



Class of 1970's call to go back to school for photo

BY TOM BETTS

DID you go to St John's Secondary Modern School in Margate in 1970?

If so, you may be able to help five ex-pupils who are keen to re-create a photo taken that year.

Forty years after the image were taken, five 'old boys' have come together thanks to a copy of the picture that was scanned and shared via the internet.

When the picture cropped up on the Facebook and FriendsReunited internet sites the idea took shape.

Now the people involved in the restaging attempt are trying to get the 270-plus people who featured back together for a reshoot.

Memories

The five ex-students, now all in their 50s, met last summer for a drink and they have subsequently contacted many of those in the original picture.

Former school vice-captain Keith Castro said: "Through Facebook, FriendsReunited and emails the five of us shared the original picture and many hilarious memories.

"We followed up with an evening of brain-



THE BOYS ARE BACK: Five former St John's pupils who are aiming to get as many former pupils to join them for an updated version of a school photograph taken in 1970

storming and beer and eventually decided we would attempt to re-create the school picture forty years on."

The group are hoping to reshoot the photo on Saturday, June 5.

Keith said: "That gives us roughly five more months to bring everyone together. Sadly, some

close schoolmates have passed away and several others are now living abroad, but we are confident we can get the vast majority of those in the original picture back together for another shot 40 years on."

Other old schoolmates can still get in touch through a website that has been created on which they can also view the original picture and register for the 2010 event.

Richard Hurst, who manages the website, said: "Since June 2009, when we launched, we have had a great response and many people have emailed in.

"We've all been getting together the names of people in the picture and will all be staying in contact. People have also sent in pictures and drawings which will be posted on the site shortly.

"There's a good handful of ex-St John's kids from the class of 1970 now in Australia. I thought transportation finished sooner than that, but hey, it just shows what I got out of history lessons."

The group plans to restage the photograph in its original location – the old St John's School playground.

• **Anyone who attended the school or just knows someone who attended St John's in 1970 can contact the group by emailing stjohns1970@btinternet.com or by calling 07771 289 710.**



HOLE: Panel was removed from cliff after fall 'Main development will not be delayed'

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just not good enough either to build the development next to it or to support the main access road to it."

However, a spokeswoman for Thanet council, which struck the deal with SFP for the Royal Sands development, said: "There is no reason to believe it has further implications for the stability of the cliff façade or cliff-face as a whole. This blockwork panel is not a load-bearing part of the cliff façade structure."

The cliff-wall part of the project has already cost the council some £985,000 – it is thought the latest problem will add another £15,000 to that figure.

Walker Construction UK Ltd carried out refurbishment work on the façade in 2007, but the appearance of the hole has led to the whole panel being taken down to be rebuilt by council contractors.

The spokeswoman said: "The defect was not present at the time of the 2007 refurbishment works. It was caused by a defect in the 1930s blockwork panel.

"It is a relatively minor repair. It will be completed within the next two weeks and will not delay the main development work."

Cardy boss Michael Stannard told Yourthanet: "Clearly we want to get on with the project, but we will be seeking assurances from Thanet council that the public, as well as our staff, are not at any risk now or in the future."

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BAD SIGN? Euroferries logo has been reverted to the original Fred Olsen Express livery

Paint job casts fresh doubts over future of new ferry route

THE logo of the company due to be operating a ferry service between Ramsgate and Boulogne has disappeared from the side of the boat earmarked for the route.

Its removal casts further doubt over when the service might start, with the ship's owner, Fred Olsen, saying it now had "nothing to do" with Euroferries, the operator.

The Euroferries logo on the side of the Bonanza Express has been painted over and replaced with the original Fred Olsen livery that was there before.

The company's website still lists the catamaran as the vessel that will make the 75-minute crossings, but the new paint job throws yet more doubt on the future of the route, the opening of which was

delayed twice last year, amid disappointment from customers who had bought tickets to go to France.

Euroferries offered refunds or upgrades for disappointed customers and said the service would start to sail in the new year.

These pictures were taken by a Tenerife resident last week and posted on his website.

A spokeswoman for Fred Olsen, which owns the Bonanza Express, told Yourthanet: "I don't think we are having any dealings with Euroferries right now. As far as I know, we have nothing to do with them at the moment."

The service has been delayed three times over the past year, with start dates in March, August and November all aborted.



INSPIRATIONAL: Campaigner Jessica Wales Signing up to donate your organs the best way to honour Jessica

A YOUNG Westgate-on-Sea woman who had just had a double lung transplant has died.

Jessica Wales lost her fight for life on Wednesday last week.

The 20-year-old suffered from cystic fibrosis and had the transplant over the Christmas period after a suitable donor had been found.

The inspirational youngster had been an active campaigner for organ donation and her courage was praised by a host of high-profile people such as Sarah Brown, the Prime Minister's wife, and singer Natalie Imbruglia.

Sarah Milne, a supporter and friend of Jessica, called the news "very sad" and urged people to sign the NHS Organ Donor Register that Jessica had campaigned for so hard over the last few years.

• **If you want to join the NHS Organ Donor Register, or for more information, phone 0300 123 3232; alternatively visit www.uktransplant.org.uk.**



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