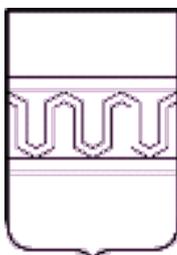
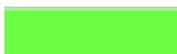


SCHOOL



GOODAIR



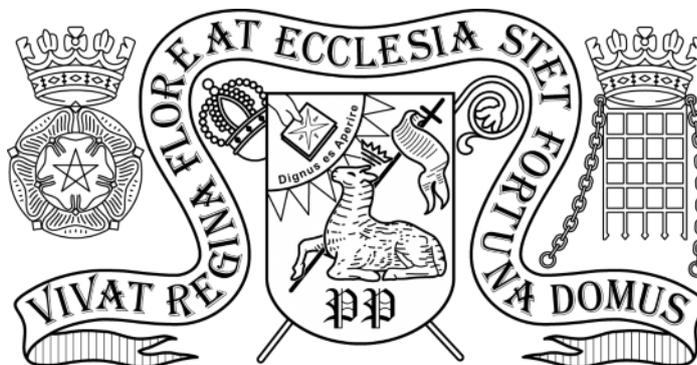
HARRIS



MILLER



THORNLEY



# The New Hoghtonian

The Newsletter of the Preston Grammar School Association - Issue 2 May 2014

## The Annual General Meeting 2014



The 2014 AGM, held at the Fulwood Conservative Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, saw the outgoing President John Mayson Whalley (top) hand over the Chain of Office to the new President Colin Monks (Thornley, 1962-68). But this was not before the meeting had given John a deserved standing ovation for his 5 years of sterling service to the Association.



As the Secretary remarked, John had been heartily involved in all things PGSA and had created a good impression everywhere, wearing his Badge of Office with obvious dignity and pride. He had been the first President to serve more than a single year since Alan Jones (1969-71), and his 5 years of office had made him the second longest serving President of all time, behind only Sir Robert Charles Brown (he of the School Organ fame), whose effective period of office had in any case been severely curtailed by the First World War and the Association's becoming defunct as a consequence of it.

The meeting itself, generally acclaimed to be "the best ever", attracted more than 40 Members and Guests, and it was particularly good to see a number of ladies there. The business was carried out effectively and efficiently, and Phil Billsborough, Jim Goring and David Swindlehurst were elected to the Executive Council for the first time. Former Treasurer, Colin Foster, who had already decided to stand down, was praised for his long service, especially unstinting at a time when it had seemed likely that the Association might cease to exist. The other serving officials were all re-elected.

As ever, the meeting was interrupted by the arrival of the hot pot supper, but no one was complaining 10 minutes later! Behind the bar Steve and his staff were rushed off their feet as it appeared that much toasting was being done. Not least for the 50th anniversary of the Old Boys' Football team winning the First Division of the Lancashire Amateur League. Of the team, only Andy Sumner was present, but it was particularly poignant that Marjorie Mills should be there to represent her late husband (and our Past President) Eric, another member of that team.

Photographs of the event can be seen on the PGSA-Plus part of the Website, and the draft Minutes will be published and displayed on the main Website soon.

Charlie Billington.

The Association's web sites are at  
<http://www.pgsassociation.org.uk/> and <http://www.pgsa-plus.co.uk>

## ANNUAL DINNER 2014

The 2014 Annual Dinner was held at the recently refurbished and newly named “Samblesbury Hotel” – Members may remember various stages in its metamorphosis : “Five Barred Gate”, “The Trafalgar” and “The Swallow”. Clearly, a great deal of money has been invested in this latest change, and the result was most impressive.

Each year the number attending seems to increase, and, if this trend continues, we may well find ourselves in the embarrassing position of having to turn away Members. This year, 83 Members and their Guests assembled and applauded, in the traditional manner, the arrival of The Top Table Party: President John Whalley, Chief Guest Bob Reeves [Chairman of The Rugby Football Union], Canon Timothy Lipscomb, Colin Monks [President Elect], Charlie Billington [PGSA Secretary], Jim McDowall [PGSA Treasurer] and David Bunting [Toastmaster].

