



Newsletter

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Welcome to the May 2013 edition of the Newsletter. The organ for all ex-Craft, Central, Technical and post-amalgamation Old Boys.

EDITORIAL

Many years ago in our perambulations around Stroud we recall seeing a house named mysteriously, '*Tempus Fugit*'. Subsequent enquiries revealed the meaning to be, '*Time Flies*'. One cannot imagine that the house was ever occupied by a Roman yearning to return to the sunny climes of the Mediterranean, especially if he had experienced a winter such as we have just had here in England. However, whatever the weather, *Tempus* has certainly been *Fugiting* at a furious pace and shows no signs of slacking. It seems only a moment ago that the finishing touches were being put to the January Newsletter, yet here we are again with another space to fill in the long annals of the history and adventures of the Stroud Boys' Technical School, its erstwhile alumni, their doings, comings and goings, successes and disasters (of which the last of these, we hope, are few and far between).

The burning topic of the day in Stroud is whether to go ahead with an industrial waste incinerator at Javelin Park in Moreton Valence. Much heat has already been generated in the local press and shows no signs of being dampened down, still less extinguished altogether. Meanwhile we have been unable to check the veracity of a report which states that alternative arrangements have been proposed at a site 'just over the bridge' at Llandfillgogogoch.

In other news, Stroud's roads continue to fall apart at a depressing rate. In Cainscross Road a pothole so large appeared it was reported to the police who promised to look into it. Second-hand Land Rover values are at a premium and Kwik-Fit shares have hit an all-time high.

The old 'H&L' site has been cleared ready for

construction of a new retirement home. During excavations the remains of several bikes were discovered, apparently buried after the fire of 1960. A 'Time Team' crewbus was seen parked outside and Phil Harding was heard to say to Tony Robinson, "There ent nuthin yer, Tony. You've led I on a wild goose chase." Tony muttered something about a 'cunning plan' and was last seen heading in the direction of the 'Coach and Horses'.

Michael Withey

It is with much regret that we must say goodbye to our chaplain, The Revd. Michael Withey. A man of deep theological learning and experience, we have valued his formidable intellect, advice and counsel which has been delivered with unfailing courtesy, wit and good humour.

We wish him well in his new post and hope that he will come back and see us from time to time.



Michael Withey at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud

Annual Dinner 2013

The 66th Annual Dinner will be held at The Pavilion, Whitminster Inn on 6th September 2013. 7:00pm for 7:30pm – 12 midnight.

In a radical departure from our normal practice it was decided, after much consideration and consultation, to move the Dinner forward to early September in order to take advantage of the lighter nights and, hopefully, more clement weather.

We hope that members will appreciate this move and that it will encourage more to attend. The 'Pavilion' at the Whitminster Inn has proved very popular since increasing attendances prompted a move from our traditional 'home'.

We have worked very hard to keep the ticket price down, despite rising costs across the board, but have had to accept a modest increase to £20:50 for three courses, excluding, by general consent, the cheese board. This still represents exceptional value and we are once again indebted to Mr. Bernard Trott for negotiating such a good deal for the Association.

'Corkage', as in previous years, will be charged at £3:00 per bottle.

The raffle will be sponsored by an Old Boy from Keystone Joinery to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

As usual, menu tickets are available from David Boulton, Hon. Sec. Please make cheques payable to S.T.S.O.B.A.

We do hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. It is your opportunity to meet up with old friends so the more widely we are able to 'spread the word' the better!

Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday October 7th at 7:30pm in Marling Staff Room. All members are welcome to attend.

R. C. Perry Drawing

Much interest was generated by the inclusion of the pen and ink drawing of the School by R.C.

Perry in the last Newsletter. A suggestion was made to produce a limited edition print run and we are pleased to say that we are able to offer these to members.

The print will be a limited edition of 300 and will be printed on high quality art paper, A4 in size and ready for framing. Each print will be accompanied with an authentication certificate. The cost is £8:95 each inc. p&p. Orders should be sent to David Boulton, Hon Sec and cheques made payable to S.T.S.O.B.A. Prints will be individually produced on a 'first come, first served' basis so get your order in early! All profits will be retained for the benefit of the Association.

***'The Man From the East'* Steve Merchant writes:-**

The Inferior Biker.

'As a man of limited income and little wealth I have always relied on a motorbike as my transport in Thailand. My local town, Chiang Mai, just 15kms down the main road and then a couple more getting into the city and even in today's chaotic congestion is usually only a 30 minute journey. That journey, however, is fraught with danger due to the casual indifference that Thai car drivers exhibit to us inferior beings. Maybe it's because of their knowledge that, despite spending 15 times as much as me on transport, I will get to the city first. That's very depressing for a person who has been brought up to believe that wealth always gets preference and that status is the most important thing in life. Like car drivers everywhere the Thais lose any notion of civility and good manners when they get behind a steering wheel and they drive with an arrogance and indifference to people that has to be seen to be believed. As a biker I can only assume, after another attempt on my life, that car drivers assume we can either fly, stop instantly or get Star Trek-like beamed up by Scotty.

