



Quarterly Bulletin



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY HITCHIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

MAY, 2012

We say goodbye to Tony Buckland, who put in an enormous amount of effort, behind the scenes, over the last two years and before that when he was just a Committee Member. We are very Grateful to Tony and really pleased that he has 'volunteered' to come onto the Committee for another spell.

Keith Allard is our new president and we wish him a very pleasant tenure of office. Here is his 'short' CV for those who haven't had the pleasure of his acquaintance :-

Born Chelmsford but got out of there within two months to avoid the Essex lad tag!!
Brought up in Dorset close to the Jurassic Coast so I just had to be a Geographer.
Educated at Hardye's School - the Dorchester equivalent of Hitchin Boys Grammar
Geography degree at Bristol University – couldn't have chosen a better place to read Geography as it was at the centre of the new developments in the subject.
Spent a year as a graduate trainee at Bowater Scott down in Gravesend but once I had cottoned on to the thought that all my efforts were going into producing rolls and rolls of Andrex I looked for a more erudite way to earn my living
Hence a PGCE year in York – in reality we seemed to spend more of our time up in the Yorkshire Dales than in College but that suited me fine!
On to the Isle of Wight for my first teaching post at Cowes – inter school sport competition was great and as there were only four secondary schools on the Island you only had to win one match to get to a final! So I have success as a cup final manager on my record. In my first year my introduction to residential trips was being in charge of a group of twenty something students self catering on the Isle of Arran. Talk about in at the deep end but it didn't put me off and the students survived our cooking!
After four good years on the Island I moved on to Hitchin Boys and thirty six years and two terms later decided that the time had come to put the chalk back in the box and retire. During my time at Hitchin I have been Head of Geography, Head of Sixth Form (22 years), Head of Year Ten, Assistant Head Teacher, coached cricket and been on numerous residential (nearly into three figures) and day trips. Highlights have been undoubtedly the four week expedition to Argentina and the field trips to Iceland but there have been many others. I have been lucky enough to have worked with some great colleagues at both Cowes and Hitchin and of course some great students.
I seemed to have acquired the nickname of 'mountain goat' (amongst others) although I can't possibly think where that came from – ok I do love walking and hope to be able to do plenty of it over the next years as well as get to watch a bit more cricket now that I can do things when others are working!!!

School News

We had a very successful reunion, with a very interesting speaker and another outstanding speech from the head boy!! The last three years have been a revelation in the standard of these young men and their confidence in the face of a lot of old codgers is amazing!! I can't wait for next year's speech, he will have a lot to live up to. I am still disappointed that I cannot breach the 70 mark for attendees. If all those that came in the last three years attended at the same time we would have well over 100! So, please, all of you try to make next year.

The AGM was attended by the usual suspects and the items brought up for the Committees' attention were name badges and something to remember the long serving masters of the school. The Committee to also look at using some of the funds to help the pavilion refurbishment.

The Head gave two stimulating reports of all that the school had been doing over the past few terms. Here is his report, I would have posted it on the website but, not all of you are able to access the site.

Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to see you all here once again and I must say that since last time which was my first speech to you I have been made to feel extremely welcome by all concerned.

Save the Pavillion

We are holding an event in conjunction the Parents' Society on June 23rd. It will be a series of short Cricket Matches based on a six per side format. We need teams to enter, It will cost £5 per person (you can have a squad!!). Timing is something like 11.00am until 2.30pm and we would like six teams to enter, at least!! Please talk to your peers and I am sure that there should be enough of you to raise a team. I don't think Whites will be a necessity, in these days of casual dress, and we may be able to source some kit (Bats, Pads, Gloves, Boxes??) for you to use.

The contact point is Howard Gregory on 'howard.gregory@talktoroger.com'.

Otherwise, I will pass on messages. Please support this event, as we need to raise a lot of money to put the pavilion back into a fit for use state.

I realised how lucky I was to be here when I was off-sick for a time and the Chair of Governor's sent me an email saying "The Governing Body met today and wish you a speedy recovery – by 17 votes to 15."

But seriously...it is a fantastic school and a great community. It is impressive to find such a well-attended event and I have often used the fact of the attendance of such a range of ages as evidence when talking to the boys in assembly of how important being from Hitchin Boys' School could be in their future lives. Indeed we had a young Old Boy in assembly just this week promoting the idea of a career in engineering to the boys.

He has only been away from HBS for two years and assures me he and his friends plan to start coming to the dinner, but only in a few years from (Cont. on Page 2)

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(Cont. from Page 1) now... otherwise he said he will feel that he has never left.