Canon Timothy Lipscomb opened proceedings with yet another amazing grace which was followed by generous applause. The grace appears in full on the [PGSA-Plus](#) web page. Then we all sat and were served the first of our three courses by attractive and mainly foreign young ladies, who were well organised by the duty manageress, the most pleasant and efficient Alex, an asset to any organisation. The food was well up to its usual standard, and was enjoyed by all, despite the traditional [and frequent] interruptions by the Toastmaster exhorting Members who had represented the School in various sports, and some who had simply attended the School, to “take wine with The President”. I must report that John Whalley coped well with the ordeal of “Trial by Wine” and remained steady on his feet throughout.

Following the essential and obligatory comfort break, the Toastmaster introduced the Chief Guest. There have been occasions in the past when such introductions seem to have exceeded in length the speech of the Guest Speaker. This was not one of those occasions, and David Bunting is to be congratulated on condensing his introduction of such a prominent figure so well.

The format for this section of the Annual Dinner is straightforward and never varies: the Chief Guest proposes the health of the Association and the President replies on behalf of the Association.

Bob Reeves, a distinguished Old Boy of PGS, had recognised several Members and their guests in the bar, prior to the Dinner. Even though he had been away for 40 years, he still regarded himself as a Lancastrian, and, more especially, a Prestonian. At the outset, he made it clear that his theme was people and not places with which he had been closely associated, such as Preston Grammar School, Loughborough College, Bristol University or even the Rugby Football Union. He felt that it was impossible to divorce places from people and, in the case of PGS, he thought of some of the teachers, many of whom he remembered with great affection, especially those who taught sport or helped with games, because they helped shape his future. He also mentioned some fine music teachers who fostered his life-long interest in music.

Strongly influenced and encouraged by an uncle, he went to Loughborough to study Physical Education which ultimately led to 50 years of being paid to be involved with something that gave him great pleasure. He taught in Lancashire for 5 years, three of them at Lancaster RGS before going to work at Bristol University on a three year fixed term contract, from where he recently retired, having spent many years as Director of Sport, Exercise and Health.

Sport had played an important part throughout his life. He coached first class rugby, became one of Will Carling’s “old farts”, and spent 19 years on the RFU committee before becoming President this year, which he regarded as a huge honour and privilege.

He then went on to talk about two of his heroes: Tom Finney and Cliff Morgan, both were masters of their craft, and both demonstrated the very best of human qualities, on and off the field. Though both were from humble beginnings, they had risen to the very top – as Cliff Morgan once said, “because of rugby, this lad from a small mining village in the valleys can now break bread with the world.” Bob Reeves felt that rugby had done much the same for him, a lad from Farringdon Park Primary School who lost his father when he was 16, and he was delighted to see Stuart Lancaster, the present England coach, attempt to instil some of the core values of his heroes into the England rugby team.

He ended by thanking the Association for inviting him to this splendid event which brought back so many pleasurable memories and concluded by toasting Preston Grammar School Association, coupled with the name of its President, John Whalley.

Our President began by thanking David Bunting for guiding us through the evening and said how delighted he was that Bob Reeves had finally managed to join us – previous attempts had clashed with international matches. John remarked that this was the fifth time he has presided over the Annual Dinner, having accepted the office for one year. His time as President had only been exceeded by Sir Robert Brown [1912 -1925], the donor of the school organ.

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John noted that, despite the School closing in the 1960's, the Association had continued to grow and was possibly involved in a wider range of activities than ever before. The future was bright because a number of younger Members were now stepping forward to take responsibility for managing aspects of the Association which he felt augured well for some years to come. He singled out one of the 'new boys', President Elect, Colin Monks, and wished him every success following his formal election at the AGM in May.

