



King Henry VIII Grammar School, Abergavenny

A. D. Bulman

The Gobannian

ORGAN OF THE K.H.S. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL.

At the O.B.A, Golf Society Supper in mid-September, our much-respected President conveyed to me his sorrow that The Gobannian would not appear this year, since all his efforts to find a new editor had come to naught. Having been editor for 4 years (1975-78) I felt a certain moral obligation to assist him, so this twinge of conscience, combined with a blissful state of nonchalance induced by a few beers, made me promise to bring out a 'Newsletter' for Old Boys. The result is this year's Gobannian, an issue produced at very short notice and thus containing very few articles by Old Boys.

I should like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Russell Edwards, Headmaster of King Henry VIII School, whose continuing enthusiasm and unstinting support have made this issue possible.

I hope that Old Boys and friends of our School will find the contents of this Gobannian to be of interest. I am sure that the 1984 edition, to be produced by Mr. Trevor Evans, will more than make up for this year's shortcomings.

Last but certainly not least, I should like to convey to our President the congratulations of Old Boys everywhere for the ultimate tribute paid to him when, in April, he was conferred with the title 'Honorary Burgess of Abergavenny' in recognition of his many years of service to his town. He brings honour to the O.B.A. and epitomises the School motto - UT PROSIM.

Alan Breeze. November 1983

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON.

1983 Election Year when normally pleasant persons of all parties become quite intolerable to each other and appear to vie for the title of "champion mud slinger". Fortunately the display of "man's inhumanity to man" lasts but a short time, and one settles down again to normal life, taking the medicine as before.

We recently listened with interest to Radio Broadcaster John Williams expounding on the mysteries of the Prehistoric Standing Stones to be found in various parts of the country. He continues to publish each week articles of local history which are of great interest. We are indebted to him for his painstaking research.

The School has again produced a most impressive schedule of academic achievements which reflects great credit on pupils and staff. A comprehensive account is published elsewhere.

My thanks to the hardworking President and Committee who again provided a full programme of sporting and social events which were much enjoyed by the many supporters.

As always, the work is done by the "faithful few", and history proves it was ever thus. We remember "the few" who saved England in the early days of the last war. Thanks always to the few, who never grow in numbers, but remain steadfast, generation after generation, ageless and nameless.

Deo gratias.

G.A.Hill.

Patron O.B.A.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

(J. T. Jonathan Esq., Honorary Burgess of Abergavenny.

It was with some trepidation and no little pride that I accepted the Committee's invitation to be President of the O.B.A. for the second time. It is many years since we have had a "second term" President and I am overcome with a feeling of awe that I am following in the footsteps of such giants as Max Beveridge, J. Alick Morgan, Alf Jackson, and of course H. W. Newcombe.

There have been many changes in the twenty or so years since I last took office; we have had our 'ups and downs', but the Association continues in its main function of fostering comradeship between Old Boys and maintaining a lively link with the School. Our sporting programme continues and I would like to thank the secretaries of the various events for the hard work involved. We try to arrange some social occasions also; this year unfortunately a proposed trip to Tretower had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. The Committee intends to support the School production of A Trip to Scarborough in December and I hope that many Old Boys will join us on this occasion.

In conclusion, may I thank our hard-working Committee and our Officers: our Patron, G. A. Hill, our Treasurer, Bill Jackson, and our hard-working Secretary, Councillor Peter Coleman. Unfortunately, Peter has intimated that he will be retiring at the end of the current year, so we will be looking for a new Secretary: any offers?

My best wishes to the School and its Headmaster and, of course, to all Old Boys.

Jack Jonathan.

BAILEY PARK, ABERGAVENNY.

As we approach the centenary of Abergavenny's major Park (December 31st.) I am reprinting an article that I wrote some 8 years ago, attempting once more to set the records straight.

The stock answer to the question "Why Bailey Park?" is "because Crawshay Bailey owned the ground and gave it to the people of Abergavenny for their enjoyment". However, this is not altogether true, as I found out some eight years ago while doing research on this topic for the local Rugby Club.