Also as you know the historical aspect of the school is hugely important to me and like the boys I relish its sense of history and tradition. Of course I also want to see the school moving forward while preserving that tradition

One of the things which may be moving us forward is conversion to academy status as you know. The Governors meet next week to consider the final formal decision to make an application to convert. Unfortunately no jokes at this point.

I'm also glad to be able to report that the school has moved forward in terms of its exam results again in the year since our last get together. I received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education congratulating us on being one of the top 100 schools in the country for improvement in GCSE results. Not bad for a boys' comprehensive.

So it is a school which moves forward but against a backdrop of its very fine and very long heritage – a situation which I think is illustrated by a phrase from one of the younger boys just recently watching some of the men up on a scaffold outside the old School House where the History rooms are – they were clearly doing some electrical work– boy one said to boy two “What’s going on here do you think” boy two replied “I don’t know but I think they’re changing us from BC to AD”

Musically I continue to be astounded by the quality on display and it consistently amazes me how much better the boys are than the traditional image of schoolboy musical performance...in addition the Drama production of High Society was indeed a swlegant, elegant affair. As I will be saying again this year to the parents considering sending their sons here.... Just think how many more boys here are prepared to participate in music, in drama in the arts.... There is a humorous camaraderie in putting on the shows and performances which is without any kind of pretentiousness but full of joie de vivre and a real joy it is too.

Of course we cannot pass up the opportunity to reflect on yet another outstanding sporting year:

Just to list some of the main results which we should celebrate in Cricket, Hockey, Basketball, Football, Athletics, Swimming & Badminton

CRICKET

Yr 8, and Yr 10 team won their District Leagues

Congratulations to four of the team for being selected for Hertfordshire U'13 this season: Congratulations to Ben Smith for not only being selected for Hertfordshire U'17's this season but for scoring an unbeaten 105 not out against Bedfordshire

the Year 9 cricket team were undefeated this year until the Herts final against Haberdashers' Boys. True to HBS spirit they battled all the way to the last over, but unfortunately lost with two balls to go.

Hockey - played 52 matches, won drew 8, 27,. Both the Under 13s and Under 16s reached the Eastern Regional Finals. U13 Herts County Champions – after the Regional finals we are now in the top 50 in the country.

Basketball - Year 7 and the Senior team are District Champions

Football – unbeaten all season!

Athletics - Y7 & Y8 both Indoor District Champions;

In the Hertfordshire Schools County League After a tremendous team effort by both age groups, the junior finished 4th and the intermediate beat Haberdashers' by 3 pts to claim first place.

We also entered the English Schools Track and Field Cup for the first time and we are now ranked 10th in the entire country which is a tremendous achievement especially when you take into consideration the prestigious state and independent schools that we have beaten along the way. This result puts Hitchin Boys' on the national athletics map and illustrates the strength in depth we have in athletics at the school.

English Schools Athletics Championships 2011

Two of our boys then went on to represent Hertfordshire at the English Schools Athletics Championships running at Gateshead International stadium in front of thousands of spectators broadcast live on SKY SPORTS 2.

Max ran an unbelievable season's best time of 11.74 in his heat to progress to the semi final where he finished a creditable 7th place.

Kim, who had a personal best time of 23.1 in the 200m going in the Championships ran an incredible time of 22.65 just 1/100 of a second away from the eventual winner.

Other News

I have had an update from a member, who tells me that someone had died and I hadn't updated the School entry lists!! I think it is a task for a long cold winter's night, as I will have to change the individual files and then delete and reload them onto the web site. Please bear with me!!

This is a letter from John Schindler, an Australian Businessman:-

Many years ago whilst visiting the UK I attended an auction in the countryside and purchased just one item. It is an original panoramic high quality original photo measuring 29” wide taken in May 1920 of the students and teachers of HITCHIN GRAMMER SCHOOL. There are around 200 students and teachers (including one female teacher) posed in a portrait sitting outside the school. The quality of the photo is superb and the details very much in focus that every face is very “sharp” and easy to distinguish. I am an Australian with no links to your school but often look at this framed photo on my office wall and always find the expressions on the various faces quite fascinating. I often wonder what happened to all these men and boys. I assume many would have been lost in the Second World War?

He has since written to me and said that if I can source him a wooden 35mm cine camera for his collection, he might even donate the picture to us!! So, has anyone got such a thing, languishing in their attic, that they might be willing to open discussions with John??

