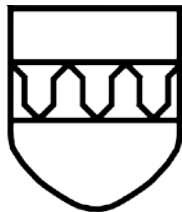




SCHOOL



GOODAIR



HARRIS



MILLER



THORNLEY



THE  
NEW

# HUGHTONIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF PRESTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2014

**Welcome** - to Issue 1 of the Association Newsletter in its new format.

Our intention is to issue the Newsletter on a frequent and regular basis but reality will depend upon the amount and content of the information which we receive from Members. This issue has 2 principal intentions:

*firstly - to provide the information necessary to ensure that all Members are fully aware of the general outline of the Association's current management structure and to identify the responsibilities of team members.*

*secondly - to stimulate interest and encourage participation by all Members either in the various activities and events which are arranged throughout the year or in providing information for inclusion in future issues for the interest and entertainment of other Members (or both!).*

Those items which are of temporary or ephemeral interest, such as advance notice of the Annual Dinner, will eventually disappear from the record. Items of a more durable nature (photographs of the Annual Dinner for instance) will be transferred to the Association's websites as a permanent record (see below).

This Issue 1 is being distributed:

*in printed copy to those Members for whom we hold only postal addresses.  
electronically to all Members for whom we have email addresses.*

Future issues will be distributed only by email where this is possible, in order to avoid the horrendous postage costs. If you can receive email, please ensure that we have your address.

<http://www.pgsassociation.org.uk/>

<http://www.pgsa-plus.co.uk/>

Members of the cabinet and their (very brief) cvs.  
(Additional information is available on the website)

John M Whalley	1941 - 1951	Harris	Liverpool University, Architect, Landscape Architect, Town planner.
Colin Monks	1962 - 1968	Thornley	Insurance Broker
Charlie Billington	1959 - 1967	Goodair	Lancaster University, Specialist health practitioner
Jim McDowall	1962 - 1968	Miller	Lecturer Liverpool
Maurice Barker	1953 - 1958	Goodair	Construction apprenticeship, Teaching (PGS and Hutton)
Phil Billsborough	1959 - 1964	Thornley	CXC, Director: Preston Bethany Care, Team Member – Hope for Life
Jim Bryson	1961 - 1968	Goodair	MOD
David Bunting	1954 - 1960	Miller	Transport Management
Jim Goring	1952 - 1957	Thornley	Press & publications management
Keith Nightingale	1945 - 1952	Goodair	Export sales (Middle East/Europe), H&S UK
Tony Olivine	1948 - 1956	Goodair	Navy, Teaching
Brian Rigby	1956 - 1961	Miller	Management consultancy
Trevor Sergeant	1955 - 1961	Goodair	Teaching Nottingham and Liverpool
Dave Swindlehurst	1948 - 1955	Thornley	Army, Estate Management (Kenya), various roles BAC/BAe System

## The New Hoghtonian

The current plan for the Newsletter is to produce 3 printed issues a year, to coincide with distribution by post of other Association information, in order to reduce the postage costs for those Members who cannot receive email. There may be additional issues, or updates, by email for on-line Members.

### The Newsletter Team

Following the decision at the 2013 AGM to release Charlie Billington from his too-onerous responsibilities, some innocent volunteers stepped forward to take over responsibility for producing the Newsletter. (Please note that the term “producing” means collation of inputs from contributors and formatting and printing of the result. It doesn’t include origination!). The team currently comprises Tony Olivine (text and graphics), Maurice Barker (photographs) and Dave Swindlehurst (editor), assisted by Colin Monks and Charlie.

### The Newsletter

The content and frequency of issue are dependent on contributions from Members - the more we receive the more interesting the Newsletter will be. We would like to receive from each Member a brief resume of his school and subsequent history. Go on - you know you want to!

This issue has relied on quick scans of some very ancient graphics on indecipherable and/or damaged originals, for which we apologise. For Issue 2, we should have some re-drawn artwork with which to grace its pages. Comments, complaints and criticisms welcome (as are donations toward the costs!). All via the Secretary.

