The Moseleian Gazette

The Voice of The Moseleians Association

Spring 2015
Number Thirty Nine

END OF THE LONG HAUL

Building work comes to an end with the opening of Moseley's new £2m sports halls

EMOTIONAL TIES FOR PALS RELATIVES

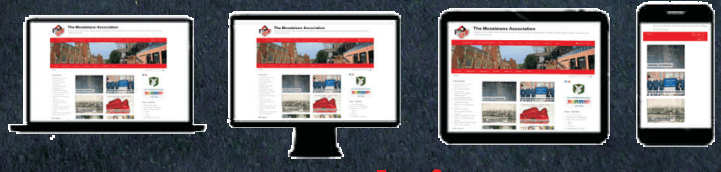
REDISCOVERING MY FATHERS PAST

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

LESSER IS MORE

TARGET 500



www.moseleians.com

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS
Richard Cobb

Dear Moseleian,

Welcome to this spring edition of the Moseleians Association's Gazette, which just about marks 20 years of our existence. That celebration is tinged with sadness as we record the recent deaths of two of our founding members Derek Mayman at 93 and John Singles at 81.

But Once a Member - Always a Member.

Recently we have been honouring the oldest classmate on our roll, Harry Simpson, on becoming a centenarian! And coming up at the start of what we hope will be a long tenure are recent school-leavers.

In between we have thousands of ex-students across eight decades from all the constituent parts leading to Moseley School in the 21st century - College Road Senior School, Moseley Modern School and Moseley Grammar School let alone the last 40 years of Moseley School itself. The trick, or perhaps the challenge, is to make all feel that the Association has so much potential to offer everyone.

We have had many very successful reunions including: for Moseley Modern ex-students in 2005 and 2009; a College Road Senior School reunion in 2008; and reunions for students from Moseley School from the 1970s and 1980s. There are probably a number of more informal reunions going on which we know little about.

We are working at engaging with the current generation of leavers through the start of our Young Moseleian project and while our oldest members are sadly but slowly leaving us, your Committee remain concerned about reducing numbers from those in the intervening age groups.

As a Committee we all work voluntarily to write for, compose and produce the Gazette twice yearly, to keep the Archive up to date and conserve it for the future, and to work with the school to support current projects. We also manage both the Heritage Open Day at School in September and the Remembrance Event every November.

But your Association does need your active support either through supporting or organising events or joining the Committee. If you wonder why the Gazette is a little late or there is no reunion for your year or decade group, it is probably because we are short-handed or otherwise engaged with our day jobs.

The Association is only as good as the members who help to make it work but we cannot do it all alone. That is not a new message but one that bears repeating. You will see our current Situations Vacant advert. Time for you to help?

Well, how about making a date to join up with former school friends for the opening of Moseley's new sports hall, the last piece in the intricate £20m-plus jig-saw that has brought state-of-the-art education facilities to the campus in the last three years? We don't have a date yet - you'll get to know - but it's likely to be in the summer.

This event has the significance of reinstating the vastly improved and updated last remaining segment of the 1955 Moseley Modern School. The opportunity will be taken to unveil in this latest superb addition to school facilities, the portraits of the two headteachers of MMS during its 20 years' independence, Mrs North (nee Cohen) and Mr Wilford. There will be other tributes to what was a great school.

In the autumn we will have the annual Heritage Open Day, when the old Spring Hill College building comes into its own to amaze members of the public visiting for the first time and raising memories for many generations of school attenders right through to the present day.

So all you need do is stay in touch, revive or renew membership which fell due on 1st April, consider if you can play a more active part. We'll keep members up to date with the twice-yearly Gazette and you may take an initiative by phoning me Richard Cobb (tel: 0121 743 4957) or membership secretary Vic Corner (tel: 01527 63403) or visit the highly rated www.moseleians.com

Moseleians Association supporters are probably better than most at paying their minimum £5 a year subscription (and even adding a voluntary additional contribution). Let me know where else you can get so much for so little?

It's your next move! And thanks.
With all good wishes

Richard

MOSELEIANS ASSOCIATION

SITUATIONS VACANT

We have vacancies for the following:

- Ex-Student from Moseley Modern School
- Ex-Student from 1980s
- Ex-Student from 1990s
- Ex-Student from 2000s
- Any ex-staff member
- Young Moseleian

No special qualifications or abilities required other than:

- Willingness to help
- Desire to maintain contacts with others from the school or decade
- Helping to recruit new members
- Willing to offer two hours every two or three months to attend our organising Committee
- Helping out at occasional events

No wage or salary
Good rewards for all volunteers

Apply to Richard Cobb
0121 743 4957
richard.cobb@moseleians.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Vic Corner



Winter is not really the time to attract new members to the Association. Our last event was Heritage Open Day in September 2014 and, as you will have seen in the Autumn Gazette, we signed up a good number at our prominently placed recruitment stand in the old MGS building. Since then, we have managed to attract three new members. These are :-

Maurice Wheate MGS 1956 - 60
Josephine Watts MS 1979 - 83
Lee Holland MS 1987 - 94

Interestingly, Lee Holland works for Mondelez International (New owners of Cadbury's) and he came back to Moseley in 2014 as their "School Links Person" and helped with mock interviews for a group of sixth formers about to go on work experience. As a sixth form student himself, he and friend Simon Blakey made a video of the school reunion in 1993. This reunion is now remembered as a significant event since it led to the establishment of an 'Action Group' set up to save the old building and, subsequently, to raise the money for its renovation and refurbishment. Having achieved brilliant success, the action group then evolved into our Moseleians Association. The whereabouts of this video seems to be unknown and I personally have never seen it. If anyone knows where it is, we would REALLY like a copy for the archives!

I would like to bid a hearty welcome to all three of our new members. I look forward to meeting you at future school events and trust you will enjoy reading and indeed writing articles for the Moseleian Gazette.

On a more sombre note I have to report that two of our founders have passed away. Derek Mayman, having been the last chairman of the original "Old Moseleians," became chairman of the '93 action group and went on to become the first chairman of the new Moseleians Association.

John Singles was also a member of that action group and subsequently became the first Membership Secretary of the MA. As I am now the holder of that post, I have great respect for the work John did in recruiting and recording members, given that he did it all with old fashioned pen and paper without a computer in sight!



FROM THE COUNTING HOUSE
Stephen George

We currently have around £7,000 in funds so if any member has any ideas of how some of this can be spent to further the ideals of the Association or school please let us know so that it can be considered by the committee.

Recent spend includes £700+ on both the Archive & the school (awards etc.). Our main expenditure is on the gazette at just over £1,000 although it is worth every penny as this is all that many of our members actually see, particularly those that live across all corners of the Earth.

I would like to thank those people who give us donations, in particular recent donations of £50 from John Brazier & Mike Gregory. Also all those who pay extra each year in addition to their subs, it all helps!

Can I make a plea to those who pay their subs by Paypal? Obviously thanks for the money but you may not be aware that we get charged a fee for each transaction. If you could take the time to complete a standing order form, which is available to download from the membership renewal page on our website, that will guarantee that the Association gets all the money.

REMEMBER to RE-MEMBER

It's Membership Renewals Time!

1. Renew online: www.moseleians.com
2. By post to: Vic Corner, 40 Snowshill Close, Churchill North, Redditch B98 8RG, or
3. Standing order forms can be downloaded from the Join the Association and Membership Renewal pages of our website

HEAD MOVES TO NEW CARROTT PATCH

Craig Jansen, Headteacher writes:

As some of you may have already heard I will be leaving Moseley School at the end of this academic year. Our school is in a much stronger position then when I first took up my role as Headteacher.

When I arrived at Moseley I was excited about the challenge of leading school improvement. I was also daunted by the 'shadow' or legacy of many of the past Headteachers. Upon entering the large red doors I was literally face to face with the great and good. Hung around the entrance were the esteemed Headteacher portraits; Robinson, Cohen, Gaskin, Wilford, Goodfellow, Swinfen, Miles and Peck. It is at that point I truly understood not only did I have a responsibility to our current students and staff but I also had a responsibility to support the unique and important history of the school.



Being a Headteacher at Moseley has been exceptionally hard work, especially alongside my responsibilities as a husband and dad. I have therefore not had the time I would have liked to have become more connected with and involved in the Moseleians. I hope however, through my team, the Moseleians feel they have been afforded the support, help and respect they deserve.

I have recently been in contact with a student from the past who is now quite famous. At school he was known as Robert Davis. He goes by a different name now. Any guesses…? To mark his 70th Birthday I have agreed to a plaque being placed on the outside of the old Grammar School building. Robert will unveil this at a ceremony, probably at the start of June. The press and Lord Major will be invited to attend. This will also be a wonderful opportunity for Moseleians to attend and perhaps convince Robert to become a new member? I would also like Moseleians to show Robert and his guests around our school.

Currently our students are entering via Wake Green Road, sharing the entrance with vehicles. There is a safeguarding concern for the school. Consequently the school will be installing a new recessed gate and a separate pedestrian entrance with a new pedestrian path along the edge of the Heads garden. I am very aware that many of the trees have been planted by the Moseleians, often in memory of loved ones. It is important that the school is respectful of this. Our school will pay for the trees to be relocated. We will also ensure that we will cover the full cost of replacing the many trees that were lost during the BSF build. It is my aim to ensure that this is completed in full before my departure as Headteacher.

I also look forward to the official opening of the new sports facilities in the Summer Term.

I will miss our school and all members of the school community. I hope others feel that I have made a difference, in a good way, to the fortunes of Moseley School.



THE 2014 DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

Mr Mitchell, Head of Worcester House Writes:

Last Autumn, thirty-two Year 10 pupils set off into the wilds of Worcestershire. This is their story....

For many this was the first time they had stayed away from home overnight without family and the first time they had slept in a tent. The glorious weather of our Indian Summer for the two days of the expedition made it a pleasant environment for both work and play.

Students were working towards The Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is an internationally recognised award which promotes students' teamwork and leadership skills and develops self-belief and self-confidence.

A condition of the expedition is that all have to be self-sufficient for the duration of the expedition. This means that pupils must carry their food, clothes, tents, cooking equipment, first aid and sleeping bags. This substantial burden meant that, for some, picking the bag off the floor was difficult; let alone carrying it on their back for the best part of a day spent navigating the Worcestershire countryside. We had the privilege of experiencing scenic countryside views and spending time amongst a wide and eclectic range of livestock.

