

Cadet Corps Reunion

The sixth CCF Reunion was held on the 21st of September at Mr. Grundy's, Ashbourne Road, Derby, following two postponements due to Covid.



Derby School Cadet Corps Reunion
Grundy's Bar, The Georgian House Hotel, Ashbourne Road, Derby, 21st September 2021

Standing L-R: Rodney Gallagher; Geoff Bowley; Andrew Polkey; Bob Pettigrew; Dick Herring; David Zydzienski; Roger Bate

Seated L-R: Eric Wood; Neville Barr; Dave Coxon

Since the last get-together the attendees were saddened to remember the death of Barrie Sheard, the Old Derbyian Archivist and founder member of the Corps Reunion group. We also reflected on the passing of Mike Foulke, the last officer when the Corps came to an end in 1973, who regularly put in an appearance before his death last year and who donated the Victorian commanding officers' sword to the Society's archive.

Both the sword and the Drum Major's mace were on parade at the gathering, where a presentation was made of previously unseen black and white photographs discovered by Barrie and his team, Maurice Cass, and Andrew Polkey, when they accompanied him to the successor school at Moorway Lane Littleover, where part of the Derby School archives still remain. Copies of these photos of the Corps from 1900 to 1973 were presented as a slideshow projected onto a screen and a commentary provided,

discussing, where possible, the location and the identity, where known, of the individuals pictured.

The party then paused for a bar lunch and a chat about old times, before the group photograph was taken at the end of the proceedings. It was a good opportunity to meet former chums and cadets in the Corps and there were several new faces who appeared for the first time, and who will hopefully put in an appearance next year. Particular mention must be made of Col (ret.) Dick Herring who travelled down from Durham and was instrumental in organizing a brass memorial plaque to honour the 70 ODs who died in the Great War, and to be installed (Covid permitting) next year at St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres



Geoff Bowley (above) was at Derby School 1951-56, and a member of the CCF Band. He then became a founder member of the OD rifle club which flourished in the 1970s and 80s and is shown here proudly holding one of the shooting trophies he won as a member of the team.

Particularly welcome were two of the former commanding officers, Capt. Eric Wood (1964-1971) and Capt. Bob Pettigrew (1960-62) – the latter being in office at the time of the Corps Centenary in 1962 when Gen. Sir Oliver Leese inspected the cadets on Parker's Piece. A colour film was made of the event and was one of the items discovered along with the photographs at Moorway Lane in 2015 and later converted to modern DVD format. Both this film and a book describing the 111 years of the history of the Corps can be obtained from the OD website on-line merchandise section.