



Quarterly Bulletin



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY HITCHIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER, 2012

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Bulletin. We have had a marked increase in Memberships of late, long may it continue. Old Boys are writing to me and I will include their jottings for all to enjoy. Please tell me what is happening in your life and if you have met other old boys in your travels.

We should start thinking about the Annual Reunion on Saturday 27th April 2013. As you will see below there in one leaving year who have decided to have a reunion, so why not get some of your peers to come along and chew the fat like so many of us do each year. It is really great to see 'old' faces from fifty or more years ago. Some of them still haven't changed!!

News from Members

I get lots of mails from members asking about how to contact their old peers and sometimes they will give me an update.

I have one from **Alan Tippett (1962)**:

I now live in Wales, 100 yards from the border with Shropshire. My wife runs a B&B from here (www.lloyneymillbandb.co.uk). We lived for 30 years in Nottingham where I had my own suspended ceilings company. Retired six years ago shortly after moving here. Now work two days a week in Ludlow, half and hour away, as accounts manager at a conference centre. Two children, a daughter who is a hospital doctor and a son who is a chef. No grandchildren yet. I'm not secretary of any groups but treasurer to several. I seem to be busier than when I had a full time job.

Martin (1969) and Daniel Ward (2001) have renewed their subscriptions.

From **John Moore**:

It was with a certain pride that I retained my Wanadoo email address. After all, I worked hard to build the Wanadoo product in the Netherlands. After a number of mergers where France Telecom withdrew from the Dutch market, T-Mobile, the new owner has decided to migrate me to a new address.

Colin Bates is organising another concert for the Parents Society this year. 'The Christmas Mood' with the Bingham String Quartet, Royal Academy Singers, Jeremy Harmer and Sally Halsey. To include a musical narration of 'A Christmas Carol.' Tickets from The Parents Society. Also contact Colin via colin@bates-family.net.

David Ebers has written from Mauritius, renewing his Subscription. He was in the UK in June and spent an enjoyable day at the Cricket event where he was 'privileged' to meet Ian Hare again, after a very long time.

The Cricket event June 23rd 2012

Our President, Keith Allard was the prime mover for this event, with help from Tony Buckland, Michael Cranfield (our Photographer... see the website!!) and Simon Walker.

Here is his report:

'Despite the inclement weather in the days leading up to it the 23rd June saw the Old Boys six-a-side cricket tournament provide stunning entertainment for both participants and spectators alike.

The aims were to have some fun and to raise some money towards the pavilion refurbishment fund. Both of these were achieved. The fun started with the contortions needed to get into cricket kit consigned to the attic many moons ago - kit which was decidedly yellower than when last seen.

The boundary was set out to take account of the stiffening of limbs and lack of puff but this meant that the six count was better than in a Twenty - Twenty International!! Bowling proved challenging for some participants - arms being decidedly reluctant to get anywhere near the vertical and direction being somewhat of a challenge. However all this meant that when it came, the odd straight ball proved a deadly weapon. Not surprisingly the athleticism of the youngest team put together by Alistair Cranfield saw off the challenges posed by the experience and guile of Phil Britton's and Simon Walker's outfits not to mention the brute force of the team from the Rugby Cub.

So it was good fun and thanks to all the participants and crowd for making it a really enjoyable event such that most people felt that we should make it an annual occasion. So if you want to get a team together for next year start using your powers of persuasion on your fellow Old Boys and get a search party out for those whites!

So, please start thinking about your side next year!

Reunions

There seem to be other reunions going on and Old Boys are meeting around the Country.

From **Matthew Porter**:

I was a pupil at Hitchin Boys School and left in 1985.

The class of that year (and some other years) have been in discussion about the possibility of a reunion and have agreed that holding that reunion as part of the Old Boys Reunion Dinner would be an excellent opportunity for all of us to meet up again after many years.