Students were an absolute credit to Moseley School, conducting themselves in a sensible and mature manner. They walked fantastically on the Thursday and covered many miles demonstrating good support for each other. They demonstrated campcraft skills and thoroughly enjoyed the camp fire and associated stories before retiring to their tents.

We are extremely fortunate to have an expert support team of experienced Expedition Leaders amongst the Moseley staff who helped motivate, support and supervise the students on this expedition. All have said that this was the best cohort to have embarked upon The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Moseley since its implementation in 2011.

But, don't just take my word for it. This is what the students themselves had to say:

Najma Abdi (K5): *"I chose to do Duke of Edinburgh as it will stand out on my CV."*
Masudah Akhtar (H6): *"It's a fun way of meeting new people and interacting with pupils and staff and it encourages my competitive spirit."*
Arooj Iqbal (M6): *"Through Duke of Edinburgh you learn more about yourself and what you are capable of doing."*
Ismaeel Hassan (H3): *"Being on expedition was a great chance to bond with other people."*
Arooj Iqbal (M6): *"I knew it was going to be tiring, but I kept thinking of the positive outcome."*

REMEMBERING ERIC WESTLEY



The family of Eric Westley, a well-loved maths and remedial teacher who died in 2011, have been in touch with us offering a special prize to two students each year in his memory. We are talking to the School about how best to make use of this kind offer in time for the prize giving at the end of the summer term.
Eric was very keen debater and particularly engaged at School in helping students to reach their potential.

IN OTHER NEWS

GOT ANY OLD SCHOOL MATHS TEXT BOOKS?

Over the last few years we have been trying to include in the Archive some of the text books used at Moseley under various subject headings. This year we are trying to pull together a set of Maths text books.

We have only one of a set of books written by Charles Hill and Alex Welford, both Maths masters at the old Grammar School. From 1937 onwards through the University Tutorial Press they published a set of 4 text books on Arithmetic with or without answers. We only have a copy of Book II, without answers, and would dearly like to complete the full set and have the answers too!

We believe that they also published a set of text books on Geometry or Graphs. So if you escaped school with a text book or two in your satchel whether on maths or any other subject - and they have lain there in the attic for years untouched, we would like to have them for the Archive.

MAURICE PARAMORE REMEMBERED AGAIN

This will be the second year of the MA Citizen Awards which recognises the outstanding contributions of particular students to citizenship. They will be awarded on a School House basis and the awards will be presented at a House Assembly towards the end of the summer term.

Each House will be asked to nominate one student who has demonstrated a significant contribution to citizenship whether related to the Moseley School community and/or to the outside community in which they live.

There will be a monetary award plus a personal trophy and certificate for each House winner funded by the Association.

The special Maurice Paramore Award will merit the most outstanding of all the winning candidates. The winner will receive an enhanced token prize plus a personal trophy and certificate and their names will be inscribed on a silver salver.

SUPPORTING LIFE SKILLS FOR TODAY'S YOUNG STUDENTS

Last spring we asked if Association members would kindly support Year 7 students coming from deprived homes on a weekend residential school trip to a special centre in Staffordshire. The cost is just £80 per student and in 2014 you kindly donated enough to send eight 12 year old students from School to what turned out to an extraordinarily rewarding experience.

We reported back last autumn that all the children had developed new personal skills, experienced independence away from home and learnt to take responsibility - all essential life skills.

Well that time of year comes around again and in acknowledging the tremendous contribution made by Association members last year, the School has asked again if any member can make a contribution to this year's unique and valuable experience for their youngest students.

If you would like to sponsor a student, please contact richard.cobb@moseleians.co.uk. Thank you.

WERE YOU IN THE COMBINED CADET FORCE?

The Combined Cadet Force was created in 1948 by the amalgamation of the Junior Training Corps (formerly the Junior Division of the Officers Training Corps) and the school contingents of the Sea Cadet Corps and Air Training Corps.

National Service was a requirement for most 18 year old boys after leaving school in the post war years until it was abolished in 1957. But the CCF operated at many state schools during the 1950s and 1960s including at Moseley Grammar School, as a training ground for those thinking of entering the armed services.

In our next issue we would like to feature some stories from those who were in the CCF at Moseley during that period. Send your stories to gazette@moseleians.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary

Memorial Garden Dedication
Saturday 11th July 2015
14:30 onwards

Heritage Open Day
Saturday 12th September 2015
13:00 to 16:30

Act of Remembrance
Saturday 7th November 2015
10:00 for 10:30 start

Gazette Copy Deadlines
Spring edition – March 1st
Autumn edition – September 1st
For distribution 4/5 weeks later



Association T-Shirt
NEW design crew neck T-shirt with school badge and logo

available in black or white
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or call Tony Wright: **01564 793743**



Visit Our Website
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NEW Design
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BUY ONLINE
www.moseleians.com
or call Tony Wright
01564 793743



Lapel Badge
Small high quality printed 'enamel' pin badge featuring the Moseley crest.
£2.50

ON ANOTHER NOTE

A Special Plea

Do you know of a musical instrument, in good condition, lying around, looking abandoned and never likely to be played again?

If so are you willing to donate it to the new School Orchestra?

Please contact Richard Cobb (details on inside front cover), and we will get instrument and a young budding musician together.



Find Us On YouTube

HORROR AT PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION



Aisha Saba as Audrey and Bilal Razwan as Seymour Krelborn

Last autumn the Association responded separately to requests from the School's Music and Performing Arts Departments.

Firstly we made a financial contribution to support the School production of Little Shop of Horrors. The Musical took to the stage on the 11th and 12th of December for a blood thirsty Christmas Special.

Laura Ayling, Head of Music, in thanking the Association, said, “The pupils involved in the musical all put in tremendous effort to attend rehearsals and dress rehearsals. Little Shop of Horrors was the first musical to be put on after a staggering seven years. “The pupils did our school and the department proud as they took to the stage on opening night. The crowd was select but all reports back were extremely positive and there was a real buzz around the site for weeks after the event. It was so successful that it was asked for the cast to perform to the whole of year 7 on the last week of term!”

Secondly, in response to a scheme to launch a School orchestra, we funded the initial purchase of new music stands and a conductor's rostrum along with some sheet music. Laura has written that, “The department is very grateful for the support of our up and coming school orchestra. We are looking to perform and showcase some of our talented musicians in our summer extravaganza”.





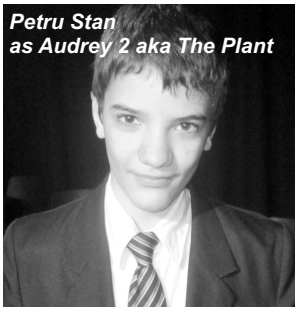
Shakeel Uddin as Mr Bernstein & Wino



Shaffique Kauser as Orin aka The Dentist



Jacob Williams as Mr Mushnik



Petru Stan as Audrey 2 aka The Plant



Hanna Uddin, Madan Jagne, Aamina Ali & Zainab Tahir as Crystal, Chiffon and Ronnette



Historic Register Recovered

Internet marketing consultant and ex Moseley student Shamus Mahmood's fast-moving high tech world has not prevented his spotting a precious link with an age when communication was a great deal more leisurely.

And the evidence, which he has presented to the Moseleians Association, not only fills a gap in its records of the school going back 90 years, but is now one of the most important and most mysteriously sourced additions to its archive.

Shamus persuaded an old friend and another former pupil of Moseley School to part with the original heavily-bound admissions Register, still in good condition, which records all pupils joining the school from the time it opened in 1923 until 1928.

Written in old fashioned pen and ink in a clear, stylish hand, the volume list names, addresses, age, home situation and learning performance of several hundred students admitted to the school in its early years and even records the occasional boy leaving due to misbehaviour or family circumstances.

We can visualise Lt Col EH Robinson, as headmaster, perusing the entries as he sought to build up the reputation of the school and asking staff to record yet another assessment of boys who were to become some of the best educated in the city.

Shamus, a pupil from 1983-89, is unable to throw any light on where the tome has lain, or when it first disappeared from the school and to where, although one theory is that during WW2 it may have been placed outside the building for safety and never been returned.

He says he was both excited and mystified when, on his usual week-end return to Birmingham from his work in London, he met a personal solicitor friend of long-standing and ex-Moseley pupil, who said he had something in the cellar of his home which might be of interest.

"I've been sworn not to give his name but he indicated he had had this for several years, having acquired it from another person, who in turn had received it from another," said Shamus. "It came completely out of the blue and eventually I persuaded him that if he would allow me to have the book I would see it found its way back to the right people."

Shamus immediately sent a late-night text to retired teacher Rod Ling, who he knew to be a fellow member of the Association, and arrangements were made to hand over the treasured discovery to chairman Richard Cobb.

In thanking Shamus, Richard said: "It is an amazing artefact which takes us back to the beginnings of the school in a way few other documents in our collection are able to do. It will be displayed in pride of place. We just wonder if anyone at the school in that period reading this is able to get in touch."

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
Dedication of The New Memorial Garden
2.30 pm Saturday 11th July 2015

As part of the overall landscaping plan for the school, after completion of the new building two years ago, an area roughly where the old quadrangle was at the entrance to Moseley Modern School, (or East as it became), there was to be a garden area earmarked for the Moseleians Association to create a memorial garden.

Because of the need better to handle the surface water runoff from the school campus, that area and land behind it, formerly occupied by a wing building of East, has had to be retained for drainage retention tanks and only low level planting. The Association are working with a renowned Landscape Architect to create a special environmental garden for the School on that area. More on those plans and designs will be in the next issue.

Meanwhile Craig Jansen has kindly agreed that the area (often called the Head's Garden) between Spring Hill College (Building A) and Wake Green Road can become the Moseley School Memorial Garden.

The Association has looked after that garden from time to time trying to keep it in a reasonable state. This formal designation will enable us to have a "home" for commemorative items and tributes donated by friends and families of pupils and staff who have sadly passed away.

As you will read elsewhere some trees were planted there last Remembrance Day. We are planning now to bring together a number of items to go in the new Garden. These include a plaque (taken from College Rd reception) for Jacqui Cooney (PE teacher 1983-86) and several trees that were lost during building works.

A collection was also made when Wendy Dawson (Maths 1985-2010) died in February 2013 with a view to buying a tree or bench in her name. Similarly the family of Maurice Paramore, a pupil in the 1930's who became a founder member of the Moseleians and then a much valued School Governor, is donating a bench.