The President was at PGS from 1941 to 1951, and he remembered those days with great affection, recalling the nicknames of many of the staff. In 1947, he saw the retirement of Norman Hodgson who had been Head for 21 years and he gave several quotes from his farewell message – "I regard myself as an interpreter of tradition" and "what boys learn in school is of considerable importance, but of much greater importance is what kind of boys they learn to be." The President saw the arrival of Eric Johnson, a Headmaster perhaps best remembered for introducing rugby to a soccer-orientated school. However, the master who had the greatest influence on The President was the Head of Art, Harry Ogle, a quiet man who was a powerful influence on those he taught and knew how to bring the best out of them. His patient approach belied the fact that he had seen action in WW1 – in fact he had been awarded an MC, something not widely known until after he had retired. Such was his influence that many of his charges, including the President, went on to read architecture.

The President noted the demise of the Old Boys Football Club, which was formed in the 1906-7 season, less than 20 years after the Football League was formed. In 1930, the club was elected to the Lancashire Amateur League and won the First Division Championship in 1964. He noted that the club was finally wound up last year, almost fifty years after its greatest triumph.

The President noted the rebirth of the PGSA Newsletter - "The New Hoghtonian" - the title chosen to evoke memories of the former school magazine of almost the same name which was published throughout the halcyon days of the School. He then mentioned the extensions to Moor Park High School and Sixth Form and wished the Principal, Peter Cunningham, his team and pupils every success as they continue to build on the heritage of the former Preston Grammar School.

Finally, he thanked some of those who had contributed to the success of the evening – to Bob Reeves for finding time in his busy schedule to act as Chief Guest; to Father Timothy for his presence and eloquent Grace; to David Bunting for the precision and good humour with which he controlled the evening; and to Charlie Billington [Secretary] and Jim McDowall [Treasurer] for all their work, not only connected with this event, but also for the work that they do throughout the year. He also mentioned the work of the Cabinet and Executive Council, and thanked the Management Team of The Samlesbury Hotel.

He ended by thanking all Members and their Guests for their support, and concluded by saying the he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as President, but looked forward to enjoying next year's event from the "back benches".

Tony Olivine

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## CALLING ALL BICYCLISTS (AND WANNABES!)

The Association is organising a "Ride the Guild Wheel" event for Sunday 29th June, and all cyclists (and those others who haven't ridden a bike for years) are invited to come and enjoy a pleasant and well-lubricated day of fun. (The Guild Wheel is a continuous walking and cycling circuit of the Preston City area, formed mostly from pre-existing off-road public rights-of-way but with some minor additions to complete the circuit, set up as a permanent memorial of the 2012 Preston Guild Merchant festival).

The complete circuit is 21 miles round, but fortunately it is sumptuously furnished with a range of hostelrys and other pleasant distractions which mean that the actual distance cycled will be entirely at the choice of the individual. You can start the circuit wherever you wish, but, for the purposes of this event, we will start together from the Continental in South Meadow Lane, where there is plenty of parking) and proceed at the pace of the slowest participant. For those overcome by the excitement of the day or who, for some other reason, need rescuing there will be a recovery get-you-home facility available. Entry is free but you buy your own beer.

(If you haven't ridden your bike for years try a re-familiarisation exercise a couple of times in advance, so that when you fall off you'll be used to the pain).

Further information will be available nearer the day. If you are interested in participating please email Dave Swindlehurst at [swintastics@gmail.com](mailto:swintastics@gmail.com).

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The Continental Holiday Experience (as arranged by PGS circa 1961).

We met in Moor Park Avenue and it was soon obvious that there were only 2 First Formers - the rest were at least 4 years older. The other First Former was John Gilman from Chorley (I do not remember seeing him since!).

The Masters in charge were Charlie Wiggans and Alfie Nutter.

