

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

(Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association)

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER November 2007

General

The date for next year is April 12th 2008 so please make a note of it and come and join us. Bring a new member or any Old Boy and we will try to persuade him to join – it worked this year! Details for booking will be in the next – February edition of the bulletin.

The date is fixed for the Centenary Reunion as July 18th 2009.

The centenary subcommittee has met under the chairmanship of Richard Whitmore. The prospects for 2009 are looking exciting and we are looking forward to a special celebration on the Saturday evening. The committee hopes to arrange a number of events during the week leading up to the dinner on Saturday evening. So why not book your holiday in Hitchin for the whole week as it also coincides with the Hitchin Festival period so there will plenty going on. We would welcome any ideas and comments about what you would like to celebrate this momentous occasion, so please let us know what you think.

John Edwin Davey (1951) passed away at home on the 8th October aged 73. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Eileen and family.

Howell Peregrine (1956) We were very sorry to read of the death from cancer on 20 March 2007 of Howell Peregrine (1950-1956). From Hitchin Grammar School he gained an Exhibition at Jesus College, Oxford and in due course became Professor of Applied Mathematics in the University of Bristol.

In the latter days of T E Jones, there were very few unexpected events at Hitchin Grammar School, and so Form 3A was very surprised in 1951 to be joined by D H Peregrine, after he had spent a term in Form 1B, two terms in Form 1A and jumped the second year altogether. His academic ability was so natural and so pleasantly carried that it never seemed to attract any resentment - we were proud to have him in our form even though we never got to know him as well as we later might wish.

This friendly respect was reinforced by his use, almost as soon as he was seventeen, of an ancient Bentley to commute between the school and his home out in the sticks - near Therfield. No other pupil had ever travelled by car, and his was even parked next to the Headmaster's house. He would not argue with Peregrine over the solution to a maths problem, so why should he disagree over this?

In the physics laboratory, he seemed almost by accident to catch on printing paper a beautiful fringe pattern (caused by the interference of light waves). So many years later, when Howell Peregrine joined the celebration by our Physics Sixth of Ernie Whitworth's ninetieth birthday, it was fitting to hear that research into sea waves was one of his absorbing interests.

From Bristol we learn that Howell Peregrine made his name as early as 1966 with a paper on shallow water waves and that over the years he developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of fluid mechanics and became an authority on the formation, the breaking and the impact of sea waves. It is unsurprising that he became renowned for 'a natural physical insight linked to a well-developed skill in mathematical modelling'.

One of his colleagues writes 'I cannot stress strongly enough that he had an enormous reputation world-wide in the field of fluid dynamics and was widely known and respected.' He was also known for his physical fitness, his knowledge of natural history and the love of his family, to whom we offer our profound sympathy at his early death.

David Walker (1957)

Members:

Richard Atkinson (2000)

Richard is teaching at Stoke Damerel Community College in Plymouth. He is second in the History Department and also Head of Rugby. I am sure Barry Robinson will be pleased to see this news.

"Book of Remembrance" remembered

Members may recall that some years ago the Association commissioned a "Book of Remembrance" to record the stories of "Old Boys" who lost their lives in the Great and Second World Wars and whose names appear on the School War Memorials.

The book is a handsome little volume, A5 in a blue cover with yellow lettering that would grace any bookshelf and several requests have been received for it in recent months. With the supply having dried up and a second edition being most unlikely, it is interesting to note that a copy recently changed hands in the second-hand book market for £15. Copies are available to members at £4 each if collected, or £5 each inclusive of postage and packing to U.K. addresses. Should you be interested, please contact David Baines on 01284 828091, or at dcbaines@globalnet.co.uk or at 7a Beechcroft, Stanningfield, Bury St. Edmunds. Suffolk. IP29 4RT. Cheques should be made payable to "Hitchin Boys' School".

Since the book was written, quite an amount of additional information has become available including the stories of two "Old Boys" not mentioned on the School War Memorials. Taking advantage of modern technology to the best of a septuagenarian's ability, David has produced an up to date version on diskette (floppy disk) using XP Home and Word 2000. If you would like to make a donation of £5 or more per diskette for the benefit of the School Library made payable to "Hitchin Boys' School", David can provide members with a free copy to U.K. addresses.

"Ghosts of Reginald Hine" by Richard Whitmore

You can get a copy from Richard directly or from Eric Moore's bookshop. The cost is £20.00 + postage if required. Richard's contact is 01462 433261 or email: oldnewsman@btinternet.com

Contact Address for HBSOBA

Communications for the Association may be sent to me at Beck Springs, Beckett End, Foulden. Thetford. Norfolk. IP26 5AF. Phone: 01366 328153 or e-mail Sheila_David@dstancombe.freeserve.co.uk Or via our website www.oldboysonline.com.