Now all the building work is over we plan to formally open the garden with a special gathering on Saturday 11th July and raise a glass to friends and colleagues. More details will be on the Association website in due course.


Memorial Garden becomes a reality

Do you have a story to tell? Please send your articles, in approximately 500 words, to gazette@moseleians.co.uk and include appropriate high quality photographs

EMOTIONAL MOSELEY TIES FOR PALS RELATIVES

Descendants of one of Birmingham's three volunteer battalions in WW1 paid homage to their forebears when they joined the Head Girl and Boy and present and past staff at Moseley School on 8th November last year.

Jean Perks from Harborne, whose father, though wounded, survived the battles and was taken prisoner, and John Bradshaw from Southam, Warwickshire, whose great uncle was killed in October 1917, contributed to the event.

In 1914 -15 the 3rd Pals completed their recruitment, kitting out and initial training in the landmark Spring Hill College, now housing the school's 6th form, before embarking for the Western Front as the 16th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, after further exercises at Malvern and in Yorkshire.

The Association adapted its annual commemoration of the 90 former pupils killed on active service in WW2 to focus on the memory of the 3rd Birmingham Pals, who lost 650 killed in the Great War. Material drawn from the Moseleians archive was on display.

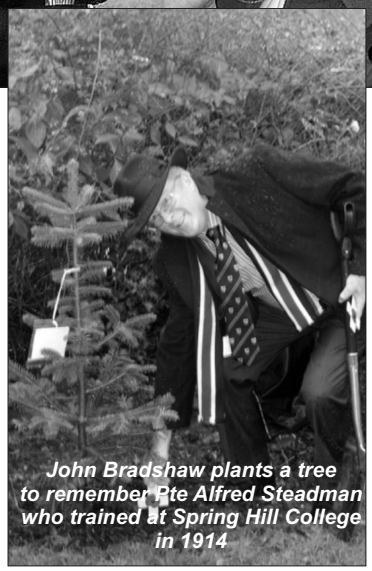
Jean brought wartime mementoes of her father to the occasion and John arranged for photos of his great uncle, Pte Alfred Steadman, while in training at Moseley, to be copied for the Association archive. A synopsis of John's tribute at the ceremony appears below.

It was the first time Jean Perks from Harborne, had seen inside the building where her father Pte Frank Price and 1,100 other recruits also known as the 3rd Birmingham Pals battalion were drilled and billeted in preparation for active service.

Wearing in his lapel an original uniform brass button with the battalion crest, John Bradshaw, whose ancestor Pte Alfred Steadman, was killed at Passchendaele in 1917 described the ceremony as "a haunting discovery" of the place where his great uncle went on his first parades and was equipped to fight.



John Bradshaw and Jean Perks examine mementos they wear of their ancestors



John Bradshaw plants a tree to remember Pte Alfred Steadman who trained at Spring Hill College in 1914

Invited to our annual remembrance ceremonys, Mrs Perks, accompanied by her son, Jonathan, said she was thrilled to be able to experience the setting in which her father trained.

She wore a locket with her father's picture on one side and the badge with which the Pals were issued to show a public critical of their civilian clothes that though not yet in uniform they had enlisted.

She, Mr Bradshaw, and John Brazier, whose father Pte Frank Brazier was also in the 3rd Pals, gave the School Archive copies of the memorabilia of their relatives kept in their families for nearly a century.

Mr Brazier, a former pupil at the school and living in Falmouth, Cornwall, was unable to travel to the ceremony; however a tree was dedicated on his behalf.

A fourth sapling, a Norwegian spruce, was planted recalling the war's first Christmas when a truce was called on some fronts for enemies to sing carols together and play football.

Moseleians Association chairman Richard Cobb said *"it was hoped the dedication of the trees in the presence of representatives of school staff and pupils, and an exhibition mounted to illustrate the Pals occupation of the Moseley building will help sharpen the focus of today's pupils in their study of WW1".*

The School's Remembrance Event this year will be on Saturday 7th November.

Pte 705 ALFRED JAMES STEADMAN

***John Bradshaw writes*:**



Family Photograph taken from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Museum

Exactly a hundred years ago my great uncle, Pte 705 Alfred James Steadman, was at Moseley Barracks, sleeping and eating in the what is now the school building, training in the grounds, at the start of the Great War. Alfred was one of those who died in it.

He was born in 1890, in Kidderminster, and brought up in Chaddesley Corbett. In common with many people from surrounding counties, his family later moved to Acock's Green, then a village in Worcestershire on the edge of the city. Alfred was a Manufacturer's Clerk.

In August and September 1914 Britain's small professional army was being expanded to fight a much larger German army. Three Pals battalions were raised in Birmingham within a very few days, and Alfred Steadman was one of many thousands of young men who volunteered.

The 3rd Birmingham Pals were fully mobilised by the first week of November 1914, and were at Moseley Barracks for nearly six months, doing their basic training.

Alfred Steadman belonged to XI Platoon, C Company, and he's in a photograph of the platoon in the Birmingham City Battalions Book of Honour. All three Birmingham Pals Battalions moved in June 1915, to Wensleydale, in Yorkshiree where they lived in a tented camp accommodating some 12,000 men in all.

Their last move in the UK came in August 1915, when all the Birmingham Pals were moved to an extensive hutted camp at Codford St Mary, on Salisbury Plain, for their final training. A photograph of my great uncle shows him in an Armstrong hut, seated at a small table with six of his comrades and all their kit.

With a full year's training behind them, the Battalion crossed to Boulogne on 21st November 1915. They spent the next two years on the Western Front, most of it as part of the highly-regarded 5th Division. It's clear from accounts of the battles in which they took part that the 3rd Birmingham Pals was a good infantry battalion that did its best at all times, and had a number of successes on the battlefield. On 31st July 1917 the Third Battle of Ypres, now better known as Passchendaele, began. So too did the rain.

Both battle and rain continued for three months. 5th Division joined the battle late in September, and 3rd Birmingham Pals immediately spent five days in ruined and flooded trenches, soaked through, and with no hot food getting through to them. At 05:20 on 9th October, in steady rain, A, B and C Companies left the wet shell-holes that was the British front line, and went forward with two companies of the Royal Norfolk Regiment to attack the strategically important runs of Polderhoeck Chateau, which had been strongly fortified by the Germans. The attack failed. The enemy defences were far too well constructed, the wet, muddy conditions terrible for the attacking forces, who were already exhausted, and communications were poor. Later that morning it was clear they couldn't continue, and early next day what remained of the Battalion was withdrawn from the line.

In the worst day in the battalion's history, the 3rd Birmingham Pals had suffered terrible casualties; of the 534 men who'd started the attack, more than half, 304 men, were killed, wounded or missing. A fifth of the total, 104 men, were dead. Twenty-five of these, including my great-uncle, were men who'd started together at Moseley three years before.

Like so many others his body was never found, and all that remains is a few photographs, his story, and his name, carved on a panel at the Tyne Cot Memorial near the place he died. I went there a few years ago, to be where he was, to bring back some Flanders soil, to run my fingers over his name, and to tell him he's not forgotten.

There were a thousand men like Alfred Steadman in this building in November 1914, and what stands out in their story is their surpassing courage. Not just courage in attack, facing death and terrible injury, knowing that the chances of one or the other were high, but in enduring the grinding privations of daily life in the trenches the lice, dirt, wet, cold, hunger, fear and terror, absence from family, loss of friends killed or wounded, and, if the war poets are to believed, disillusionment. I don't know how my great uncle felt about these things, but I do know that he was there, with his brothers in war, the men he'd trained with here at Moseley, right to the end. The name 'Birmingham Pals' was very well-deserved.

REDISCOVERING MY FATHERS PAST

Alex Welford writes:



'PoG' at Moseley 1934

All but a handful of readers may never have heard of my father, Peter Welford. After three years of closer study I know rather more about him myself, not least of the twelve years he spent at Moseley School.

Born in 1897, Peter served in WW1, studied at Oxford, and taught at Tettenhall. College in Wolverhampton, before being appointed to teach Maths at Moseley in 1928. He served throughout WW2, returned to Moseley in1946, and was already in his 50's when my sisters and I were kids, so other than the odd anecdote we were blithely unaware of some of his most eventful times.

The 1934 School photo provided my first insights into his Moseley days. The pleasure of meeting the Archive Group at their December session, and the privilege of beginning a search of Peter's activities while at Moseley, really began to illuminate the period in which his skills and commitment as a teacher, roundly complimented by his Head at Tettenhall College. blossomed in the prime of his life. Recently, several Moseleians kindly responded to my letters of enquiry as to memories of his post-war school year in 1945-46, but understandably these recollections are mainly of his name, his nickname 'PoG', and of a series of Mathematics text books he co-wrote with his colleague CH (Charlie) Hill in 1937.

He clearly threw himself wholeheartedly into School life. By 1930 he was coaching rugby and cricket, running Scout camps and the Chess Club, and acting in School plays, or playing piano or violin for concerts and musicals. As late as 1951, his contribution to forming the School Orchestra in the early '30's was still being recognised.

Though typical of many of his generation, his was a CV unlikely to be seen these days. If he required training for his new career to develop patience, ingenuity, teamwork, and handling extreme adversity, Private PG Welford probably had it aplenty in the Royal Fusiliers. He volunteered in November 1915 and joined the 32nd Battalion in October 1916, among a draft of 200 men sent to fill ranks severely depleted during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. Fortunately, Peter's Brigade was almost immediately transferred away from the last weeks of the Somme Campaign.

The ensuing five months on the Ypres Salient were relatively uneventful, with alternate weekly spells at a Front where, apart from local patrols and raids, the main hazard was frequent artillery fire. It was still dangerous enough for Peter to receive shrapnel wounds in the neck and shin in April 1917, putting him out of action until January 1918.

On returning to France he was posted to 9th Battalion R.F. at the Front Line near Estaires. The German Spring Offensive in March meant a hurried Divisional transfer to defensive positions at Aveluy. The German advance was halted by 5th April, but not before Peter received a much more serious wound. According to his 1919 disability claim a bullet entered his right shoulder, went down through his lung, broke three ribs, and exited to the right of his spine just below waist height, requiring recuperation until he was discharged in February 1919.