I remember wandering around Ostende eating chips from caravans, then somehow we got 'shopping' in Luxembourg. We actually got talking to a shopkeeper who told us, in perfect English, that you had to master 3 languages every couple of years whilst you're at school. We stayed some time with him and he was always able to greet customers in their own language. I still do not know how he did it.

The next thing I remember was staying in Nancy and there was a fairground in front of where we stayed – John and I were not allowed on the fair but we had a good view from our room – there was all sorts of happenings. Fights with flick knives and broken bottles.- It was like a scene from a Hollywood musical. We actually nipped out and bought a flick knife at the corner shop for one franc.

Then I remember going over mountains where you could see little villages from the coach window – but you could not see the road!

We went to at least 3 places in Switzerland – I remember Davos and we went up the ski lift – when we got to the top we were asked to stay in the lift and travel back down with a young German who had a very badly broken femur and leg. We were asked to look out of the window and when we were coming to a pylon we had to lift the board he was on to lessen the jarring – he still screamed.

We stayed for at least 3 days at a chalet on the side of a mountain called Wangs Pizol. – We started off drinking red wine with our meals and then the maids started bringing up wine to our room. Nobody seemed to bother what we did – I fell down a cliff and, luckily, landed in a deep bed of leaves at the side of the road. I remember climbing over our balcony, leaning forward and with John holding on to my legs, catching large moths on the balcony below. We got some plastic bags and blew them up and put the moths into them. We could not sleep for the noise of the wings flapping against the plastic – we eventually let them all free.

All I remember after that was Frank Jamieson shouting at us because the bigger lads had been banned from drinking wine – but we were still having wine brought to our room.

I have no idea how long we were away for – it seemed an age – I have less idea how we got home from Switzerland.

Anyone else remember this holiday?

There are a couple of things I remember but cannot remember the places they happened.

Jim Bryson

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## Advertisement

### Are you a shooter?

If you would like to participate in a clay-pigeon shoot please contact Tony Olivine on 01995 640106 or by email at [tony.olivine@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.olivine@btinternet.com).

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### A Visit to Ron Foreman

Peter Bonage and I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting one of our old teachers, Mr Ron Foreman, at his home in Penwortham today.

Though Peter has visited him in the past, the last time I saw him was in 1957, and I asked if we should still call him 'Sir' or Mr Foreman. He emphatically insisted that we called him Ron. I remember all of my teachers at PGS, not always with the same regard, and Ron Foreman was one that I respected and held in high esteem. During our conversation he admitted that he was not a strict disciplinarian, as were some of the others (who shall remain nameless), and believed that respect was not necessarily gained by being strict.

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Though he is slightly hard of hearing and now with very poor vision, he was extremely bright, with a great sense of humour, and delighted that we had called in for a chat. All this from a man who reached 98 years of age on Saturday (26<sup>th</sup> April), and is looking forward to receiving a telegram from the Queen in a couple of years' time.

His life has always been in teaching. He went to Liverpool Institute High School for Boys, followed by University. His education and ambitions were then interrupted by the Second World War when he spent some time in "Intelligence" – though we did not discuss this aspect of his life. After the War he began his only teaching post, at Preston Grammar School, and continued there until his retirement.

He remembers the School with great fondness, generally enjoyed the experience and, with hindsight, would not have wanted any other career. Asked if he knew that he had a nickname at School, he replied "Was it Rusty because of my hair (which has now changed from red to silver)?" He was highly amused when told that it was "Carrots". He also laughed when I said that I always thought teachers knew everything. He loved languages, teaching Spanish, Portuguese and French, but admitted only to being a linguist and having no interest in, or knowledge of any other subjects, especially Physics.

He generally got on well with most of the other teachers - some better than others – but, being a sociable but not very social individual, he did not spend much time out of school with his peers. He said he was considered by some to be a bit of a 'Bolshevik'. He was all in favour of progress and 'change for the better' and his views didn't go down well with some who preferred the status quo.

