

# Deal Secondary marks up 50 golden years

**PAST pupils of Deal Secondary School will be rolling back the years at a reunion to mark its Golden Jubilee next week.**

The two-day celebration — on Thursday, 2 October and Friday, 3rd — has been organised by headmaster Mr. Nicholas Stacey, staff and former students.

The school has had a



**Headmaster Nicholas Stacey.**

chequered 50 years during which time it has twice been single-sex and twice, as at present, mixed.

A host of ink and chalk memories will be shared at the social evening and dinner-dance planned for the reunion.

And the school's first — and only — headmistress, Miss Barbara Rutherford has penned a short history to help jog memories, and she will be sharing her wealth of photographs and scrap-book cuttings.

Miss Rutherford, still fondly regarded by scores of pupils who keep in touch, has colourful recollections of the school's war-time years.

Those were the days when there were trenches on the games field — “now marked by sinking turf” — and school dinners were served in shelters lit by hurricane lamps. “We just grabbed what books we could and

took classes there and then,” she recalled.

Deal pupils were evacuated to Merthyr Tydfil for two years during the war and found themselves scattered amongst five schools.

“We were really proxy parents then,” said Miss Rutherford of the hardy staff, “and there was a great community

spirit”. The anniversary of the evacuation was another cause for celebration at the school last year.

The post-war years twice saw the raising of the school leaving age and great re-organisation to form the Elizabeth Carter School and the Deal Central School for Boys.



**Fond memories for former headmistress Barbara Rutherford.**



**The line-up for Wales: Deal school staff who moved their classes 300 miles. Miss Rutherford is in back row, third from left.**