For one of the lucky post-WW2 generation like me it is difficult to appreciate how such a teenager coped with the tedium and privations of a Front Line Unit, interspersed with periodic fear, carnage, and loss that trench warfare inflicted. It is startling to realise how he bore his three-year introduction to adult life. The next three as an undergraduate could not have provided a greater contrast. A BA degree and a couple of photos of rowing races is all the evidence that survives of that period, but his Tettenhall photo album indicates that by 1922 he had made a remarkable recovery, and contributed fully to College life.

Only recently, it has been as revelatory to discover Peter's experiences in a second conflict. He was *"called to Colours"* again in August 1939, joined the 199th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, 69th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was made Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, and, initially at Yardley, the Regiment defended several Birmingham locations until November 1940.

The deteriorating situation in the Mediterranean and North Africa prompted Churchill to send large reinforcements, and the 69th was among the units which undertook risky voyages to improve air defenses on Malta. The first two Batteries had been shipped through the Mediterranean by January 1941, at a cost high enough to delay the departure of the 192nd and 199th until mid-March, and obliging their Convoy WS7 to take the seven-week Cape route to Cairo. Only two Officers and twenty-two men from the 199th, including their BQMS, made it to Malta. In June this advance party undertook an even riskier seven-day voyage by submarine, loaded with aviation fuel and supplies for the besieged garrison. Once re-posted, Peter's group suffered two years of incessant bombing, severe shortages, and the near starvation of the Siege until it lifted in April 1943.

After Officer training near Haifa, 2nd Lt Peter Welford was appointed as an Administrative Officer in the comparative calm of the Army Education Corps in Cairo for the remainder of the War. The narrative of a non-combatant unit may be relatively mundane, but it was quite a shock to open the AEC's War Diary for 1944 at the National Archives to find it written in PoG's own handwriting.

On leaving Moseley Peter continued his teaching career, and settled to some normal family life in Weymouth. Given his earlier experiences one wonders how he felt about such a novel setting. My study of his earlier life continues so any further recollections stirred by this piece would be much appreciated.



CORRIDOR TO A NEW SPORTING FIXTURE



Moseley School's ne to the public as part £2m sports complex.

James Barsby, Community Sports Facilities Manager writes: Since January 2015 the new build has been hired out for public use and has been used for a huge range of sports from badminton to volleyball and everything in between.

The facility serves as the centrepiece for the sports facilities since the school took over the running of the whole site from Birmingham City Council in March 2015. The school now boasts an impressive array of venues to hire including two other sports halls, a large astroturf, outdoor netball courts, a fully equipped gym and secluded dance studio.

The new hall has already attracted huge swathes of interest from around Birmingham, hosting the table tennis leg of the Birmingham school games attended by over 100 talented young people as well as being booked seven days a week and becoming the venue from which ex-England international and Moseley student, Kabir Ali has chosen to be the home of his cricket school. The facility's reputation has spread across the West Midlands as it has attracted future bookings from England Netball, the NHS, UK Rounders and many more local organisations who are keen to use a premium venue at sensible prices.



As well as the above we have also been delighted to welcome South Birmingham Volleyball Club to the venue as their 'home ground' as well as bringing back Sparkhill Netball club after an absence for past two years.

That's not all though! The new hall has also been a valuable addition to the School's PE provision. Its modern equipment, all of which is national competition standard or higher has enabled our students to learn and develop their sporting prowess at an unrivalled level. The investment in the clearly paid off with improved behaviour and attainment. After are at an all-time high and the students have definitely been g thumbs up. One student said, 'I think it shows the school reall us, they spent a lot of money and gave us really good equipm us learn.'

The facility has worked to create an atmosphere of ' sports provision at a price which is affordable by all. The new available at just £38 per hour with the other halls priced at £3 respectively. Astro bookings are just £29.50 per hour and the gym membership has been more than halved at £14.99 per m joining fee. All involved in the running of the facility felt it was offer prices which were suitable for both major clubs as well a friends who wanted to spend their free time getting fit and hea

As a further bonus the facility has also just been allo lot of 'Be Active' funding from the council ensuring it can offer sessions to those who aren't in a position to pay.

The whole complex has come together to rival the to centres in the city. It offers somewhere that Moseley's studen and learn at a whole new level and welcomes the community together under one roof. At Moseley School's Sports Centre, something for everyone.

w sports hall is now open of a new and refurbished



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TARGET 500

Our Association membership ebbs and flows around the 450 mark. In our 20th year your Committee are seeking to expand our tent to recruit new members or bring back in old members to reach at least 500 by the end of the year.

We have lost quite a few Moseley Modern School ex-students inevitably as their original building was largely demolished as part of the new School building, but we are anxious to attract many of them back as we remain committed to encompassing both staff and students from all the historic constituent parts of Moseley School along with those who were here from the 1970s onwards.

Later this year, alongside one of the few remnants of Moseley Modern School - the old gym - we intend re-hang the portraits of the two Head Teachers of that school, Mrs North (Miss Cohen) and Donald Wilford, together with a good quality interpretation board which will tell the story of that amazing school from before it was opened in 1955 until it amalgamated with the Grammar School in 1974. We aim to invite as many old MM students and staff as possible to a dedication of that celebration and to encourage them to stay in touch and write more articles for this Gazette about their school.

For the second year we are also looking to engaged with school leavers to join our Young Moseleians after our good start last year. Under the scheme we encourage leavers to stay in touch by offering three years free Association membership.

Lastly if you know of any ex-Moseley School student who is not an Association member now, please encourage them to join online via our website www.moseleians.com

Find us on: facebook®

HARRY NASH AT WAR Part 3

Harry Nash taught French and other languages at Moseley School from 1960 to 1981
We continue his recollections of life in a concentration camp in World War Two



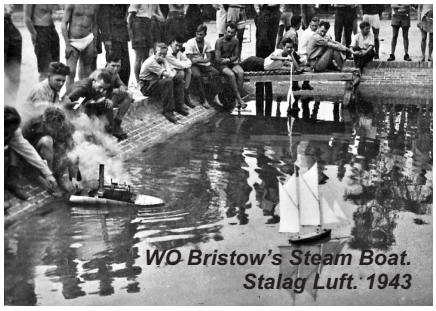
Officers v NCO's. Stalg Luft Feb 1942



"Girls, Girls, Girls"
Stalag Luft. March 1943



Officers v NCO's
Stalag Luft. 1942



WO Bristow's Steam Boat.
Stalag Luft. 1943

The story so far...
Harry was a navigator on a Halifax bomber based in Yorkshire and flying missions usually over Germany from 1943 onwards. In September of that year his plane was shot down over Hanover. Bailing out he attempted to make his way to Holland to contact the Resistance, but he was caught and transported to Frankfurt for interrogation before being taken by rail in a cattle truck to a Prisoner of War camp for airmen in Lithuania.

Solitary confinement, Interrogation, a long train journey through the Polish Corridor to Hydekrug, the POW camp for airmen in Lithuania followed, each a subject in itself. Our treatment was correct. We put on plays, played rugby, ice hockey and cricket and pursued all kinds of activities. A few photos have remained taken in the camp with an old box camera.

We were on the long march towards the end of the war until our release. There was a doctor in the POW camp from Moseley I think his name was Dr Forest-Hayes. He had also been captured.

Immediately after the war I had the wonderful good fortune to be selected for an intensive RAF German interpreter's course in Germany. We had German teachers and lecturers. There I saw the terrible toll of carpet bombing. All towns flattened to the ground.

After studies I was appointed eventually, in 1960 to what was then Moseley Secondary School, as head of modern languages where we taught French and German to O and A levels.

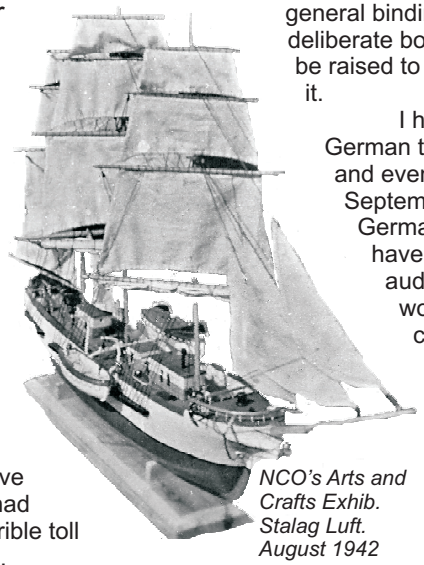
Over the years I have thought about what I have done and seen in the wars. I could not help feeling that there must be better ways of settling problems than war. The three German women remain a wonderful example of alternative thought and action. I do not know how many women and children the bombs we dropped killed. What I do know is that not a single bomb solved a single problem.

Strategists argued that civilians were a legitimate target because they produced the war weapons. If that sounds too pious think of Emmanuel Kant's universally binding moral law, his "categorical imperative", which can be resumed as follows:

All which at any time can be raised to the status of a general binding law, is morally acceptable. The deliberate bombing of women and children could never be raised to the status of the general law, whoever does it.

