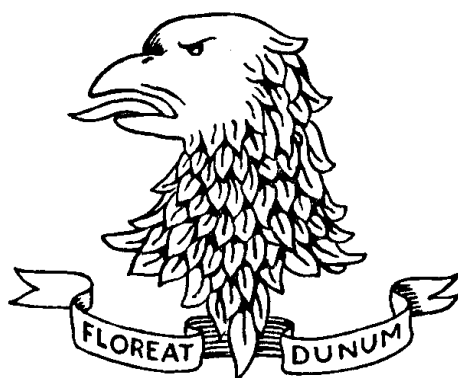


Old Dunumians Association



Patron	Paul Logan	
President	Cecil Newell	
Chairman	Norman Watt	
Vice Chairman	Gladys Taylor	
Hon. Secretary	Edwina Marr	
Hon Treasurer	Paul Johnston	
Sports Secretary	Nancy Willis	
Bulletin Editor	Gladys Taylor	
CGSFPA Rep.	Norman Watt	
Committee	John Bassett	Ian Crossett
	Graham Furey	Jim Gregg
	Milby Gregg	Anne Liggett
	Dougie Marr	Hilary McGuire
	Meta Warrin	Doreen Watt

The school had another excellent year with 27 GCSE pupils achieving 9 or more A or A* grades and 19 pupils obtaining 10 top grades. At the School's annual prize distribution it was revealed that Down High School will continue using academic selection. Mr Logan, Headmaster, said that the St Andrews Agreement enables schools to include reference to academic ability in their entrance criteria and the Board of Governors had decided that it will use academic selection provided it is lawful to do so. Our President, Commander Cecil Newell attended the Prize giving and presented the Head Girl and Head Boy with Plaques, as usual.

The School organised a very successful rugby tour to Canada and the Association were pleased to make a financial donation to this.

The Annual Carol Service was held in Down Cathedral, which was, as usual, very well attended. Under their conductor, Mr Bertie Coffey, the choir led the praise and they, the soloists and readers are all to be congratulated on the very high standard of delivery. As is now the custom the Association provided the welcome refreshments in the School after the Service.

At the time of writing there is frustration from everyone, including local politicians, at the lack of progress on the School's new multi-million pound campus on the Strangford Road. It appears that Education officials have not yet lodged a planning application although it was thought that it would be submitted before September 2007. Architect's impressions of the proposed building have been published in the local press and it would be good to have all the amenities on the one site.

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

2008 was a very special year for the Old Dunumians Association. On 9th May almost 400 past pupils and friends met in the School for what was a most memorable and enjoyable evening. We started with a wine reception and then had an excellent meal prepared by Mrs Davina Fryer and the kitchen staff. Everyone received a commemorative gift. The Display of photographs from the opening of the school to present day drew great attention and people appreciated the tours of the school guided by senior pupils. It was a special evening for four men who were first day pupils in 1933 – Francis Furey, Bill Kyle, Corry McBride and Andy Wilson.

It is with great regret that we have to inform you that Andy Wilson died in October 2008. At the time of the reunion he was in poor health but was determined to come from Canada to his beloved Down High School. Five years ago it was Andy who first suggested a 70th Anniversary reunion so we had much to thank him for.

SPEAKER EVENING

Continuing our celebrations, on 13th May Rev Dr Donald Watts and Dr Anne Watts were our special speakers. They left D H S in 1966 and 1964 respectively and their father Norrie Watts, (English teacher), is remembered with great affection by many former pupils. We enjoyed hearing about their varied careers since leaving school.

GOLF OUTING

Conditions were nigh perfect for our Annual outing on the Annesley Links at Royal County Down on Thursday 8th May 2008,

Fifty nine members and guests played the demanding course in perfect weather. After an enjoyable meal in Mourne Golf Club players gathered with some ODA committee and special visitors from USA, Canada, Bermuda and New Zealand.