Currently we have 21 old boys who have confirmed they would definitely like to attend, a further 9 who have expressed a definite interest in attending and 41 who have yet to decide. There is a good chance that this number will grow as it has only been in discussion for two weeks or so. There have also been discussions as to the **(Cont. on Page 2)**

Communications for the Association and memorabilia queries may be sent to the **Hon. Sec. Peter Hollingsworth**.
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Membership matters, please contact **Howard Gregory**, the **Membership Secretary**.
M: 07876 246122
E: howard.gregory@talktoroger.com

(Cont. from Page 1) chance of some of our teachers attending on the day also, however we don't have any specific contact details for them and perhaps this would be something you will be able to help with.

We all think this would be an excellent opportunity for us all to get together again and would also make the occasion a memorable one for all.

I received a letter from **Dr Maurice Philpott** in August. These are his words:

This is the tale of two old widowers who joined the school when it was a semi-independent Grammar school in 1929. In those days there was a preparatory class into which we were admitted. It was housed in the old Bancroft building, and it was mainly run by a Mr F Bowker, in whom we often caused fits of apoplexy because of ignorance or stupidity (didn't we all know that!! **Ed**).

We are, perhaps, the oldest members of the school to make a report and, as such, it may be of interest to present day people at the school.

Soon after we joined the school, it was taken over by the Hertfordshire County Council education department and much new building (much needed) work was started in 1931.

We two, Douglas Alexander and Maurice Philpott, have been friends since our Primary school days. When we first met, we were four to five years old. We continued, more or less along the same lines in our education right until we left school in 1937, Douglas going to architectural college and Maurice to St Bartholomew's Hospital College, to take up medicine. We had both been keen members of the Scout troop.

Our ways then diverged, but we have continued our long lasting friendship right until this present day. Douglas became an architect in government departments, which often took him overseas and Maurice eventually became a consultant paediatrician in Hull (Maurice did pass acquaintance with Guy Randall a number of times but Guy was mainly at Beverley **Ed**).

Now, both of well into our 90s find it very difficult to attend old boys' functions. We do hope that this story is of some interest to present day members of the school, both staff and students.



Douglas and Maurice when they celebrated their 90th birthday a couple of years ago.

Another reunion was held this year when a group of the 1965'ers got together for the first time since the Centenary Dinner.



From left to right in the photo they are: Pete Poole, Trevor Osbourne, Tony Buckland, Rod Woods, Jerry Carlisle, Phil Chapman, Peter Walker, Ned Yescombe and Pete South.

The Archives

Tom Pickford, the School Librarian, is the guardian of our archives. I have been looking through them recently and they are a fantastic record of our past, from the early 1900s to the present.

I will try and publish a few scraps in each bulletin, to give you a flavour of what we have contained in the files.

Being a bit parochial I always look first at the 1928 to 1934 era, when my father was at school and then 1955 to 1961, when I was at school. At the reunions, if you so request, I can arrange with Tom to get out Chronicles relating to your time at school.

So, I found a ledger which had all the master's records from a long time ago. One caught my eye and it was F.A. Huckle, here are the details:

Born 31st March 1894

He gained a BA Hons in the School of Modern History at Oxford in 1922. Previously, his schooling was in Reigate, Guernsey and Oxford.

He joined the school in January 1924 after Training in Oxford and Leicester. As we all know, he taught Maths to the Middle School and also Commercial Subjects(?). Later he became the House Master of the boarders and in May 1933 he was appointed 2nd Master.

The starting salary was a magnificent £240.00 (Grade B8) less deductions!

I also found a copy of the 1917 Scholarship paper. As ever, I like to give out a sample of the Maths questions, here they are:

- Find the prime factors of 1260. Which is the least number 1260 must be multiplied by to give a perfect square?
- At a factory there are employed 218 men at £1.5.0 per week, 117 women at 16 shillings per week and children at 6s 8p per week. How many children are employed if the total wage bill for the week is £406.12.0?
- Which is the larger? 0.752 or 31/41
- Simplify the fraction $(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{16} + \frac{9}{128})$ divided by $(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{32} + \frac{1}{256})$
- It is said that infantry march at the rate of 100 yards per minute and mounted troops trot at 224 yards per minute. How long would it take the mounted troops to catch the marching troops if the marchers had a start of 2 hours 14 minutes?