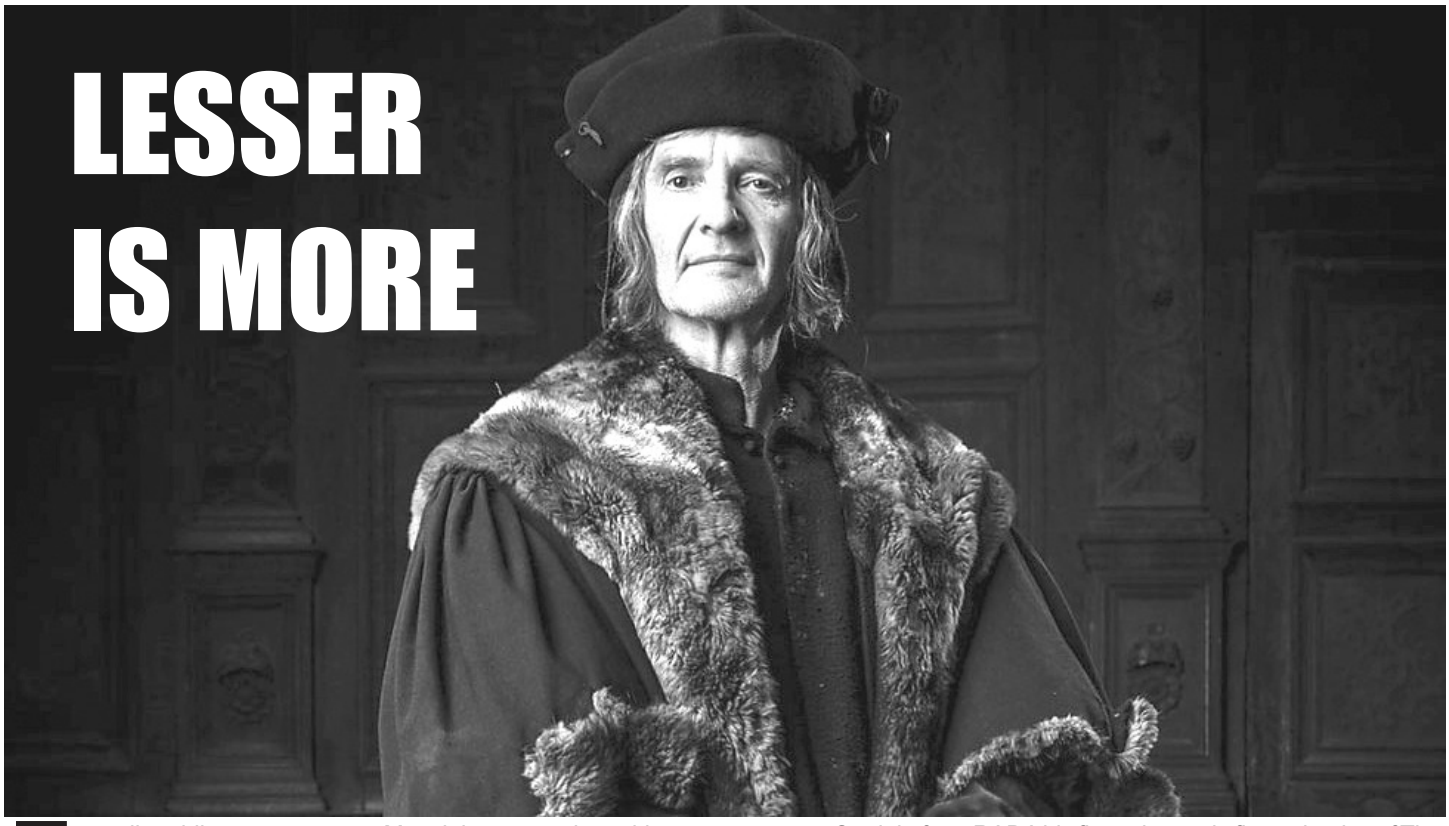
I have spoken several times on British and German television and radio about my experiences and eventual conversion to pacifism. Each year, in September, I am invited to Germany to speak to German Sixth-formers and adult audiences. I have often been invited, too, to speak to English audiences and Sixth-formers. With others I worked for reconciliation between the two countries, and in 1993 I was awarded the Order of Merit by the government of the German Federal Republic. In 2000 I was awarded the Diplôme d'honneur de l'Alliance Française de Paris, for my French work and talks.

I look back, and although I'm no longer happy about what I did in the war, I would never criticise any of my comrades. There were really wonderful men amongst them, men of all the talents and of such unbelievable courage. We were obeying orders. So many died. Of our crew of seven only two of us survived. On the night we were shot down, three of our aircraft were lost. This meant twenty-one young men. Of the twenty-one, only three of us survived. I've had such wonderful luck in life.



NCO's Arts and Crafts Exhib. Stalag Luft. August 1942

LESSER IS MORE



Few telly addicts - even some Moseleians - captivated by the Wolf Hall series depicting the intrigue of the powerful in Britain in the 16th century, will have been aware that the convincing and acclaimed performance as Sir Thomas More had its roots in seven years at Moseley between 1963 and 1970.

This was the period Anton Lesser, the youth who was to become one of Britain's top actors, spent swotting his way through the testing curriculum laid down within the portals of our Spring Hill College building.

At Moseley Anton was quite a dedicated scholar and showed little interest in sport - and strangely, no real intent to become a professional actor, perhaps a reaction to studying Shakespeare and other classical writers in the years leading to his O and A levels.



Lesser as First Sea Lord in Pirates of the Carribean

But the seeds had been sown, not least through his appearances on the school stage, including taking the lead role in Hamlet when age 16.

Moseleians member John Sheppard took Anton for English Language and English Literature and found him a *"delight"* to teach. *"Not that he needed teaching,"* John adds *"You told him where you wanted him to go and he just went. He was brilliant."*

Years later John met Anton in the riverside Dirty Duck pub opposite where he was performing at the RSC in Stratford and learned for the first time that his former pupil had no thought of going into acting when he left school - despite his cutting his teeth in various school plays. Instead he took himself off to Africa for what today might be called a year or two out before applying for a place at Liverpool University where he gained B.A (Hons). That put him on course to be accepted by RADA where he spent another two years refining his acting talents.

"I've followed his career ever since," says John. *"He is an outstanding actor who does himself great credit and one likes to think does credit to Moseley, too."*

The last time he met Anton was when both attended the 'Moseley@80' reunion in 2003, and scores of his contemporaries and those who preceeded and followed him at the school had the pleasure of discovering how amiable and totally unpretentious is this giant of the spoken word on stage and in broadcasting.

It is a stature which has kept Anton busy in the usually uncertain world of drama. Indeed, the family man who has chosen Warwickshire as home, has rarely been out of work, either preparing for or performing in the theatre, on radio or TV.

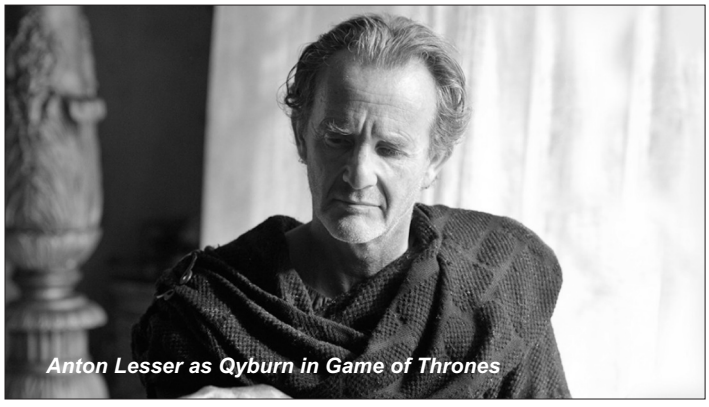
Straight from RADA his first role was in five episodes of The Mill on the Floss in 1979, followed closely by the TV mini series Oresteia. By 1981 he was appearing in The Cherry Orchard.

Television producers saw in Anton an actor of depth, able to put a profound interpretation to his characters but with a touch which held audiences given to dodging out of the room to make the coffee. It worked well with Shakespeare productions for the small screen in the early 80s - Lear and Troilus and Cressida. In the same period our alumni was starting a long association on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company - Romeo, Troilus, roles in Henry VI and Richard III before in the 90s cementing the relationship in Richard II, Taming of the Shrew and Merry Wives, moving on to the London stage in the late 90s and the first decade of the 21st century.

The Lesser voice has captivated many radio audiences with readings of such classics as Paradise Lost and the works of Homer and Dickens, who he also played in a TV series in 2002.

And it's not all the works likely to have been found in the English Literature curriculum in the middle of the 20th century. He's been in Agatha Christie's Poirot, Midsomer Murders, Garrow's Law, the Pirates of the Caribbean, Father Brown and other sleuthing series like Endeavour and The Escape Artist.

It all adds up to a star of some stature, confounding any who might think his slight figure - no more than 5 ft 7 ins in height - to be a disadvantage. Little wonder his name and a summary of his career appears in Debrett's "People of Today." Not bad for one said to have been quite shy at school, who is already lined up at age 63 to be Exeter in a new TV production of Henry VI in 2016!



Anton Lesser as Qyburn in Game of Thrones



Where are you now? How did you get there?

Send your story in approximately 250 words to gazette@moseleians.co.uk
Please include a head and shoulder photograph

Mike (George) Roughton
1951 - 1959
Better known as George, as selected by Gunky Jones in the first form as there were three Mikes in the class.



After leaving MGS I went to ICI Metals then to Aston University (then known as College of Advanced Technology) and graduated with a degree in Metallurgy.

I obtained a job at the Lucas Research Centre, King Street then to Shirley for nine years working in the development of resistance welding technologies and particularly micro joining techniques in the semiconductor industry. This changed my job to setting up microelectronics joining techniques for automotive components and subsequently I moved to Lucas Aerospace in 1977 as a section leader to develop similar processes for aerospace assembly technologies.

Thereafter I became a project manager for European projects for the development of semiconductor projects for the advanced manufacturing technologies in the aerospace industry. This included electronic control systems for Rolls Royce engines on the Tornado and Boeing 747, 767 and 777 aircraft.

This led to becoming a Project Manager for a European project called GOODDIE and when I left Lucas in 1997 I managed this project for the next 10 years informing the semiconductor industry about progress in assembly technologies and setting International standards for procurement for such devices. I retired in 2006.

Socially and sport wise I was a Flying Officer in the Air Training Corps for 12 years, Chairman of the junior school PTA (having two children and being married in 1966 to a pharmacy student at Aston, Janet who I met at the Jazz Club). I played the French game of petanque for many years and was manager of one of the GB teams in the World Championships in Rotterdam in 1982. I have played banjo in many jazz bands in the Midlands and also have had my own band at various times. I now play a lot of tennis and golf having being Seniors Captain at Moseley Golf Club a few years ago and now President of the Solihull Arden Tennis and Squash Club.

Frank Kane
1964 - 1971



Day of The Dead Celebration Oaxaca, Mexico

Memories include record books (for homework), keeping a worm in a shoe box for biology, running across the field to help the brain cells in algebra, falling in the snow at cross country and being introduced to tennis, badminton and the delights of ancient history and probability theory.

I left MGS in 1971 and went to Birmingham Univ to study Maths, Economics and Statistics and then to L.S.E. for my Msc in Econometrics. In 1975 I joined the Government Statistical Service and was there for 30 years until my early retirement in 2005. My most memorable jobs were (a) forecasting the prospects for over 100 sectors of the UK economy at the Department of Trade and Industry and (b) producing the definitive figures on the UK distribution of wealth at the Inland Revenue.

In retirement I keep fit, read, play badminton and chess and travel. I became school chess champion in the late 60s and I resumed playing for my local club after a 20 year gap in 2004 to reach my highest ever rating in 2014. I have been playing Badminton regularly for most of the last 40 years.