Membership

With the severe hike in the cost of postage, I would like as many Old Boys as possible to give me their e-mail addresses, if they receive the Bulletin by snail mail. I have over 300 on the distribution list at present and I send out about 160 by Mail.

Jon Hunt Associates has kindly sponsored the postage costs for another year and I have purchased a number before the price went up. This will cover two more distributions of the Bulletin. After that, it will become very expensive. I always send out the e-mail version as a ‘blind copy’ so that only your e-mail address is given to your mail and no other, that is as secure as I can make it.

If you are willing, please send me a mail, with your Name and Address, so that I can check it and then update the e-mail list (hbsobasec@gmail.com).

Thank you.

We are still around the 500 mark, as we win some and lose some!!

I get regular queries from the web site but they are not so keen to send me the money!!

Swimming – Not only are we District Champions; at Junior, Intermediate & Senior

But we also entered the East of England Swimming Champions. The East region comprises all secondary schools in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. After an amazing night of swimming, all three age groups from HBS were crowned champions – and all this without a pool!

Badminton- U16 District Champions; U16 County Champions; U16 Regional 3rd place;
U14 District Champions; U14 County Champions; U14 Regional Champions (and as we speak they are returning from the National Finals in Nottingham);

As well as the great Exam results, Music and Sport the boys get a lot of opportunity to go on school trips - Battlefields of the Somme; Auschwitz & Krakow; Paris; Lake District; Dorset field trip happening right now – despite the torrential rain in the South West - There are too many to list but the range is illustrated by the day trip to the Big Bang Science Fair at the NEC in Birmingham and recently 62 boys and a group of staff spent a week in China with 62 boys.

Next year I am planning a German trip to our twin town of Bingen-am-Rhein. I am hoping I might even be able to find a hockey team to play and get some more pictures of us playing the Germans in the local press.

Finally a couple of highlights

Youth Speaks! The Intermediate team competed in the Regional Final of Youth Speaks at the City of London Boys' School. Although two years younger than the other teams they won second place and Archie McPhee was Best Chairperson.

And then - Sport Relief - staff, the boys and especially the Senior Prefect Team raised money for charity with a combination of: Shaking buckets and demanding money from the resident in Hitchin Town Centre while staging aerobics, a living statue, sketches, live music, selling cakes and biscuits. And then in school Running the Sport Relief Mile (2012 m actually) for sponsorship; Eat-all-the-Sour-sweets-you-can-competition; Various cake sales and raffles (including Mr Hanahoe's ponytail); Guitar Hero competition; Gladiator competition; Wheelchair basketball ; y7 basketball against teachers. In the end we raised well over £ 3,750

Finally just want to mention that one of the other great things about HBS is our amazingly active Parents' Society – they are here tonight making things work and as a result of their efforts we have purchased a new minibus which is in use as we speak on the Dorset field trip and the work has already started on raising money for our next big project in equipping Science with a new computer system. For instance a night of ferret racing right here in the School Hall which well I don't know if you've ever smelled ferrets but it was worth it as another £ 1,000 was raised for projects to help the school. Hopefully you will have heard but there is a plan to bring these two excellent organisations together with an Old Boys cricket match at the Parents Society SUMMER FAIR – and can I just make a plea for the Parents Society any donations of raffle and tombola prizes gratefully received.

Now I checked last year with Peter Hollingsworth whether the speech was suitable particularly in its length and he was kind enough to say Well there was definitely a sense of awakening at the end of it.....

And so let me use the oldest line in the book

Since brevity is the soul of wit
My kindest act must be to sit

Thank you.

I have posted some pictures onto the website.

In Memoriam

Bill Bowker (1932 – 2012)

We are sad to report that Bill Bowker (1949) died on April 26th, just three months short of his 80th birthday. Bill was the elder son of F.B. Bowker, who taught mathematics to generations of boys at our school. Our centenary President Richard Whitmore (1951) had recently been working with Bill on a film "How Hitchin got an Airfield" for Hitchin Historical Society, recording Bill's contribution to local aviation. It will be premiered at the Queen Mother Theatre Studio on July 11th and 18th at 6 p.m. as part of this year's Hitchin Festival.