He was involved in the annual School plays and thought it was ridiculous that boys should have to play the part of girls - they didn't walk like girls and didn't act like girls. He thought that there should be joint productions with girls playing the part of girls etc, and it would be better for everyone if there could be more academic interaction between the Boys' and Girls' Schools, but this was deemed outrageous by teachers from both PGS and the Park School. How times have changed.

He still loves languages, likes to get outside into the garden when it's fine, and has always enjoyed playing the upright piano which has pride of place in his living room. He shook us warmly by the hand and invited us back for a chat whenever we feel like it. It would give us great pleasure to take him up on his kind offer in the not-too-distant future.

Jim Goring (with Peter Bonage), 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.

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### **Visit to the PNE Football Ground**

On a fine and sunny Tuesday morning in February, 27 Association members and their guests gathered outside the Nike Megastore - better known as the PNE Club Shop - outside North End's ground on Deepdale Rd. Most of those present had called to see all of the floral tributes, scarves and shirts adorning the Splash Statue on their way as, sadly, this was the Tuesday after Preston's greatest son, and probably the world's greatest-ever footballer, Sir Tom Finney, had died aged 91.

The air of gloom was soon dispelled however upon meeting our host for the day, Simon Nash, better known to the younger members of our party as the one and only Deepdale Duck. Simon (minus his webbed feet for the day) was ably assisted by a delightful young lady from the Deepdale Community Programme by the name of Rachel Brennan and they wasted no time in ushering our party into the stadium via a gate in the corner between the Sir Tom Finney and Alan Kelly stands.

The first sight to greet us was that of the groundsman, Pete Ashworth, mowing the pitch. Simon told us that the pitch is mown daily and that the groundsman walks 7 miles on this part of the pitch maintenance alone. Walking along the pitch to the half-way line, we then climbed the steps up to the Directors' Box and my grandson Sebastian had the honour of sitting in the President's seat which belonged to the late, great, Sir Tom himself. A moment he will always treasure.

We then proceeded round the ground to the 6,000-seat Bill Shankly Kop, where away supporters are normally housed, and to the police cells underneath the stand. Phil Billsborough reckoned that he had had the pleasure of inviting one or two naughty boys to spend a few hours in those cells during his time with the Constabulary, and

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given the size of Phil it wasn't an invitation you would want to turn down! Some reckoned it was the sort of facility that some former Latin and French masters would have liked to see installed at the old School and I suspect they may be right.

From there we rapidly moved on, having ensured that no small boys or girls had been 'accidentally' left in the cells, to the maintenance equipment area in the corner of the ground between the Kop and The Invincibles Pavilion. There we saw the garishly-painted Donkey Lashers Workshop - a maintenance shed painted a sickly tangerine hue. I, for one, came over all queasy at the sight of Tangerine in Deepdale! I never would have believed it.

Our next port of call was the technical area by the pitch side and the seats where the managers, coaching staff and substitutes sit during the game. Once again the youngsters were allowed to take up their seats in this area and can say that they have seen a match from Simon Grayson's viewpoint. Then it was off down the players' tunnel past the TV interview area to see the changing rooms. First was the away team's area, which according to Simon is amongst the best in League 1. One interesting aspect of this was the large patch of glue on one wall where AEK Athens had stuck up a number of religious icons prior to their pre-season friendly against North End. It can't have helped much as AEK lost 1-0.

Simon also dismissed as utter bunkum the stories about the previous manager, Graham Westley, having trashed the away dressing rooms prior to matches last season, but he could confirm that John Beck was prone to forgetting to have the hot water turned on in the away dressing room showers! The lads then got to play with the buzzer that the referee sounds to let the teams know that they need to get out in the tunnel for kick off; Simon also let it be known that he kindly offered to share his own dressing room with the young lady who has been appointed to run the line at League games. Strangely this offer had been declined.