## **The Hot Pot Supper 2013**

In some ways the 2013 Hot Pot Supper was a low-key affair inasmuch as there was a clash of dates, so the best part of 20 Members who would normally be interested in the event were unable to attend. However, suitably downsized, it nevertheless went ahead, and the 25 or so who were present had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It was particularly pleasing to welcome Members who had not been before, and all said that they would henceforth take more notice of the Hot Pot Supper and other PGSA events. So, in modern parlance, a 'result'!

The food, as ever, was excellent, and on this occasion (because of the reduced order) we had to serve it ourselves. I say 'we', but in fact Tony Olivine was 'volunteered' for the job, although it was his wife Jen who inevitably performed the task with such great aplomb! The little hot pot that was left over was (equally inevitably) finished off by Mac a couple of hours later, and I don't suppose its being stone cold really mattered after a few pints of Theakstons' Best! We never did, however, get to the bottom of what happened to the surplus apple pie and cream, but there were certainly some shifty-looking characters about!

With it being a smaller group, circulation was easy, and because everyone got on so well it was not difficult to feel the 'bond' that occurs when Old Boys meet. The bar took record proceeds and the winner of the Grand Raffle, and a bottle of whisky on a rubber band, was Brian Rigby. As John Whalley could not be present, Colin Monks made the lavish presentation for the photo-shoot (the results of which appear to have vanished into history). All in all, an excellent night, with good food, good beer and, most of all, good company! Our thanks go to the Hot Pot Supper Company, Steve and his staff at the Fulwood Conservative Club, and Jim Goring for organising it.

Charlie Billington

## **The Remembrance Service 2013**

Over the years the Association has been very lucky with the weather on Remembrance Sunday, and 2013 was no exception. Around 30 people turned out for the Service, and once again it was nice to welcome John and Jackie Brandwood, and Lynne Cowperthwaite from the Park School Old Girls' Association.

In his homily this year, Canon Timothy Lipscomb examined the importance of games whilst at school, and in particular rugby. He wondered if the world had been planned on a rugby field, and if so, whether it had been in the scrum, which he analogised as "a spider with lots of legs circling around". He described tackles and falls as being the stuff that Britons are made of, and how all this led up to having 'decent chaps' on the battlefield. Why was this? Well, it was down to rules and teamwork, the willingness to pass the ball on to others and learning who to depend on in the heat of battle. With (School) Forms came procedure, rules and behaviour, and some very good precedents were set at the Grammar School. Remembrance is sad, but it brings home the fact that we are alive today. And soldiers are no longer always recognisable by uniforms – perhaps Grammar School boys could do this job now! He concluded by exhorting that we should honour and cherish the memory of those that are gone, and also give thanks for our own lives.

The Association's current President, John Whalley, gave the reading, and the incoming President, Colin Monks, took part in his first Kohima Address. At the postlude David Scott-Thomas gave a splendidly-spirited rendition of Walton's 'Crown Imperial', a superb accompaniment to the repair for the excellent refreshments! It took some time for the group to disperse, during which the Secretary took possession of a PGS voltmeter, which had come all the way from Australia by courtesy of Alastair Kinloch! Our thanks go to Canon Timothy and all his staff at the Minster for such a memorable afternoon.

Charlie Billington.

## Museum of Lancashire Visit

On Tuesday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 25 members paid a visit to the Museum of Lancashire in Stanley Street, Preston. There would have been more, but a minor football match was in progress nearby at the time. The welcome was most hospitable, and tea and coffee were served prior to our tour of the building, which itself was most impressive. It was originally the Court House where many miscreants, including impoverished young children, were harshly sentenced to severe punishment, and even transportation to Australia, for such petty crimes as stealing a loaf of bread to appease the hunger in their bodies. Though recently renovated, many of the building's old features have been retained, and there is an excellent exhibit of the Justice System, highlighting the pioneering Lancashire Police Force from its inception to the present day. The Judges' bench and regalia is on display, and there is always some exhibitionist who has to don the robes and show off. Unfortunately I cannot recall the name of that particular member (but see the Website!).

