one day burst out of my accident proneness and gluepot dependency to become a master of carpentry and woodcraft?

In a word, no! Dreaming of my exhibits on display in an Open Day at the Tech being envied and praised never materialised.

But the encouragement of Mr. Marchant didn't fail, even though he told my mother that if I made an occasional coffee table, it would occasionally stand up and occasionally fall down. How right he was.

I remember, also, the Marchant way of piano playing at assemblies. Quite different from the Pratt style.

I'm grateful for this cheerful, patient teacher who suffered my failings and supported my technically inept attempts to produce something to be proud of.

I chipped, split and glued everything I handled. Happy days!

Michael Withey
1956-62

Farewell

Wilf Hartley (1933-1938) died Feb 22nd

Alan Hartley writes:-

'Having left school in 1938 he was an apprentice at Parnall Aircraft in Yate until July 1943 and continued with them as a draughtsman until 1946. He then had short spells with Rotol Ltd. and Pressboard until he joined Sharples Centrifuges in 1950. They had offices in Tower House in Woodchester. In 1956 they relocated to Camberley in Surrey. Dad did not move with them but took up employment with Redler Conveyors where he remained for 30 years before taking retirement in 1986.'

Ronald James Cairns (1949-54) Arnold died Jan 15th peacefully at his home at Leonard Stanley.

Terry Eldridge (1951-56) died March 16th peacefully aged 71 at Horsfall House, Minchinhampton after a short illness leaving his wife, a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Jack R. Harmer died March 20th peacefully aged 90 at his home in King's Stanley leaving his wife, Rosa and was a father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Gerald Frank Gardiner (1941-45) Scott died April 5th peacefully aged 81 at his Lansdown, Stroud home. Beloved husband and Father, Grandfather and Uncle.

Aubrey Reginald Richings (1944 – 49) died April 8th aged 78 leaving a widow, two daughters and a son. He started work as a telephone engineer for the Post Office and after marrying Gwen in 1956 he helped form Flow Metering at Lodgemoor Mills, Stroud which was eventually sold to Danish company, Danfoss.

Brian Leadbeater (1942 – 47) died May 23rd aged 80 at Cheltenham General Hospital. He worked in agriculture all his life and was well known in the farming community.

John James Smith (1945 – 51) died July 7th aged 77 suddenly at his home at Willand, Cullompton, Devon. He leaves his wife Angela.

Brian Beavis (1926 – 29) died August 1st aged 96 peacefully. Late of Bussage, near Stroud and proprietor of Beavis Coach Holidays.

Brian George Payne (1951 – 56) died suddenly July 31st aged 72 at his home at Whitminster.

Chris Blick writes:-

'I am arranging an event to take place in the County on 29th November 2012 and would be grateful to put something in the newsletter since I am certain that there will be ex SBTS pupils who served in the Armed Forces/Government EX Pats etc. in Aden (South Yemen). It is 45 years this November that British Troops and Civilians were brought out of Aden, during the time of the Harold Wilson Labour Government, and whilst many folk will think that, a 50-year event would be much more appropriate many of us may be pushing up the daisies by then!'

Chris can be contacted at 01453 751 683 or by email at chris.blick@talktalk.net

And finally:-

Form 1 Natural History Test

Q1: What do bats do in winter?

They split if you don't oil them.

That's all for now, chaps.

Get in touch! Keep in touch!

Chas Webb, Hon. Newsletter Editor.