There were five other questions and the 11 year olds taking this exam had one hour to complete the exam.

New Members

Mike Blaxland (1955)

Mike has had a fit of conscience and has become a Term Member!

Peter Burges (1982)

Peter worked at Barclays Bank locally after leaving school and then worked for SG Warburg in London. The company has gone through various acquisitions and is now in Canary Wharf, where Peter is a Quality Control/Risk Manager. Peter was heavily involved in local sport, with both Blueharts and Letchworth Cricket Club. Nowadays it is golf, but only when family commitments allow. Peter has three children, Charlotte, who has just graduated from Birmingham University, William, who is taking 'A' levels and Amy who is just 9. His 'known associates' are Paul Close, Simon White, Steve Ashley, Ian Grant, Ravi Moore and Mike Baxter. (Perhaps we can get them all together for the next reunion? Ed)

Andrew Ryder (1993)

Andy is now based in Cheshire as a Financial and Commercial Manager.

David Martin (1972)

Following an early career as a qualified social worker, David moved into management in Local Government and the NHS. In the time until he retired in 2012, David has variously been the Statutory Director of Social Services on four Councils and Chief Executive for a Local Authority and three NHS Trusts. David is married with two grown up Children and still finds time for running a martial arts association, scuba diving round the world and underwater photography.

David Boast (1964)

David has been involved in the management and strategic development of many companies over the last 30 years, working in the UK, USA and Europe. He retired from full time corporate life in 2004 and now heads up a management and marketing consultancy with clients in a mix of industries, including building and construction, home improvement, tourism and engineering extrusion supply. Other side activities include being a Parish Councillor and DIY.

Jonty Hunt (1993)

After graduating from UCL in 1996, Jonty worked for a small IT consultancy for five years before having his gap year travelling the world. Back on terra firma, he worked in Staines for four years before moving to Thomson Reuters in London, where he is an IT programme manager on Foreign Exchange Trading Systems. Jonty played Hockey for UCL and West Hampstead, before his world travelling. Since then he has married and has two children who, he says, take up most of his spare time.

Colin Corby (1994)

Colin attended Nottingham Trent University, gaining qualification in both BENG and MENG. He then worked for Marconi for five years before moving to Cable and Wireless where he is now a Telecommunications Operations Manager. He is married with a 1 year old son.

Simon Cook (1988)

Simon 'fell' into the travel industry on leaving school. After working in Car Hire and tour operation he decided to try the aviation sector. After working his way up through various airlines he is now VP for Sales & Marketing for a German Airline.

Ben Lait (1992)

Ben got a degree in Applied Psychology and Computing from Bournemouth University, did his two gap years travelling the world and has since worked in London as a Software Developer. He is married to Annabel and has two little girls, Scarlett and Sadie and moved back to Hitchin four years ago.

David Entwisle (1972)

David left the school and joined Guys Hospital medical school, from where he qualified as a doctor. After various short internships he has now been a GP at the Testvale Surgery in Romsey, for the past 29 years. He is married to Ann and has two sons, ages 26 and 28. He has contacts with Adrian Baskerville and Ashley Croft.

James Verdier (1993)

James left the school and went to the LSE for a degree and then qualified as an accountant with KPMG. After a couple of career moves he now works for Ruffer LLP as an Investment Manager.

Ian Baxter (1993)

Simon Walker has persuaded Ian to join, just 19 years after he left!!!

Satnam Singh Mann (1981)

Satnam left School in 1981 and went on to gain a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science. Since then he has spent 25 years in the computer industry in a variety of roles. He has been a qualified Project Manager for the past 25 years and is married with two daughters. His eldest daughter was head girl at HGS last year. He remains in contact with Adrian Bagg, David Miles, Adrian Leroux, Andrew Oaten and Andrew Pearce. (I hope you can get them to the reunion next year!! Ed) Satnam would also like any of you from that year to think about meeting up again.