Our Tour Guide was very interesting, professional, entertaining and extremely knowledgeable about the history and culture of Lancashire, despite the fact that "E war a lad fray Yarkshyre".

There are numerous other superb displays including Roman artefacts, early working life in the mills and agriculture, the birth of entertainment with music hall and cinema, the terrors of life in the trenches of the World Wars, and the blitz. Apart from the static exhibits there are two rooms used for local people, companies and organisations to have their own temporary displays, so it changes throughout the year.

I'm sure that our members had a very enjoyable evening, and several expressed their surprise and pleasure at the wealth of information and material on display, which both brought back memories and invoked nostalgia.

Some have said that they will return with partners and families, in order to take more time to look in detail at the treasures to be found in the heart of our historic city, several of whom did not even know it existed. If you haven't been it's well worth a visit, and I feel certain that if we include it again on next year's Calendar, it will be well attended.

Jim Goring

### In Memoriam - Members lost during 2013 (as currently known)

Carefoot CMJ (Colin)	1944 - 1949		4th November
Challen R (Ron)	1929 - 1934	Harris	5th March
Martin Dr DG (David)	1942 - 1950	Harris	29th November
Mills EJ (Eric)	1944 - 1949	Miller	1st December
Moxon R (Ron)			20th November
Oakley Dr DP (Donald)		Aged 90	23rd December
Sunderland H (Harry)	1938 - 1945	Goodair	29th November

### New Members in 2013 (post the Annual Dinner)

Clarke PB (Peter)	1959 - 1963	Thornley
Wilcock NT (Norman)	1955 - 1962	Miller

## MOOR PARK HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

If you haven't been back to our Alma Mater, you really should make the effort while you still have the energy to complete the tour because the building has doubled in volume since our day, though the central portion [our School] appears much as it did when we were pupils. It's only when you enter the building that some of the changes become apparent: probably the first thing that you will notice is how bright and clean everything appears, which is certainly in contrast to the rather sad, shabby, dull and grubby establishment of my days.

As you probably know, the School opened its doors on its present site in 1913, and, despite the familiar frontage, you will be amazed at the many changes of use of some of the parts we remember – for instance, the Chemistry Lab, which once housed Chunky Rogers, is now a Library/Resource Area. Computers, which were unheard of in our day, are everywhere, but it is still possible to find bits that we do remember – some classroom doors, ancient flooring to the main corridors is still going strong, the stained-glass windows, and so on.

Until recently, the School was effectively a highly successful mixed 11 – 16 Comprehensive School which recently achieved the distinction of being rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted inspectors. This is a rare achievement for High Schools. Whilst there have been many building extensions in the years, during the last year, the School opened a VIth Form [perhaps an appropriate way to mark its 100 years in Moor Park Avenue] and this has seen a further extension in the building programme with a purpose-built VIth Form unit at the Deepdale Road end and a state-of-the-art Sports Hall at the end of the yard, where once stood Mrs Singleton's Canteen.

The administration and curriculum are far removed from the system that we would recognise, as is the professional expertise of the dedicated staff. Nevertheless, the School seeks to maintain its links with the Association, as shown by the fact that two Members of the Association are Governors of the School. As one of these, I can honestly say that I find the School an exciting and vibrant establishment where the pupils are happy, polite and industrious and that the Staff are friendly, hard-working and extremely professional.

Should you join us on our annual pilgrimage (see calendar), I am sure that you will enjoy your trip down Memory Lane and will be proud to have been part of the history which has produced such an outstanding school.