Mr. W. H. Baker, the County Archivist, looked up some of the old records of the Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners and found the following information:

Bailey Park, formerly called Priory Meadow, was leased to Crawshay Bailey for 21 years at £100 p.a. by the Rev. W. W. Roberts (acting as representative for Captain John Roberts of Petersham, Surrey) on December 31st. 1883. Crawshay Bailey developed the land as a park, erecting gates and railings, paying a Park Keeper, setting up a management committee and finally opening the park to the public. After his death in 1887, his legal representatives allowed the land to be used for public recreation under the control of the above committee.

In 1894 the Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners negotiated to purchase the freehold of the land. They obtained a loan of £2500 from the local Government Board towards the total price of £5000, and received the remainder from donations - Mrs. Crawshay Bailey giving £500, her two daughters £500 each and the Trustees of Crawshay Bailey giving £1000 in lieu of the unexpired term of the lease. The Park was conveyed by the said Rev. Roberts (as agent for Captain Roberts) on 30th. December 1894. Following this purchase, the Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners executed a Deed Poll on 31st. December 1894, providing for the retention of the name "Bailey Park".

Bailey Park came to be administered by the Abergavenny Borough Council as successors to the Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners, and latterly (April 1973) the title was taken over by Monmouth District Council.

So Crawshay Bailey never owned Bailey Park, although he and his family certainly developed it and were most generous benefactors.

Alan Breeze.

WHY YOU SHOULD BE AN OLD BOY:

By John Williams

According to the Gobannian No. 1 January 1929 the Old Boys Association was formed in 1923 when the Rugby Club Committee called together the first General Meeting of the Association on November 7th 1923. At that time there were probably less than 150 boys attending the old K.H.G.S. and today when there are about 1,600 pupils at K.H.S. there is less interest among the younger generation in the Old Boys Association than ever before. The decline in interest may be due to two main factors, namely the provision of canned entertainment by means of television, films and radio and secondly the fact that nearly all the boys now leaving school seem to leave the area due to the mistaken belief that Abergavenny has no opportunities to offer young men. In these circumstances we ought to ask ourselves if the continuance of the Old Boys Association is going to perform any useful purpose in years to come.

The study of history enables us to learn lessons of the past which might be applied to situations of the future, and the saying that "history always repeats itself" is truer than most people realise. In this sense an awareness of the triumphs and problems of old pupils can be an encouragement and guide to the present day boys, especially when they realise that in spite of great social and material changes of recent years the basic problems remain the same. Today it is fashionable to throw out all traditions and values of the past without replacing them with anything better. The Old Boys have a history and tradition going back to 1540 to the time: when King Henry VIII founded the original school and endowed it with funds arising from the dissolution of the monasteries. If we were Americans we would be delighted to belong to what they would have made an important National Institution. We should not, therefore, throw out something which other people would be glad to have as a national heritage.

Apart from carrying on the good of over 400 years of an educational establishment there are other useful things an Old Boy can do as a member of the Old Boys Association. He can take an interest in the present educational system and endeavour to see that the pupils of the present school in the future will have a better kind of education, or at least as good as he received by means of the advisory channels which are available. He can also make his advice and assistance available for those boys who seek help about their future- careers after leaving school.

In addition to the above there are the benefits of the social meetings at sports events, dances and dinners when an Old Boy is able to meet others whom he may not have seen for many years. He then appreciates the benefits of the good foundations for building a life which he was given at school and the pleasure of talking to old friends who have shared in those important early beginnings.

In this situation he is more ready and able to give help to another Old Boy in work or business and more incline [text missing]

There is an indefinable bond between Old Boys which can be used for good purposes. With the Old Boys Association as a focal point they can perhaps take a more active part in local affairs, such as local government when the fact that they were educated at the same school might overcome the antagonism which may be due to belonging to differing political parties. Today we need more co-operation and communication between all persons to avert the financial and economic crisis which is affecting all part the world at the moment.

The younger boys should understand that some time in the future they may be in a foreign land amongst strangers when any contact with their home or their school can be a comfort and a talk with an Old Boy would brighten up their situation. These are boys that should come forward to join and take part in the activities of the Old Boys Association so that one day they can take over from their seniors to continue and expand an organisation that can be an asset to the whole community of Abergavenny and District. They are the ones that can influence the whole future of the present school and make certain that no undesirable or bad trends can be allowed to take hold.

The social gatherings of the Old Boys Association is not only a place to meet pupils but also to meet old masters whom can be thanked by the individual boys for work they did in school to help towards the start of a career, while the masters, in their turn will be pleased to note the progress of their pupils after they have left school and feel that the successes of their pupils is some reward for their effort the classroom.

