

Fyling Hall Alumni Newsletter

No 5

Welcome to the Summer 2009 Newsletter.

Since the last newsletter there have been quite a number of contacts from old pupils and staff. Emailing does seem to make such contacts easier. Gap student **Simon Gilkes (1975-76)** wrote 'I was the filling in a Thomson sandwich back in the mid-seventies'. At one point in his career he was a colleague of **Philip Shore (1965-75)**.

Another gap student, this time from the 1990s, **Struan Whitbread**, was also in touch.

Chris Lloyd (1979-89), one of those who feature on the Alex Gregg Memorial Board in the Dining Room (that is Long Dorm for those who left earlier than 1982) cycled in a short while ago. He was over briefly from Australia on business and had taken a couple of days to visit **Andrew Pern (1974-85)**, at The Star, Harome.

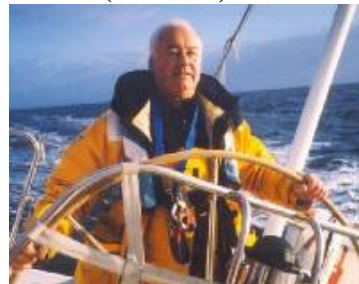


Helen Peacock, here in the 1970s, wrote after seeing a photo of herself on the Alumni pictures site. It is more than thirty years since she left but she had some vivid memories of Fyling Hall. She did not enjoy her time here. 'I never complain of cold. I have been on glaciers in Iceland that were more welcoming than Posh Dorm after early church on a Sunday morning. Don't go to church any more either, I'm pretty sure I learned to be an atheist somewhere on the hill between FHS and St Stephens.' If you have not looked at the Alumni photographs recently do check them out.

Eileen Lenham sent an evocative set which have been added fairly recently. **Michael Dickinson**, who was at Fyling Hall in the 1960s, has been in the news again recently. An artist living in Istanbul, he fled Turkey after his acquittal on charges of 'insulting the Prime Minister's dignity' was overturned and he seemed likely to face a jail sentence. He had already been imprisoned briefly and shot at by a policeman while attempting to escape. He has returned to Durham. The full story can be read on Wikipedia.

Eliza Carthy, the folk singer who was at Fyling Hall in the early 1990s, has released her latest album *Dreams of Breathing Underwater*. A collection of self-penned songs described in the Guardian as 'beautiful' and 'magnificent'. One of the figureheads of the English folk revival she has had two Mercury prize nominations in her fifteen year career.

Mike Coates (1955-62)



I mentioned Mike last newsletter for his interesting reminiscences about Captain Flood. Since then he has been in the news skippering a 72ft yacht to the island of Jan Mayen in the Arctic Circle. The island, about 600 miles west of Norway is rarely visited and the journey can be treacherous with wild seas and winds reaching 70 knots. The maximum summer temperature is around 5 C and there is only a six week ice-free period. The good news is the midnight sun means no navigating in the dark. Mike's son, **Marcus Coates (1986-99)** has taught at FHS since 2003.

Lieutenant-General Sir Allan Taylor
Fyling Hall has long standing connections to the armed forces. Many pupils have come from forces families and many have served in forces after leaving.

Allan Taylor was at Fyling Hall in the 1930s and may well have been the most high ranking ex-pupil the school has produced. It would be interesting to hear of any others.

He clearly had an immensely successful military career but there were other sides to his character. The Times reported: 'His liking for fast cars and skilful driving was a solitary indulgence, although one well known to military colleagues and the constabulary.

Reportedly he once used the German police photograph of his Porsche's registration number and speed for the illustration of his Christmas card.'

He also sent both his daughters to Fyling Hall.

When he died in 2004 there were long obituaries in both The Times and The Daily Telegraph and the Telegraph link is:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1465691/Lt-General-Sir-Allan-Taylor.html>



Fyling Hall Help for Heroes

Just a reminder about the forthcoming rugby match and dinner being organised by Jof Hardy for Help for Heroes. To be held at school on the 26th September. For more information please visit the web page Jof has set up.

<http://sites.google.com/site/fylinghallhelpforheroes/Home>

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See the picture for some of the many auction items and the itinerary.



Friday 25th Sept 2009

Pub Quiz
(Whitby Rugby Club)

Saturday 26th Sept 2009

On the Fyling Hall Sports Field

Pre Match Kicking Competition
11:00

Old Boys House Rugby Match
KO 12:00
Blues v Reds

Evening Dinner
19:00 for 19:30 Start

Silent Auction
19:00-21:00
The Majority of smaller items

After Dinner Speech
Given By John Bentley

Live Auction
Silent Auction Winner Announcements
The Major Items TBC

Live Band
Looking for H

Wishing you all a good summer. Please keep e-mails and photos coming.