Richard sends this appreciation:

Bill trained as an engineering apprentice at De Havilland, Hatfield. He already held a pilot's licence when he was called up for National Service in the Fleet Air Arm, where he ended up flying jets from the iconic aircraft carrier HMS Eagle. On his return to civilian life Bill soon found himself hankering after the little aircraft in which he had learned to fly. So in 1961, with two colleagues, he founded Farm Aviation (Hitchin) Ltd, one of the first aerial crop-spraying companies in the East of England. Consisting then of just one specially adapted Tiger Moth biplane it was probably the smallest crop-spraying company as well!

Bill was also responsible for developing the Rush Green airstrip beside the Codicote Road, three miles south of Hitchin, where this photograph was taken. Farm Aviation acquired the strip in 1963 and when the company was wound up after ten years Bill continued there, trading as Bowker Air Services. Over the course of 25 years, during which time he and his colleagues acquired better, purpose-built aircraft crop-spraying work took his team all over England. During one period, when work here was quiet, he travelled to North Africa to spray the vast cotton fields of Sudan.

By the 1980s when farmers were returning to land-based systems of crop-spraying Bill began to wind down his business, giving up his pilot's licence as he approached his sixty-fifth birthday. Late in his career he became a civil servant, working as an inspector for the Civil Aviation Authority.

An ardent conservationist, Bill retained an interest in the forty-acre airstrip until well into the 21st century and did much to preserve its pastoral quality.

With family and friends he planted literally hundreds of saplings at appropriate points, many oaks among them. Although aerial spraying is no longer fashionable in this country, the airstrip still thrives as a base for light-aircraft enthusiasts who – like the pioneer crop sprayers before them – continue to share the field with local livestock.

Bill was also a founding member of Hitchin Forum – a lively watch-dog on matters affecting the quality of life in his home town. A fellow member, Ellie Clarke, writes: “What Bill didn’t know about Hitchin wasn’t worth knowing! He was interested in all transport issues in the town, attended Hitchin Vision transport group meetings for many years and helped campaign against speeding traffic on residential roads and scrap lorries in particular.

“Bill was also a founder member of CASE, the Campaign Against Stevenage Expansion, opposing development on the green fields between Hitchin and Stevenage for over 15 years. His career as a pilot of small aircraft gave him a unique perspective on the countryside around Hitchin. He chaired both Hitchin Forum’s Town Centre Group and Steering Group at various times and perhaps shaped the Forum’s thinking and action more than any other over its 20 years. His wisdom, wit, support, gentle cajoling and generous personality will be hugely missed in Hitchin.”



Leaving in style. The Order of Service for Bill’s memorial service shows him demonstrating an early Blackburn Monoplane, from the Shuttleworth Collection of Vintage Aircraft at Old Warden.

R. W.

Alan Clements - Memorial Service 8th March 2011 (Eulogy given by Tony Buckland)

When Christine asked me to say a few words about Alan today I wondered where to start.

Why was it, I wondered, that we became such good friends? We were in different years at Hitchin Boys’ Grammar School. I was a year above him. I started to think of what it could be:-

- Maybe it was because we played hockey at Blueharts.
- Maybe it was because neither of us went to University
- Maybe it was because we both started our careers in Local Government
- And it wasn’t because I was provident like him. He worked his way through school with a number of jobs, he always had money and was the first of us to buy his own car.

BUT NO it was none of these.

It was because of that car, the wonderful Black Austin A30. I had the great privilege to be his navigator, a complex job I maintained that required me to turn the indicator switch located in the middle of the dashboard whenever we were to manoeuvre. The rule was that we had to go whichever way I signalled. It didn’t matter what way Alan wanted to go! It caused mayhem on a number of occasions. Later I graduated to become the gear changer; Alan would depress the clutch and I would try to move the gear lever selecting the next gear.....well, it nearly always worked. We didn’t always co-ordinate well and so loud grinding noises came from the gearbox from time to time, but at least he never had to have a new one.

That is what cemented a lifelong friendship.

The other thing I remember from those heady days before we were both married were the amazing parties which were held when his parent’s were away on holiday. They were legendary, and seemed to go on for days. I hope that we didn’t create too much damage Violet.

Linked to these was the annual cricket match against Codicote.

But we are here today to remember Alan, or Clem as he was affectionately known.

Alan started his schooling at Codicote Junior School before passing the 11+ and going to Hitchin Boys’ Grammar School.

He met Gretchen on holiday in Guernsey and was immediately smitten. So much so that he is reputed to have sent her red roses by Interflora, an unheard of extravagance in those days and quite unlike the careful Clem. Chris is rumoured to have assisted in this task.

They were married in 1969 and had two children, Neil and Emma. They also have two grandchildren, Sawyer and Aiden who are Neil’s children.