President Cecil Newell presented prizes as follows:

Lady Visitor (1) Ann McNiff (2) Ann Douglas (3) Eileen Whitson

Lady Member (2) Maureen McIlwaine (2) Kathleen Calvert (3) Gillian Speedy (4) Nancy Bailie (5) Sonia Harkness (6) Margaret Young

Men Visitor (1) Peter Blair (2) Joe Hamilton (3) Brownlow McClean (4) Mark Anderson (5) Jim Laidler (6) Paul Acheson

Men member (1) Ray McCavery (2) Derek Bailie (3) Paul Logan (4) Brian Gibson (5) John Curlett (6) Graham Caughey (7) Ivor Monaghan

Chairman, Norman Watt thanked Mourne Golf Club for the use of their Clubhouse and Royal County Down for the use of the Annesley Links and made a presentation to Richard Ferris who, having been a founding member of the Golf Society, had been in attendance at each of the last 40 years.

The Association wishes to thank Ken McCammon for again organising this very popular and successful event.

Now a date for your diary for the 41st Annual Golf Outing:

Your and your friends are invited to

ANNESLEY LINKS – ROYAL COUNTY DOWN GOLF CLUB – NEWCASTLE

On Thursday 14th May 2009

Tees reserved 16.00 – 17.00 hrs

Cards, supper and Prize Distribution in Mourne Golf Club

For all those wishing to play, a deposit of £5 per player should be sent to

Mr Ken McCammon, 5 Castle Hill, Dundrum, Co Down BT33 0NF

by Wednesday 1st April 2009

ROYAL MAUNDY MONEY

The Queen visited Armagh last March and of the 82 men and 82 women to receive the regal gifts (82p in special 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p sterling silver coins and a specially minted £5 coin) in specially created red and white leather purses, three had connections with Down High. Mr Brownlow McClean is a former teacher, Mr Desmond Linton on the Board of Governors, Mr Tom Todd's children attended D H S. Congratulations to them and the other recipients.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Committee member Graham Furey who last year was elected President of the Ulster Farmers' Union. The main enterprises on his farm at Killyleagh Co Down are cereals, beef and sheep. It has been a very busy time for Graham during such a challenging year in the farming industry.

DHS pupil Gary Burgess who received an award at the South Eastern Education and Library Annual Awards in November for 14 years full attendance at the School. The award sponsored by Fujitsu was presented by Donna Traynor BBC.

We very much regret that at the time of printing the last Bulletin we did not know that Miss Elizabeth Shiels, former biology teacher at school, had celebrated her 100th birthday.

Her niece Maimie (a past pupil) arranged a surprise party in Coleraine at which 130 guests attended and among those paying tribute to Miss Shiels was Old Dunumian Rev Dr Godfrey Brown. A very belated Happy Birthday and congratulations. We send our very best wishes to Miss Shiels.

2nd SPEAKER EVENING

In a change from tradition, the speaker invited us to visit him! So on 27th October we met in James Nicholson's Wine shop in Crossgar for a wine tasting. Jim travels the world in search of wine and he and two of his staff gave us an insight into red and white wine which of course we enjoyed sampling. All present agreed it was a very enjoyable evening in different surroundings and we thank Jim very much for his hospitality.

The editor would be delighted to receive items for the Bulletin which would be of general interest to the majority of our readers so please get in touch on 02844613743 or GETMeadows@aol.com or the Hon Secretary on 02844831503 or emtmarr@hotmail.co.uk Please also contact the Hon Secretary with change of name or address as many bulletins are returned each year –“gone away”

In an attempt to save postage we would like, in future, to forward the Bulletin to members by e-mail so would be obliged, if you have not done so already, if members would inform the Hon. Secretary of their e-mail address as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

will be held in

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

ON

WEDNESDAY 25th March 2009.

AT 8 P.M.

Only the “faithful few” attend the A G M despite all our pleas!

Is there any possibility that YOU could attend this year?