The process starts with bikes being expected to drive on the hard shoulder, the extreme left of the road which is potholed and broken and generally used by anyone who finds it easier to come the wrong way down the highway. When using this bike lane, it is common for trucks, buses and anyone else using the left car lane to whoosh past you at 100kph just one foot away from your elbow. Suffice to say this is not a safe place to be. If you move out and drive in the left lane, car drivers will come within inches of your rear wheel and

incessantly honk their horn at you because they are trying to 'undertake' a car that feels it's perfectly o.k. to drive in the right hand lane at 80kph. At times when the road is busy, car drivers come up alongside a motorbike doing 80kph, get their face a few inches in front of yours and then slowly start to pull over. Just where do they think you are going? Off across the rice fields if you are lucky or down in the concrete storm drain if you aren't. Serious harm is done and the biker is recorded as yet another accident statistic while the car drives off and is never suspected of an offence. That's how bikes are shown to cause 70% of all accidents. They are left with the pain and the wreckage, the cars drive off to freedom.

I reserve the worst of my anger for the car drivers who do U-turns in front of me when I'm doing the legal limit of 80 down the main road. If cars are coming they will sit and wait. Don't want to write-off your pride and joy being hit by a Ford Explorer doing 120kph. But if there is no car coming and it's just a bike, well it's a great time to do a painfully slow manoeuvre across two lanes with a bike 30m away. There is no doubt the drivers have seen me, they often flash their lights at me as they attempt my murder, but they can't wait. And once one has pulled out the one behind thinks, well, I may as well go too because the bike has got to stop now. Some of my most desperate moments have come in this way and I suspect a heart attack is imminent.

Going slow doesn't seem to be the answer. The slower you are going the greater the chances of someone taking advantage and pulling out in front of you. Driving well out in the middle of the lane with a headlight on helps but it doesn't deter the most arrogant of big car drivers. I suppose they have paid 3million for the car and it gives them the right to the road. That's how it looks anyway. Even if there was an accident the police would find a way to blame the biker. Heh, this is Thailand where the rich buy results that please them.'



Techbrain of Britain!

Our resident quizmaster, Bamboo Gasmain, has been busy thinking up some more questions to tax your brains! A Dinner Ticket is on offer to the first all correct entry out of the hat on 1st August. Email your answers to chazza999@hotmail.com or on a postcard to:- The Editor, 25 Stanton Road, Stroud, GL5 4LX.

1. Ensign, Pennant and Vanguard were all models of which make of car?
2. Who plays first-class county cricket at Chester-le-Street?
3. Who succeeded Clement Attlee as leader of the Labour Party?
4. What was the last main-line steam passenger express locomotive built by British Railways?
5. In the Regular (British) Army what rank is immediately superior to Brigadier?
6. What do Holland & Holland and James Purdey principally manufacture?
7. What is the formula for finding the volume of a sphere?
8. In 1969, who replaced Brian Jones in the Rolling Stones?
9. Which Football League club's nickname is 'The Owls'?
10. In engineering, what do the initials BSW stand for?

50 Years ago:- From the 1963 School Magazine

'Two mighty emigrants will be much missed. M. (Badger) Wear has gone to Australia, taking with him two bags; a small one contained clothes and a very large one was stuffed with Official Programmes of football matches. These, he hopes, will fascinate the Australians into paying huge sums for them at a substantial profit to the shrewd collector. We shall miss him greatly and wish him well.

It was his endearing custom to select a crowd of supporters of one side, insert his twenty-three stone among them, before firing a barrage of encouragement to the other side. If what we read of Australian crowds is true, new tactics for yielding harmless fun may be called for. His gift of coining proper names should please all.

The second mighty emigrant is Glyn Rowling. Conceding about seven stones to Michael (Badger) Wear, he is nevertheless no flyweight, and in fact has represented Glos. R.F.A. in the scrum.'

(Editor's note – We understand the Revd. Michael Wear now resides in Filey, Yorkshire. It would be good to hear from him.)



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Downfield, Cainscross and Cashes Green – 1928

A fascinating view of the School in 1928. Note that only the red brick buildings so far have been built although there appears to be a building adjacent to the railway line. (Dining hall?) There is a playing field of sorts but much of the land is still occupied by orchards. The Girls' Tech. (opened 1925) appears in the bottom right hand corner. Beards Lane is only partly developed. The white excavations bordering the bottom of the picture are presumed to be gravel pits. (Filled in completely 1963) Not much traffic in Cainscross Road!

Further up the picture 'The Lawns' (demolished 1964) occupies the ground where now stands Cainscross Roundabout. Note the allotments adjacent to Cashes Green Road! Cashes Green Halt (closed 1964) has yet to be built (1930) but Hyett Road, Kingley Road and Mosley Road are under construction while Mosley Crescent is being laid out. The beautiful 'arts and crafts' / 'art deco' 'Vicarage' will not be built until 1929 (How on earth permission was granted to demolish it heaven only knows!)

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And finally:-

Geography (we think) with Mr Harris:-

Keen but irritating third former, "Sir! Sir! Where's *Togo* Sir?"
Mr Harris (without looking up) "Top shelf, left hand cupboard."

That's all folks.

Get in touch – Keep in touch.

Chas Webb – Hon Newsletter Editor.