Moseley also gave me a love for ancient history and I have travelled to nearly 50 countries visiting mainly archaeological sites. Highlights would be Queen Nefertaris tomb in Egypt, the pyramids of Teotihuacan in Mexico, the Moai statues of Easter Island and the Terracotta warriors of Xian. From more cultural tours I have fond memories of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, elephant rides in Nepal, being overtaken by an Oryx in Namibia and early morning welcome from Kangaroos outside my hut in Queensland. I am particularly looking forward to the Gobi desert this year in Mongolia.

Jane Lucox
I left Moseley in July 2012 after being there for over thirty years. My retirement days are very busy and I honestly wonder how I had time to go to work!



My first year was very exciting with two cruises to celebrate retirement. The last one followed a week in New York and we were caught in Hurricane Sandy so we were glad to be on the Queen Mary II, the worlds largest ocean liner. Travel has always been a passion of mine and I have many trips in mind for the future.

I have also discovered a new passion, archery. I always said I'd do it when I retired but never dreamt how much I'd love it. Having started off teaching some PE, sports and competition have always been something I value. So to be able to compete in my wheelchair against able bodied folk is a dream come true. I often beat the men too!

The other milestone in my life has been to become a grandparent for the first time. Matthew is nearly two and a half and he's a real delight. I'm known as Nana J as I thought in had more 'street-cred' than Grandma!

Jim Webster
1961 - 1968



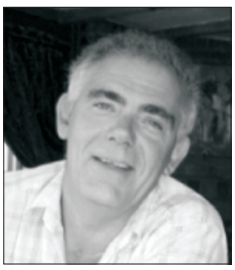
I graduated from Sheffield University with Sp. Hons degree in chemistry. My career took me to The Middle East and subsequently to the U.S.A. where I have lived for the last 30 years.

I have enjoyed, basically three careers. One as vice president of international operations for RPM Inc. Secondly on Wall Street with Salomon Smith Barney and more recently with Edward Jones; and thirdly as a professor of International Finance at St. Louis University teaching mainly MBA students.

Looking back at my time at Moseley I realise what an excellent, classical, if you like, education I received. I compare my exposure and depth of study to be way beyond what has been experienced by my three sons in the American education system. For that I have to thank my old favorites, 'Taffy' Hingley, 'Neddie' Bacon, and of course 'Beefy' Bullock which reminds me that my ass is still smarting from some third year misdemeanour on my part.

Geography prevents me from participating in Alumni events but I still visit my mom in Solihull a couple of times a year and if any events coincide with my visits I'd be happy to attend. In the meanwhile I remain true to "The Baggies" who I'm able to follow on cable T.V. and take this opportunity to send my very best to old friends, now scattered but not forgotten. (Paul Colinette, Mick Connolly, Dave Francis, Les Bent, Wilf Hilliard - where are you guys now?)

Steven Whateley
1970 - 1975



In May 1975, as I was preparing to take my O Levels at MGS, the school brought in a careers adviser for the day, so that he could talk to the 90 boys in the 5th year and advise them of their various career choices. This was quite a new and novel approach to post school careers and, as far as I'm aware, this was the first year that this had been tried. My two favourite subjects at this time were creative writing and photography, and I had tentative ideas about becoming a journalist. Perhaps even a journalist who took his own photos! My writing skills had been praised and encouraged by my English teachers and I felt confident in my abilities. However my meeting with the careers adviser was to change all that. Having explained to him my skills and my ambitions, I was somewhat taken aback at his advice.
"Journalism is a very, very tough area to get into" he said gravely. *"Only the top one percent of writers in the country ever get to be journalists on national newspapers. You might want to lower your sights a little. Have you ever considered a career in local government?"*
He then proceeded to shower me with leaflets about Birmingham City Council. Somewhat crestfallen, I left the meeting, my hopes dashed. On the way back to my classroom I bumped into a friend. I enquired what vocation the careers adviser had suggested to him.
"He suggested I go into local government" replied my friend, a little sadly. *"I'm disappointed, as I had set my sights a little higher than that."*

It transpired over the course of the next few days that the 'careers advisor' had suggested this particular vocation to all the boys I knew. Possibly he worked for Birmingham Council!

I never took his advice, but instead left school to work in insurance initially. I subsequently moved over to work in shipping and freight forwarding and in 1989 (with two colleagues) founded my own containerised freight forwarding company. This company lasted until 2004, when circumstances forced it to close. I then took a position in educational publishing and finally, after 29 years, got the opportunity to use some of my creative writing skills! I now work three days a week in the educational publishing industry, and two days a week for a media purchasing business. I never got the chance to thank the careers adviser for his esteemed advice.

Ken Skelding
1947 - 1952



After leaving MGS I trained as a design engineer with a company in Hall Green whose products included Morrison Electicars and fork lift trucks, Stacatrucs, while attending college in Aston.

After National Service in the Royal Air Force where I worked on radar, mainly in Scotland, I joined Triplex Safety Glass Company Ltd. In Kings Norton as a design engineer. Triplex became part of the Pilkington Glass Company, I continued to work for that company in a number of different roles including Design Manager, Engineering manager, Project manager, Personnel manager and Commercial Sales manager up to my retirement in 1994 at the age of 58. My work with Pilkington provided opportunities for travel to many parts of the world as well as the UK and Ireland. These included the U.S.A, most of Europe and Finland.

Two days before retiring I married my second wife Enid and we continued to travel the world with holidays in many of the places that we had agreed to visit including many long haul destinations. We live in Hollywood and are members of Solihull Arden Club where I continue to play tennis. We both spent many years in sports club administration at Blossomfield Club in Solihull but now confine our activities to more enjoyable aspects of club life. We have two daughters each from our previous marriages, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

My lifelong interest in photography continues and I derive much pleasure and satisfaction from my camera and digital equipment.

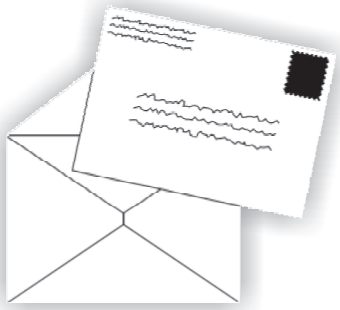
Pete Haden
I left MGS in 1957 and have fond memories of form 5b and are pleased to say that some of us still keep in touch and have a mini reunion from time to time, usually when friends who have settled overseas return to these shores.



Pete Haden with Dame Ellen MacArthur 2012

I was lucky enough in 2011 to visit my old friend Malcolm Smith at his home in Canberra where he became Chief planner for the capital of Australia some years ago. We managed to take in some of the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand which was a wonderful experience. Other members abroad are Barry Heath who is a part time DJ on Spanish radio and Freddie Osborn who leads the luxury life in Lanzarote. The only sad thing is that since the start of these reunions, we have lost a couple of our old friends to serious illness and we raise a glass to them when we get together.

I retired from my self-employed bookkeeping and payroll business five years ago but still keep my hand in by retaining a handful of my favourite clients. As an Aston Villa fan all my life, I managed to find the dream job in 2004 when I became a Stadium Tour guide at Villa Park finally retiring last year with some very fond and exciting memories. Some famous people came our way and above is me with the Round the World Yachtswomen Dame Ellen MacArthur in 2012.



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Email: gazette@moseleians.co.uk

20 Years on... time for a 90s reunion?

Lee Holland writes:

I think a reunion of some ex-students from the 1990s would be well received and is a good idea.

Pictured below, from last year, you will see a reforming of our previously successful football team. This was all expertly arranged by Alan Crawford and he managed to get us a game with a Moseley School select team. By select team we mean young teachers and sixth formers who certainly gave us all a run around.



1994: Before leaving school



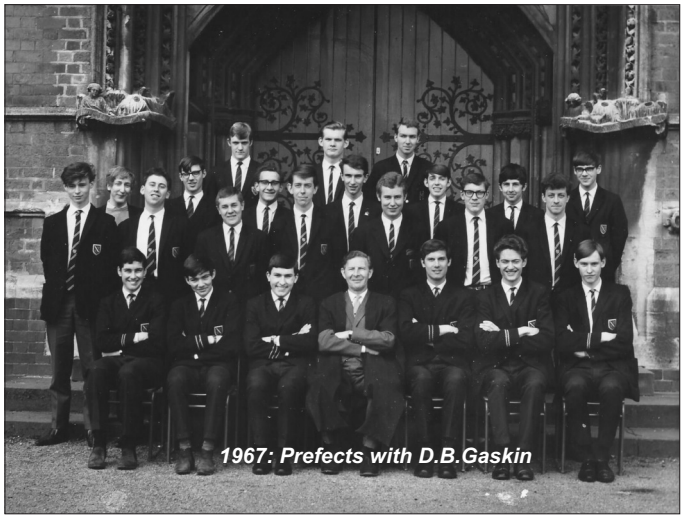
2014: Back together after 20 years

We had not seen each other for 20 years and the banter was soon up and running- the score in the match didn't matter (however I lost count when the ninth goal went in against us!). I am sure Alan would be happy to put something together about this momentous event (with full team member names!). You will see the years have been kind to all of us and we are all the same as the day we left school.

Finally please send Mrs. Bradley our warm birthday wishes. We all had a fantastic time at sixth form and she was a big reason behind this. Many happy memories, it is just a shame they are so long ago.

Happy Days

***Alan Price (1960 - 1967) writes*:**

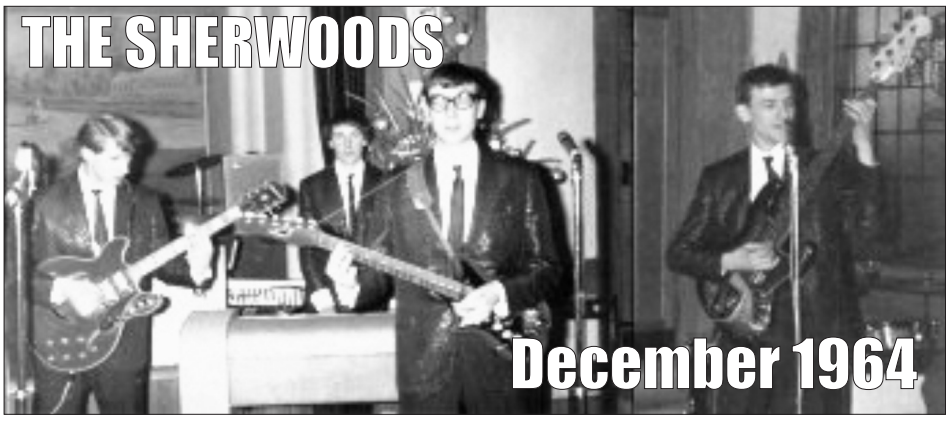


1967: Prefects with D.B.Gaskin

The photo shows the Headmaster with School Captain (Head Boy) Chris Field to the left (as we view the photo), Joint Vice-School Captain Neil Stafford and Senior Prefect Nick Fisher. To the right of DBG we see Joint Vice-School Captain Chris Smith, and Senior Prefects Phil Randall and Alan Price (yours truly when I had a hairstyle that I thought made me look a bit like Dave Davies of the Kinks!). In the row behind and just to the right of the Head is Dan Makin, one of the other 17 Full Prefects shown in the Photo. I am still in regular contact with Chris Field (living in France) and Dan Makin (divides his time between residences in London and Seville). I can remember the names of very nearly all the lads in the photo, but have no idea of how they have fared since that time or where they are now. I do know that Nick Fisher (related to former Archbishop of Canterbury) stayed on for another year and was Joint School Captain along with a chap call Bailliss.