The next port of call was the Medical Room, which was much smaller than expected, but as Simon explained this was for match day use only with the main centre being at the Club's Springfields training ground where most of the remedial work takes place.

It was then on to the Home Team changing room which still had diagrams plastered on the wall showing players' positions for various set plays and was far more spacious than the accommodation given to the away side. The final room in this area was Simon Grayson's small lounge where he entertains visiting managers once the game has finished. It was equipped with comfy chairs, a TV, and a drinks cabinet - so all very civilized really.

Rachel then showed us round Deepdale's Study Lab, where a lot of the club's community work takes place. We were told about the Futsall programme, where students take a BTEC course in Sports Sciences and get the opportunity to play in the Futsall League at the indoor facility in Leeds each Wednesday. From this area underneath the Alan Kelly Stand it was round to the NHS Minerva Centre which forms part of The Invincibles Pavilion and which the NHS rents from the club. There we were shown some of the executive lounges and the 21 executive boxes which are named after some of the Club's great players. We even got to visit Club owner Trevor Hemming's box which is twice the size of any other and is bigger than most peoples' living rooms. Very impressive!

It had been a long, but very interesting couple of hours, particularly for the youngsters, who included Maurice Barker's grand-daughters Claudia and Jessica, Dick Bettess' grandson James and my own mob, Sebastian, Nathaniel, Bartholomew and Theodore.

The tour concluded back in the Sir Tom Finney reception area where we all had a chance to look at some of the trophies and cups that our famous old Club has won over the years. Given the Club's current league position it would be very fitting if the First Division Championship Trophy could be added to this collection at the end of the season as I am sure that it would bring delight not only to Prestonians all over the world, but to one very special Prestonian who is watching on from his seat in the Grandstands of Heaven.

Brian Rigby, March 2014.

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### The Roebuck Cup 2014

This highly-enjoyable bowls competition will take place at Guy's Eating Establishment, Bilborrow on Wednesday, July 9th, starting at 11.00 and will cost around £10 which includes hire of equipment and a splendid buffet lunch. This is another fun day out and not a competition for professionals. If you intend to take part please email or 'phone Tony Olivine (tony.olivine@btinternet.com or 01995 640106) who will issue the necessary info in good time.

### In Memoriam

Bamber	Eric Granville	c1930-37		15/05/2014
Blanquet	Michael Arthur ("Mike")	Miller 1953-58		20/03/2014
Fielding	Dennis James	Thornley 1962-67	Non-member	05/04/2014
Hadwen	Alick	Goodair 1949-1954		27/05/2014
Holgate	Harold James ("Bill")	Miller 1935-42		01/03/2014
Picton	Thomas John ("Jack")	Goodair 1956-64		19/02/2014
Steele	David	Harris 1949-54(?)	Non-member	14/02/2014

### New Members

Dawes	Geoffrey ("Geoff")	Miller 1955-62	
Marsland	Anthony ("Tony")	Harris 1951 -55	
Till	John	Harris 1954-61	

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### Memorabilia Corner

David Holmes (Miller, 1959-66) recently presented a whole collection of artefacts to the Association archive. Most had belonged to his late father, whom many of you will remember as the well-loved and much-respected English Master, Les Holmes. Included in the collection are several photos (some long ones), many Hoghtonians from the late 1940s, Speech Day and Events Programmes (amongst which the unveiling of the War Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1925) and perhaps most significantly, the Prefects' Declaration Book, which contains the signatures of Prefects from 1947 to the official closing of the School in 1969. There are also transferred-from-film DVDs of the School Camp and the 1958 Trip to Nîmes, which may in time be made accessible to all Members. The Association is pleased to place on record its appreciation of this wonderful gesture by David.