In Memoriam

John Burges (1948)

(Extract from a eulogy by his son Peter Burges (1982))

John Cecil Burges was born on 16th November 1930 at Benslow Nursing Home in Hitchin and was educated at Queen Street School, Wilshere Dacre School and then The Hitchin Boys' Grammar School. He really enjoyed his time at school, both the academic and especially the sporting side.

Dad was the eldest of three boys in the family. He had twin brothers, Tom (who sadly passed away last year) and Robin. They all attended the Boy's Grammar School. It was through this grammar school that Dad met Phillip Shaw who became one of Dad's closest friends. The family would like to thank Phillip for delivering one of the readings later in the service.

Dad left school at 16 having gained matriculation and went straight to Watt's Knowles Chartered Accountants in Letchworth as an articled clerk, and started studying to qualify as an FCA.

In 1953 whilst still studying for exams, he was called to do his National Service and was posted to RAF Basingbourne where he worked in the Pay Accounts Section. There he met Gordon Hufford who became a very close friend to Dad and later to the whole family. Dad completed his National Service and went onto qualify as an FCA and in time became a senior partner at the Watt's Knowles firm, where he worked for 41 years.

Possibly not widely known, Dad was a prominent local footballer who played for Hitchin Town from 1948 – 1953. At youth level he had an outstanding goal scoring record, and represented both his county and his country. He kept a scrap book with all the press cuttings and one specific cutting caught my eye. It was from the 1949 season, and Dad had just managed to get into the Hitchin 1st team. It read; "the introduction of Burges unquestionably added scoring power to the Town attack. Nobody would suggest that at the age of 19 he was the complete centre forward, and nobody would expect him to be, but I would be surprised if the Town has to look much further for a centre forward for many years to come." As most of you know who have played sport, many players end up with nicknames, and Dad was no exception on the football circuit. Dad's father also played for Hitchin Town and his nickname was "Budget" (no doubt in recognition of his affection for numbers) but when my Dad "Junior Burges" came along, he became known as "Budge."

Whilst Dad was still working, he gave generously with both his time and his talents, becoming Treasurer of Hitchin Cricket Club for many years and appointed as an Honorary Vice President of the club. He was also Treasurer and Vice President of the Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association. And when Dad retired he also served under two vicars at St Paul's Church in Letchworth as their Honorary Treasurer.

In his desire to support and be involved in the local community he joined the Round Table, where he became Chairman. He later joined the Rotary Club. Dad certainly enjoyed the sociable aspects of both of these associations and loved being involved in the community and helping local charities.

Dad also played cricket, and was an excellent top order batsman, playing for Hitchin 1st team, and often played in the same side as his brother Tom.

Dad made the decision (probably with a little encouragement from his wife and growing family) that an early retirement from Cricket was the right thing to do. He continued to watch and study cricket.

When his cricket playing days were over, he still ensured that he had time for other sport, this time it was golf, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He loved the game; however he did have a tendency to hook the ball. As much as I tried to cure it for him, he never lost it. He was a member at Letchworth Golf Club and even managed to secure a hole in one at the 2nd hole. With Dads encouragement, I took up golf at a young age and also became a member. We had some good tussles and some memorable times together on a variety of golf courses.

Whilst he was still working he was a Saturday morning golfer and was one of the founding members of the "Early Birds" society. Upon retiring, Dad played golf with the clubs seniors, and for many years played 3 times a week. Dad was always in the loudest group. As he got progressively more deaf his fellow players had to shout at him on the course. Deafness became a great disability to him but he never complained.

Dad's love of numbers lead my parents to learn and play Bridge and they had a superb group of friends that they played with on a regular basis.

He also loved the garden. He produced some vegetables, but generally just enjoyed pottering about and keeping it in order. Picnics were enjoyed under the cherry tree and many family games held on Dad's perfectly mown lawn. All of the grandchildren enjoyed spending time with him, and from their perspective this was probably the happiest memories they had of their Grandpa.



Don't be ignored.

**Shout out with cutting
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