His working career started with Herts. Rural District Council where he worked in the Surveyor's Department. He later moved to Letchworth Urban District Council. Then in 1971 Alan and Gretchen moved to Bury St. Edmunds again working for the local council.

In 1973 they went on holiday to Canada to visit Gretchen's brother who lived in Niagara on the Lake. They were very taken with the different lifestyle there and so in April 1975 they emigrated. It was quite an ordeal. As times were tough, they, like many others made the move by sea. The immigrant ship had come from Poland and picked them up at Tilbury. Gretchen remembers the boat was called the STEPHAN PETORY and was on one of its final trips before being scrapped. It was a thoroughly unpleasant experience and they were very pleased to finally arrive in Canada and settle in Niagara.

Alan's career there started with Proctor Redfern Engineering and unsurprisingly with his background focused on Municipality related projects. After about 10 years he went to work with a friend Jim Denham at Denko his engineering business before moving on to TSH, ending up with a big multidisciplinary firm ACOM. During this time he became the key highways engineer running the tendering process for all of the highway resurfacing work in the area. His final job was working on the airport expansion project at Niagara District Airport in Niagara on the Lake. The runway expansion project and ground works were his responsibility, but when he showed us round the project about 18 months ago he seemed to be involved in far more than that.

Alan was someone I was privileged to call close friend. The distance between us never seemed to make any difference.

He had so many admirable qualities. When he spoke he was worth listening to. He was considered and measured, yet held VERY firm opinions. He could seldom be moved if his opinion differed from yours.

He was strong and loyal, someone you would always want on your side whether in sport or in life. In many ways he was the 'strong, silent guy' of the 'Movies'. He was provident and careful in matters of finance and was not driven by consumerism.

He was a loving son, husband, father and grandfather He was always there for Neil and Emma.

Nothing hurt him more than having restricted access to his grandsons and not being able to see them as often as he would have liked.

Many of us gathered here today will have our own fond memories of Alan.

Michael Norris wrote to me saying-

'I remember Alan in his pomp as enjoying life to the full, a good sport and sportsman. I'm sure that we share many memories. One that you may have forgotten is that Alan was a very fine wicketkeeper and I remember a game at Letchworth where he stood up to James Wright (no mean feat and brave, as James was a very quick bowler and rather wild in those days). Clem stumped David Firth who he had spotted taking guard outside his crease. Hitchin for once won that match- a small story, but it came naturally to Clem.'

Peter Hollingsworth reminded of an incident at the Weston Super Mare Hockey Festival. Alan was getting out of Peter's car when the door slammed shut on Alan's fingers trapping them. Unfortunately the door locked and couldn't be opened. Alan swore under his breath and bore the pain stoically as we struggled to prise open the door. This effort gathered pace as we heard that the Fire service had been summoned and Peter had visions of them cutting the door off. We eventually managed it, release Alan and leap into the car for a speedy getaway as the fire engine hove into view.

As we all know Alan was a fine sportsman and very driven. Losing wasn't an option for him. He would never stop trying, he'd never give in, no cause was ever lost.

It was a sad day for Blueharts and Hitchin Cricket Club when Alan and Gretchen moved to Bury St. Edmunds. He certainly maintained his competitive streak in the games between the two clubs, no quarter given

We always seemed to play Bury at the beginning of the hockey season and Pat and I remember travelling to Bury on the train to stay with them for the weekend of this fixture. It made it rather special.

His sporting career continued when they moved to Canada, but took a different direction. He tried local hockey but the standard wasn't good enough for him to maintain interest. So he turned to soccer, BRIEFLY.

The turning point was the game against a team of Italians who were rather agricultural and Alan left the game having broken two ribs. He then turned to cricket but found the standard there much like the hockey and soon gave it up. He did however go back to squash and golf which were his main interests from then on. Cross country skiing and curling also featured in his activities from time to time.

Pat and I were able to see Alan a few weeks before he died. Needless to say he bore the great pain of his illness so bravely and never complained. He remained extremely positive even though he knew the end was near. We discussed the holiday we had been planning to take together this year, after he retired, across Canada by train and then taking a cruise up to Alaska.

Alan was a most generous spirited guy. A strong, reliable and loyal son, husband, father, grandfather and dear friend. We miss you.