Tony Olivine

### Hugh Carnegie Rain. 1896-1915 (PGS)

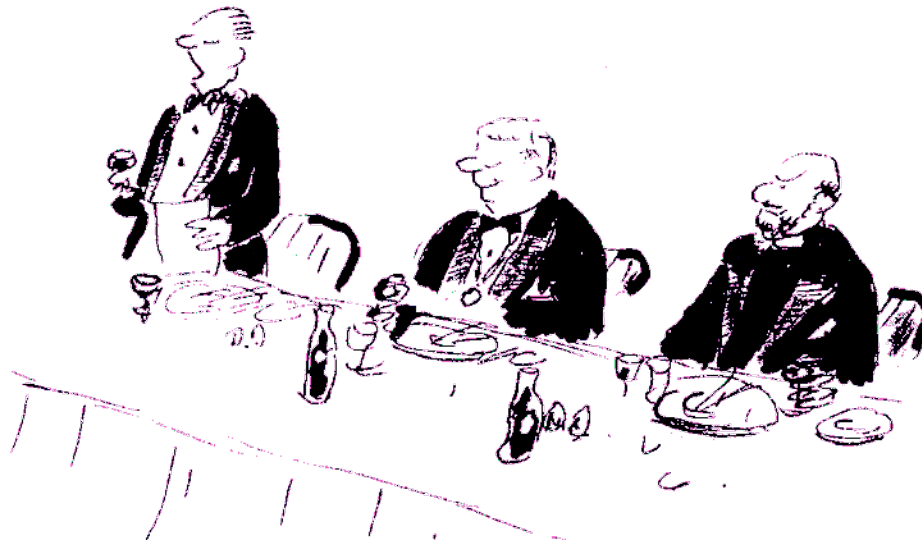
At the rear of the Minster in Preston, there is a corner dedicated to the Old Boys of the School who lost their lives in the two world wars. Low down on the bronze tablet is the name H.C.RAIN. He attended the school as a boy and was a son of Hugh Rain, an Alderman of Preston who was my wife's great grandfather. Rain had travelled the world extensively as a member of a team of acrobats known as The Flying Ondas, in fact, most people knew him as Will Onda, as this was his stage name. At the end of his stage career, he returned to Preston, owning theatres and a film rental business in the infancy of Cinema and actually making and directing his own films, most of which are in the National Film Archives.

One such film shows a scene on Preston Railway Station in which a group of young soldiers is ready for the off to France. HCR had signed up in 1914 and joined the Preston Pals and completed his training. Although it cannot as yet be fully authenticated, it shows what is thought to be Carnie (HCR) with his mother and another much younger member of his family, standing with the group prior to the train's departure. This was to be the last time he would see his family, like many thousands of others, since he was wounded at the Battle of Loos and died of his injuries on Sept. 27th. just two hours prior to his father arriving from the UK. to visit him. He was buried in Abbeville Cemetery. His name should also have been incised on the marble linings to the walls in the Harris Museum, but due to a error in transcribing the names, he is recorded as H.C.Pain. These letters are "carved in stone" and therefore.....

Maurice Barker

## The Preston Grammar School Association Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner 2014 is to take place on 22nd March 2014, at the same venue as in the last few years. The hotel, previously known as The Swallow (and known to Prestonians as The Five-barred Gate), has been acquired out of administration by the Squire Hotel group and, following an extensive and expensive refurbishment, is now open for business.



" THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE WINE WITH ALL MEMBERS WHO WERE CAUGHT BEHIND THE CYCLE SHED WITH FELICITY GOODENOUGH! "

Courtesy of Col J H Bird.

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Here, for those of an intellectual disposition, is the PGSA interactive crossword puzzle. To try your skill please click <http://www.pgsa-plus.co.uk/xword1/xword1/index.html>.

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Did you ever notice these at school? No, we didn't either.



School



Goodair



Harris



Miller



Thornley

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This blank space is awaiting YOUR contribution.

Where is it?