Though we were all very proud to be prefects (with the odd possible exception note one prefect has his tie obscured with a jumper!), there were subtle internal subgroups: the “Scientists” didn't mingle as often with the “Artists”. The sportsmen were a different breed from the non-sporty types and so on. The Head was extremely accomplished (some would say Machiavellian) in the way he arrived at an equitable balance among the prefect body.

So, the question remains: where are these esteemed alumni now? It would be interesting to know if MGS gave them all the springboard to success (and consequently, happiness) in their future lives that I believe was a major attribute of the educational system provided by the grammar schools at that time.



Unchained Moseley Melody

Alan Smith writes:

The 1960s pop group "The Sherwoods" were 3/5ths from Moseley Grammar.

Alan Smith is seen here at the back on organ, front is Malcolm Drew and right, on bass, is Terry Widlake. Alan still plays piano as solo artiste or with rock ‘n’ roll & soul bands. Malcolm lives in Spain and Terry was the one who went on to greater things... He ended up as Roy Orbison's bass player and European tour manager. Terry is now retired and lives in Nashville. This photo was take on Boxing Day, 1964 at The George in Solihull.

OBITUARIES

We regret to record the loss of old friends

JAMES MALCOLM RACE - Master Mariner
Who died 13th June 2014



We have learnt sadly of the death of master mariner, James Malcolm Race at the age of 81.

From Moseley Grammar School, Jim went to Warsash Merchant Navy College on Southampton Water, where he won the prize for the best student at navigation and displayed his native cunning by taking the advice of foreign classmates and claiming to be a follower of the Greek Orthodox religion in order to avoid the otherwise compulsory church parades on Sundays.

Jim joined the Merchant Navy in 1950, at the age of 17, and for 10 years served as a Deck Officer with Royal Mail Lines Ltd, working on cargo and passenger ships on the South American and West Indies trade routes and troopships travelling to Korea.

He qualified as a Master Mariner in record time, but with the Merchant Navy in decline he pursued a career in business, joining the hospitality industry, rising to become a Midlands area manager and then director for Ansells Brewery, and helping set up its restaurant chain. He was later a director for Ind Coope Ltd.

Jim's love of the sea never deserted him and, in the 1980s, he helped set up the Allied Lyons Cruising Club and introduced scores of their employees into the world of sailing, creating a vast network of friends.



In retirement he taught navigation to the Royal Yachting Association students at night school, and was also a founder member, and first Commodore, of the Heart of England Offshore Cruising Association. He served the community teaching underprivileged youths how to sail with the Youth Afloat charity in Redditch, continuing with his work for this and other sailing charities for many years.

Jim received the Royal Yachting Association Community Award from the Princess Royal in 2009 for his commitment to the sport of sailing.

James Malcolm Race is survived by his wife of 58 years Elaine (nee Gopsill), children Nigel, Karen, Hazel and Jacalyn, and grandchildren Corey, Casey, Edward and Freya.

COLIN ROSS HITCHINGS
Who died 30th June 2014



We learnt in January of the death last June of Colin Hitchings who attended Moseley Grammar School in the late 1940s. Colin was a former president of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and was awarded both the Franck Medal in 2005 and the Joseph A Oddis Award (posthumously) for exceptional service to international pharmacy.

After leaving Moseley, and studying pharmacy at university, Colin registered as a pharmacist in 1963 and after a number of hospital jobs in Wales became chief pharmacist of Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City in 1965. He went on to become chief pharmacist at Northwick Park Hospital in 1969, holding the post until 1973 before taking on the roles of group pharmacist at the Royal Free Hospital and area pharmaceutical officer in Camden and Islington until 1980. For the next 15 years Hitchings worked as the regional pharmaceutical officer for the South West Thames Regional Health Authority.

Colin was a keen advocate of hospital pharmacy and was president of the RPSGB between 1983 and 1984, becoming a fellow in 1992 and remained a registered fellow until he died. Subsequent to his tenure as president, he was the pharmaceutical adviser to the World Health Organization from 1986 until 1990. He also held positions at the International Pharmaceutical Association, latterly as the elected professional secretary between 1997 and 2001.

Outside pharmacy Colin was a keen follower of sport, being a regular attender at International Rugby matches, and a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

Sadly, we have also been informed of the passing of the following former pupils

William (Bill) Pettitt
Moseley Secondary School
1938 -1942

Kenneth Walkinshaw
Moseley Grammar School
1946 - 1951

Bryan Tooley
Moseley Grammar School
1942 - 1948

Dedication, That's What We Need

A number of families in recent years have expressed the wish to commemorate former pupils by donating a sum for the planting of a tree to bear the name of their loved one. Now the lengthy construction work and re-design of the school campus is complete and a Memorial Garden designated, any family we have not contacted and wishing to fund a commemorative tree are invited to contact Richard Cobb on 0121 743 4957 or richard.cobb@moseleians.co.uk

Blood, Sweat and Tears

Last year many will recall the evolving installation called Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London as it grew throughout the summer until the moat was filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies, each poppy representing a British fatality during the First World War.

One of those poppies was purchased by the Association on behalf of you, the members, and of the School.

We thought that would be a fitting tribute to those of the Third Battalion Birmingham Pals who were based at Moseley for training in 1914/15, many of whom never returned from the Western Front.

JOHN SINGLES
Who died 25th September 2014



Tony Wright Writes:

John Singles, who attended MGS from 1944 to 1949, passed away on 25 September last year after a seven year battle with prostate cancer. John became the first Secretary of the new Association, formed after the great reunion on July 1993.

At school, John played rugby and took part in athletics both for his house, Midgley, and for various school teams. He was a member of the Athletics team that came third in the 1948 Grammar School Sports meeting.

John sat his School Certificate Exam in 1949 in which he selected to include the Welsh Language, which he had taught himself with some assistance from (Taffy) Hughes, a physics teacher, himself a fluent Welsh speaker. Indeed John obtained a pass, which was a first for the School. He always enjoyed visiting Wales, walking in Snowdonia and travelling on the marrow gauge steam railways, some of which he supported as a member.

After leaving school John worked for two years for the City Council's Education Department before commencing National Service at Catterick Camp. From there he joined the Queens Own Hussars driving light armoured vehicles first in Germany and later in Malaya where he saw active service. When leaving National Service, John's commanding officer commented on his release papers that John was 'inclined to grumble and always air his views'.

John then joined Birmingham Social Services Children's Department, alter working in a similar field in Solihull and Worcestershire before taking early retirement in his mid-50s.

He had an amazing memory covering events in European history and folk music, which he enjoyed playing and singing, in particular risqué rugby songs, reciting dozens of verses non-stop. Being keen on Irish and Scottish music he and I went to many concerts at Birmingham Town Hall, enjoying bands such as the Dubliners and the Corrie Folk Group from Edinburgh.

During the early days of the Moseleians Association, John discovered that a long serving PE teacher James Gillespie was around 100 years of age and living in Scotland. John was despatched by the Committee to visit James in Milngavie to celebrate his 104th birthday and to present him with some memorabilia items from the Moseleians. James was very touched.

After John stepped down as Secretary he continued to support functions and open days, taking part regularly in the annual Remembrance Event in November, where he would speak eloquently about events in both World Wars, and his visits to the battlefields in France and Belgium.

John's funeral took place on 6th October at Robin Hood Crematorium attended by family, friends and Association members. His funeral was accompanied appropriately by music from the Dubliners. His family have donated a number of books on languages to the School from his extensive collection.

BEV PACKWOOD
Who died 14th January 2015



Rick Coleman Writes:

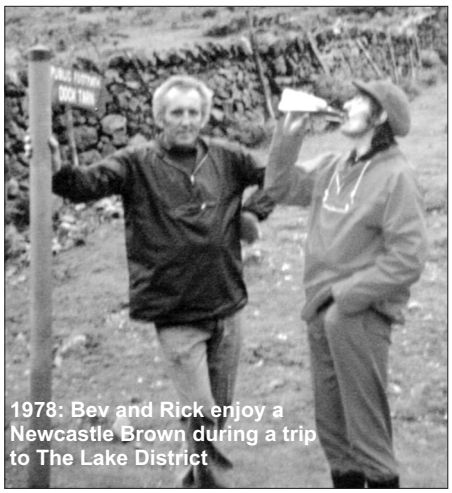
In 1965, the young male staff at Moseley Mixed School in College Road was full of anticipation. A new member of staff had been appointed: her name, Beverley! Not only that, Beverley was joining the boys' P.E. Department!!

How foolish they were made to look when introduced to this 6'2" giant of a man who quickly made his presence felt in the classrooms and corridors, playground and sports field.

Bev was a truly first class, all round sportsman who excelled at basketball where he was a regular for his school team, Kings Norton Boys, had trials for the National R.A.F. team and England, and was a member of the Old Nortonians Squad that went undefeated in Midland League games for ten years in the 1960s.

He was also an excellent table tennis player and won several individual titles in Birmingham and District Table Tennis Leagues. Bev was a more than competent golfer, and was a member at the prestigious Moseley Course for many years, qualifying for the Sunrise Medical Finals, run by Peter Alliss at Gleneagles in the 1990s.

On the football pitch he was a languishing right winger. He had great skill, the ability to beat players and was a superb crosser of the ball.