The meetings of the Old Boys need not only be a link with the past they can be a connection for the future for the younger boys who can seek advice on their future professions from the older ones in those professions. These older ones would remember the school motto "Ut Prosim" and be glad to help by giving the younger ones the benefit of their experience to guide them along the right lines in their future lives. In this respect it might be useful to compile a register of the Old Boys under their various professions so that the younger ones can get in touch with them for advice.

John G. Williams

THE COAT OF ARMS OF ABERGAVENNY by HOWARD VAUGHAN.

The Abergavenny Coat of Arms is based on possibly one of the oldest Arms in use today - the Nevill Arms, first granted to Baron Bergavenny in the Peerage of England, 5th. September 1450. On 17th. May 1784 the Arms were granted to the Earl of Abergavenny in the Peerage of Great Britain, and on 14h. January 1876 to the Most Honourable Henry Gilbert Ralph Nevill, Marquess of Abergavenny in the Peerage of the United Kingdom.

APMS: Gules, on a Saltire Argent. A Rose barbed & seeded proper in chief, a Portcullis in base and two Fleurs-de-Lys in the flanks, all Or.

(Red. A Silver Saltire between a Rose with seed pods (petals & stamens). A Portcullis in the base and two Fleurs-de-Lys in the flanks; all Gold).

CREST: on an Argent and Gules wreath, an uprooted Tree Trunk proper and standing thereon a sable & argent Bull with sable Hooves and an Or Collar & Chain charged on the body with two Fleur-de-Lys Or.

(on a silver and red wreath, an uprooted tree trunk and standing thereon a black & white bull with black hooves and a gold collar and chain charged on the body with two gold Fleur-de-Lys).

MOTTO: HOSTES NUNC AMICI. Argent. Letters Sable.

(FOES NOW FRIENDS. Silver base with black letters).

Howard Vaughan

OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER 1982

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday, 12th. November 1982 at Abergavenny Rugby Club. The guest speaker was an Old Boy with an increasingly distinguished reputation in London medical circles - Dr. R. (Bob) Phillips. Other guests were the Mayor of Abergavenny (Councillor V. Barrett) and the Headmaster of King Henry VIII School (Russell Edwards, M.A.). An enjoyable evening was had by all, many reminiscences exchanged and many old friendships renewed. What a pleasure it was to meet again Mr. L. F. Porter, our Maths & P.E. teacher for so many years at K.H.G.S. Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. D. Nigel Jones for organising this function and to all who assisted him.

The following Old Boys and guests were present:

J. Metcalfe	R. Vaughan	D. Bevan
E. J. Parry	J. T. Jonathan	D. Smith
A. Walker	T. Evans	K. Broadbank
W. Farley	Mike Evans	M. Mapp
W. Griffiths	D. Williams	D. Pritchard
P. Coleman	T. L. Morgan	M. Williams
R. Smith	R. Downes	D. Havard
I. Philpott	A. Downes	M. Aylett
G. Jones	I. Lewis	H. Rothwell
J. Hirons	F. G. Lewis	E. Smith
A. Breeze	D. Parsons	Nigel Jones
G. S. Jones	J. Bannon	A. Hardcastle
J. G. Williams	S. Wilkinson	Tom Jones
J. L. Watkins	J. Hurst	W. Phillips
Tom Michael	J. F. Neil	T. Powis
G. J. Mawer	Bob Lewis	H. C. Jones
S. James	Dick Powell	H. Ashton
D. Prosser	Geoff Adams	B. Hickey
V. Blackmore	Gordon Main	G. A. Hill (Patron)
W. Dorrell	L. F. Porter	K. Hewitt
N. Morgan (President)	Peter Williams	Bernard Hill
W. H. Jackson	D. Howells	D. Scott
G. N. Rees	R. Searle	
H. Vaughan	C. Searle	

Old Boys travelled from distant parts - Guildford, Bristol, Barry, London, Bromsgrove, Cardiff, Penrith, etc. It is most gratifying to see our O.B.A. links maintained by so many from near and far.

-o-

R . I . P .

DOUG JONES (our oldest Old Boy)

NIGEL NEWMAN (aged 39).