Similarly, the Association also thanks Carole Kent, daughter of the late Ronald Crook (Harris (?), 1931-34), who passed away in 2010. She presented a number of Association-related ties, one of which is of the striped design sadly no longer available to Members. Still to come are a couple of shields, one of which at least is of PGSA origin. However, on the ties, I have been unable to identify two of them (pictured), and of course they may not be PGS-related. One appears to have a tank logo on it, whilst the other, with the Red Rose, appears to have signals or meteorological connotations. **Please get in touch with David Swindlehurst or myself if you can help.**

Charlie Billington.



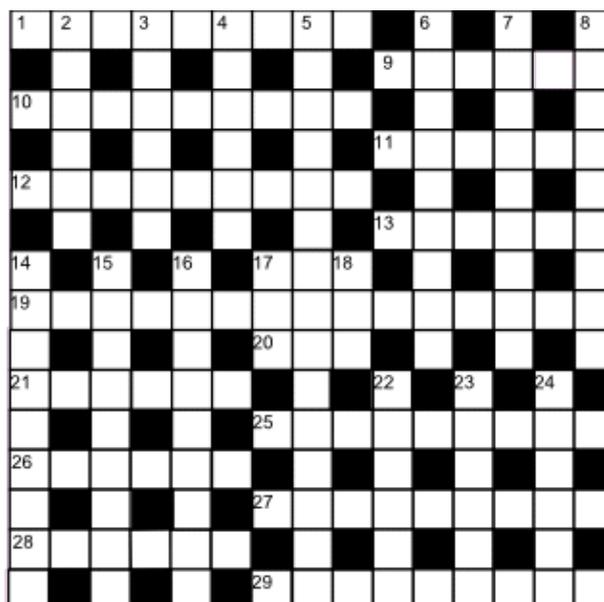
Crossword No 2

Across

1. Earthy writing (9)
9. Current expert mixed up (6)
10. Frivolous aspect of debts (9)
11. Net! (6)
12. He's courteous, but may prefer brunettes (9)
13. Idiots take a point and get the birds! (6)
17. Second-class alien (3)
19. Aerial hazards (7,8)
20. Khaki fort (3)
21. More careless but brings home the bacon (6)
25. Posts of idle gain (9)
26. High-speed chat (6)
27. Abuse (9)
28. Spiral supports (6)
29. 27 across might involve this (9)

Down

2. Avoids capture (6)
3. Scottish cries (6)
4. Tolerates (6)
5. Pulling work (7,8)
6. Play with a dead bat (9)
7. Frosty? Not at a wedding one hopes (9)
8. Stress (9)
14. First (9)
15. Angry? Bends for weapons (9)
16. Drench this flower? No need (9)
17. Seed or reed? (3)
18. Prong loses note to beat (3)
22. Wish for river to swallow 12 across (6)
23. A pint or 2 will do (6)
24. Info as well for this bird (6)



Send your answer to:

The Hon Secretary,  
12, Coniston Avenue,  
Ashton-on-Ribble,  
Preston PR2 2HS

And you may win a Prize!

This puzzle can also be done on line at  
<http://www.pgsa-plus.co.uk/xword2/index.html>

Editor's Note

The next issue will include some interesting information about Old Boy Herbert Ponting, photographer extra-ordinaire and Antarctic explorer, who accompanied Scott on the voyage to reach the South Pole.

**ATTENTION AGAIN ALL BICYCLISTS**

Correction to Page 3! Meeting point is changed to the NHS car park at Preston Grasshoppers on Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood (we have permission to use it). And we are also welcome to use the 'Hoppers' bar afterward.

\*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\*\*\*

Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control, the visit to the School Building scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June has now been postponed and re-arranged to **Wednesday 2nd July 2014**. We shall be meeting at the main entrance (Moor Park side) at 3.45pm, and there is ample space for parking. If you wish to attend please notify Jim Goring on 01772 615746 (home), 07856 824163 (mobile) or by email at [jimgormail@talktalk.net](mailto:jimgormail@talktalk.net). Alternatively his home address is 14 Southfield Drive, New Longton, Preston PR4 4XD.