1978: Bev and Rick enjoy a Newcastle Brown during a trip to The Lake District

His real sporting love, of course was cricket, where he represented Kings Heath with distinction for many years. Bev was a demon opening bowler, twice taking ten wickets in an innings: once against Northampton Saints and once against Leicester Ivanhoe. He was also selected to play for Warwickshire C. C. C. Second X1.

But most of all, Bev was an excellent teacher who was totally committed to inspiring a love of sport in all of his pupils, an ambition which he achieved with distinction. In addition his enthusiasm and energetic approach motivated many of his colleagues to run various school teams in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Under his leadership, sport at Moseley flourished and teams won Birmingham titles in a range of sports including the prestigious Docker Shield Cricket Competition.

However, Bev also had time for youngsters of all ages and abilities and introduced many different activities into the curriculum for those not blessed with talent in the more traditional games.

Under Bev, Moseley staff enjoyed regular basketball and cricket matches against other Birmingham teachers and a staff cricket team toured Cornwall as a one off in 1976 but continued to do so for the next thirty years!

Hundreds if not thousands of pupils from the former Brandwood, Moseley Secondary and Kings Norton Mixed Schools have reason to be grateful to Bev Packwood for instilling into them not only a real love of sport but more importantly, real sportsmanship.

For the last ten years of his life, Bev lived in Perranporth, Cornwall with his wife, Bridget, who nursed him through his final days until he sadly succumbed to the Cancer that he had fought for so long and passed away on Wednesday 14th. January, 2015.

DEREK (FS) MAYMAN, BEM
Who died November 2014



It is with great sadness that we heard of the death in November 2014 of Derek Mayman at the age of 93.

Frederick Sylvester, always known to friends and colleagues as Derek, was the first Chairman of the Moseleians Association when it was formed back in 1995, until he stepped down in 1999. Along with Mary Miles, then head teacher of Moseley School, Derek was a leading figure in the campaign to preserve the Spring Hill College building and thwart the City Council's plans to for its demolition.

In his day job Derek was the founding Director and then Chairman of a successful business in the construction industry FGF Limited - which supplies insulation, mineral fibre, glass fibre, roofing products, and spray adhesives to the building industry.

After leaving Moseley Grammar School, Derek had a distinguished war record. He was a Lieutenant in The Royal Artillery 1944 and a 2nd Lieutenant in The Middlesex Regiment. He never talked much about his wartime ventures, but he went over to Normandy in June 1944 and travelled on to the Ardennes in the following treacherous winter, before being amongst the first Allied troops to cross the Rhine in early spring 1945. He did not return to England until a few days before the end of the War, and then joined the TA afterwards.

Derek had many interests including the Moseleians Association where he continued to support events and also personally to fund many projects at school including the flagpole and flags on top of the Tower which he would look out for on his way to work. He also paid for a Sports Wall which used to stand on the playground between East and West. This was an experimental company product with cricket markings basketball hoops goals and other features for kids to use at breaks. That was sadly demolished as part of the new School building work.

He always attended the annual Remembrance event and came to many open days, until ill health got in the way and he was accompanied by his daughter Elizabeth.

Derek lived in the small hamlet of Blunts Green near Henley in Arden and his house looked onto the North Warwickshire railway line, which led to him being the prime mover in organising local opposition to its closure. As Chairman of the 'Save the Line' Committee, Derek helped retain the rail link from Tyseley to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Derek received the British Empire Medal in the 2013 Queen's New Year's Honours “for voluntary service to Railway Heritage in the West Midlands and Wales,” and recognises a lifetime's effort in furthering railway preservation, most notably on the Welspool and Llanfair.

He was one of the first directors of the W&LLR Preservation Company formed in 1960. Having been closed by British Railways in 1956, the line reopened under the control of preservationists in 1963, and is now over 50 years old.

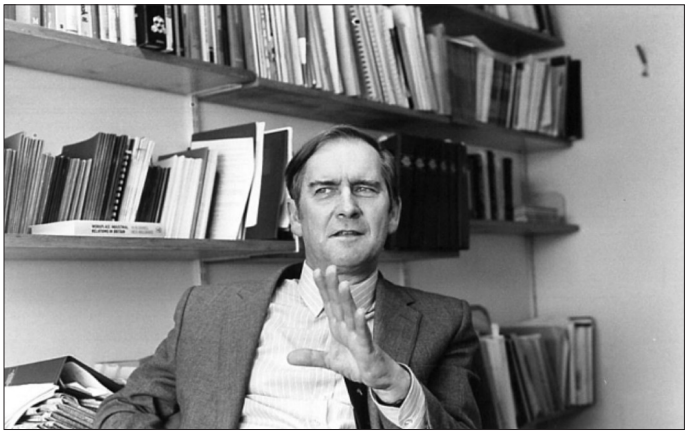
Derek went on to play a leading role in the running of the line for many years, with perhaps his crowning achievement being to secure four carriages from the Austrian Zillertalbahn line in 1968. As well as forging a strong link between the two railways, the arrival of the Austrian carriages with their open end balconies provided the W&LLR with a “unique selling point”, and these coaches remain just as popular with today's travellers.

He retired from the W&LLR board in 1991 and in recognition of more than 30 years' service to the line he was immediately made a Vice President, a post he held until his death.

In celebrating his 90th Birthday in 2012 Derek hired a train consisting of a Castle Class locomotive with Great Western coaches to run a special from Tyseley to Oxford via Stratford. Tony Wright recalls the trip. “My wife and I had been invited to join Derek's family and friends on what turned out to be a very memorable day out, the highlight of which was hurtling at 70 mph with whistle blowing through Banbury Station to the amazement of onlookers.”

Richard Cobb said “Derek Mayman will be remembered by so many for his boundless enthusiasm and support in many areas of preservation of our heritage as well as his support for the Moseley School of today.”

SIR DOUGLAS HAGUE
Who died 1st February 2015



The death in February has been announced of Douglas Hague at the aged 88. He was one of Margaret Thatcher's earliest and most loyal economic advisers and was the co-author (with Alfred Stonier) of A Textbook of Economic Theory that Hague, then Professor of Applied Economics at Manchester Business School.

Douglas was born in 1926 and attended Moseley Secondary School in the mid-1930s before going on to King Edward's High School and then on to study Economics at Birmingham University. He later joined the teaching staff followed by University College London and by Professorships in Business Studies at Sheffield and Manchester Universities.

From 1983 to 1987 he was chairman of the Economic & Social Research Council, and thereafter he was a non-executive director of a variety of business ventures. He continued to write speeches for the Mrs Thatcher from time to time to whom he had been first introduced in 1967. He was appointed CBE in 1978 and, in 1982, became the first of Mrs Thatcher's economic advisers to be knighted.

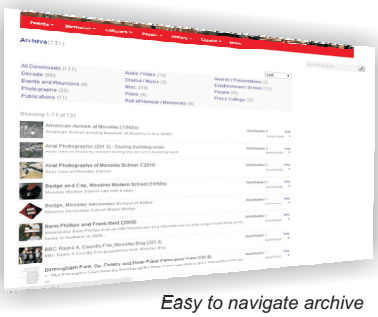
Douglas was a prolific author and co-author, turning his attention in the last phase of his academic career to the relationship between science and business innovation.



Following the successful and much heralded re-launch of our website, we have continued to develop the site.

A SMARTER ONLINE ARCHIVE

The online archive didn't perform as expected so we went back to the drawing board and developed a smarter more intuitive way to search and view items. The archive, which contains documents, photographs, audio and video clips, is designed to give open access to the wide range of material gathered by the archive group over nearly two decades. With this new simpler system we can now get down to the business of transferring larger volumes of documents into digital format, and making them available to all corners of the world at the mere click of a button.



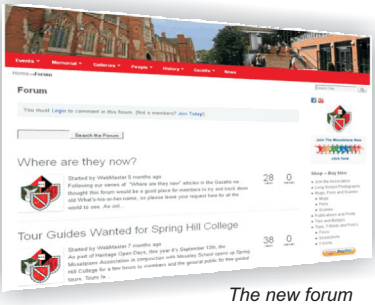
Easy to navigate archive

TWEAKS

Our online shop, which sells a variety of Moseleian merchandise and publications, has been tweaked for easier navigation and an improved checkout experience.

WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

All aspects of the site have worked from day one and we have been delighted with the response from members and non-members alike. Pages are updated on a regular basis keeping the site both vibrant and relevant and www.moseleians.com is performing well in Google searches. In fact the only underperforming area is the Forum so we have also given this a makeover and made it more user friendly. We had a very active forum / message board on our old website where members left messages and talked through ideas. However it was not secured by a login and consequently suffered badly from spam messages. To cut out these unwanted messages only logged-in members are now able to leave messages on our new forum although they are visible for everyone, including non-logged in visitors, to read. Please login and leave a message.



The new forum

IT'S YOUR WEBSITE

HOW TO GET YOUR LOGIN PASSWORD

Last autumn we emailed members with details of how to login to their account. If you missed that email, or have lost your password, here is reset your password: NB -This will only work if you are a member **and** we have your email address on record.

1. Go to **www.moseleians.com** > click on **Login > Lost Password** > enter your **Username** which will be either your **firstname.surname or Email Address** > click **Get New Password**.

2. You will then receive a password reset email. Click on the link in this email.

3. Follow the on screen instructions.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Moseleians membership sign-up and renewal is an important area of the website and the process of making this more easily manageable for our hard working (and frankly underpaid) Membership Secretary caused some head scratching here at Webmaster HQ. In the end we opted to rebuild this module from scratch. Now logged in members can update their own details, renew subscriptions and, heaven forbid, cancel their membership (why would you want to do that?). Members also have access to member's only pages and a new membership directory as well as leave comments on news pages and messages in the forum.

HOW TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Follow the login instructions above then click on **Membership Renewal** > click the membership level you want > click **Add to cart**.

If you would like to pay by standing order (and we prefer this method because it is cheaper for us!) you can download a standing order form from the 'Membership Renewal' page.

If you are a member and we do not have your email address you will not be able to login to the website to take advantage of all the goodies we have to offer, however you can still download a standing order form from the 'Join the Association' page. Email is the quickest way for us to let you know about forthcoming events at the school to which you are invited so please let us have your email address. To send us your email address click on the 'contact us' page, then use the form on that page to send us your details, alternatively email me at contact@moseleians.co.uk. Either way we will update your membership records and send you your personal login details.

If you have any difficulty please contact us via the contact us page on the website or email contact@moseleians.co.uk. We aim to reply to all emails within 24 hours.

www.moseleians.com