Rodney Wray [1934 – 2011] - School Years (1945 – 1950)

Rodney was born in Hitchin and grew up, lived and worked all his life in Hitchin and the close local village vicinity. His early schooling was at Queen Street school and then on to the prep school associated with the Hitchin Boys Grammar School and in 1945 to HBGS itself. He studied for the School Leaving Certificate and left the School from the 5th form in 1950.

He joined the family business of Wrays in West Alley and learnt the trade of shoe making and shoe repair and later developed the retail side of the business. The West Alley shop was a well known part of the Hitchin scene for many years and served not only the general public but also the Police Force, Fire Brigade and some local schools. In the 50's shoes and work boots were still mostly with leather soles so the shop was a regular stop off for the local Hitchin people and over the years Rodney met and was well known to many of them.

The 1950's was full in the time of National Service being only 5 years after the end of WW2 and Rodney was called up and enlisted in the Beds and Herts Regiment and travelled on the Puffing Billy railway line, that then operated between Hitchin and Bedford, for induction at Kempston Barracks. After basic training he went for field training to Germany, Luneberg Heath and then in 1952/1953 he was sent to Korea for service in the then active war zone. In, some would say, the forgotten, but very real and bloody war. {Over one million killed in the 3 year duration of the war}. In early 2011 just prior to his death he revisited South Korea and was amazed and moved by the dramatic changes to the barren war torn place he had last seen.

On demob he returned to the family business and was able to pursue his enthusiasm for veteran two seater open top cars and going to many hill climb venues and track events at circuits such as Brands Hatch and Silverstone.

He married in 1959 to Judith[nee Davison], a girl from the School on the Hill and lived locally in Ickleford, Gosmore and Hitchin.

He succeeded his Father in his close involvement in the Hitchin Arcade Company, becoming a Director and actively working to retain the Arcade as a core feature of the Town.

Latterly he attended several of the OB reunion dinners including the events of the Centenary Year.

He was a friendly, easy going and well liked son of the School and is sadly missed by his Wife, Son and two Daughters and his four grandchildren, and his many friends from the School and in the Town.

Brian Barker

Michael Swingler (1961)

Mick passed away recently, after losing a battle against Cancer. He was a priest in an offshoot of the Catholic church and had children and grandchildren.

He was always pretty laid back and I used to see him regularly at the John o'Gaunt Golf Club, where he was a member for many years.

John Burges

It is sad to note that John Burges, Tom's elder brother died in April. He had been poorly for some time and our condolences go to his family.

Richard Squire (1964)

Another Old Boy who has recently died.

Russell Nutter

Peter Howes - Hitchin Grammar School (1943-49)

After leaving school Peter did National Service in the RAF and then started work as a trainee at Wolsey in Leicester (and at weekends used to pushbike home to Ashwell!!)

Peter worked his way up from the bottom of the commercial manufacturing ladder to becoming Group Managing Director of one of the largest manufacturers of ladies underwear (originally Kayser Bondor or Sheers) which some will know. These included factories at Biggleswade, Bedford, and Royston.

Under his leadership he made what seemed radical changes at the time to some colleagues, but he had already got the backing higher up the chain and a belief in what he wanted to achieve. One very controversial change was setting up trade in China by buying lace and eventually setting up a full manufacturing facility. Dealing with the Chinese was not easy back then and required not only business acumen but a strong stomach when out socialising and getting to know how they did business. Very different to the UK but he succeeded because he knew what he wanted to achieve, planned it well, and made it work. It was right for the future of the business.

He certainly came from good, working, family stock, in fact there is a commercial flair running through the Howes family from farming in Norfolk to bicycle and motor bike supply. This also included inventors, for the first tubeless tyre and a strop razor. These skills must have been transferred down through the genes because it certainly came through to Peter.

Peter got a lot of pleasure reminiscing about his business activities and well he might because he master minded and achieved a considerable amount to the success of the overall company strategy at the time.....One of the memorable aspects about his way of doing things is when he explained about commercial interdependence. To explain, his largest and probably most influential customer was the famous M&S with his company being placed as a top supplier. At this time Peter had a design team to lead M&S rather than being led by them.

His belief was "that if you have interdependence you have the correct relationship to develop mutually beneficial business" This was sound advice!

Peter retired from the cut and thrust of business life after reorganization changes but stayed for a couple of years as a consultant on special projects.

He kept in contact with some of his colleagues and arranged regular social meetings which became known as "last of the summer wine" Sometimes a formal lunch or a barbecue at home.

There have been many tributes from work colleagues quoting the support, guidance and respect which are his trade marks.



Don't be ignored

**Shout out with cutting
edge designs and
graphics**

