



# Quarterly Bulletin



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY HITCHIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 2013

**W**elcome to 2013 and the first Bulletin of the year. We have lots of Scouting news and comment for you this time, some comments about the Olympics.

The order form for the Old Boys' Dinner is enclosed. Please get your order in early, as there is a lot of interest already! This year's speaker is Simon Lupton, who has some in depth knowledge of the BBC, should be interesting!!

Also attached are the minutes of last year's AGM and the Agenda for this year.

If anyone would like to spend a few evenings a year at the School as part of the Old Boys' Committee, I would be delighted to hear from them. There are a number of projects that need some attention, including the Summer Cricket festival organisation and work on the archives. We do need to raise more money for our legacy to the school and the options need to be investigated. Please contact me, if you are interested.

Happy reading and I expect to hear from you shortly!

## News from Members

### Jenny Holding:

My husband, Trevor Holding, is an old scholar. He was looking at the school websites this morning and found something about a prefects' board. He was Head Boy in 1959, I believe. He was about to look at it, then sadly realised he would not be on that board, not even perhaps the previous one! I wondered if someone could possibly take a photo of the board on which he is named, and send it to me? It would be a happy reminder for him and would be a surprise, presented to him at Christmas. I would also like to know if there are any old scholars from his year who are in contact with your Old Scholars' Association. If so, I would like to help him join the association.

Picture of the board below, a few names for you all to remember on there, I am sure!!

## Condemned? – The Scout Hut 1945 - ?

**M**any of you will remember happy days and meetings in the hut. British Bulldog with Guy Randle hurling himself through the rest of us in an attempt to gain the other side. Cocoa in the old ex army enamel mugs while sitting around the stove singing the traditional scout camp-fire songs. The inevitable game of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John with SGR as Matthew; was he ever deposed?

Now things are very different. No longer the flapping of signalling flags as we attempted the intricacies of semaphore or the Morse code. No longer saluting the flag and the welcoming of a new recruit to the troop. Since 2010 the living element no longer meets in the hut and it has become a storage facility for camping and pioneering equipment and numerous other accumulations over the years. This is all piled up in the centre of the hut ready for its removal, including the entrenching tool for digging the "lats" and the fireplaces. I even found the wooden box that housed the toilet roll that hung inside the latrine. Saws and axes galore, enamel plates, mugs and a great selection of cutlery. Billies and dixies for soup, custard porridge and stews – the skill being not to burn to bottom layer and end up with the distinct carbon flavout. I remember Barry Bray's soup for cook's badge – one Oxo cube in a dixie of water; Gordon Brown was not impressed. Ropes and pulleys for the traditional camp aerial runway and holdfasts for the rope bridges. Speaking of ropes, the thick tug-o-war rope from the days when "Sports Day" was more of a family event than an athletic meeting can still be seen hanging from a nail in the wall. There is a pile of stuff including the epidiascope that dear old Gabby Parker relied on for the latter half of every geography lesson.

Things have changed and what was seen as OK for scouts in my day no longer satisfies Health and Safety rules. The Trustees of the (Cont. on Page 2)



Communications for the Association and memorabilia queries may be sent to the **Hon. Sec. Peter Hollingsworth**.  
T: 01462 834854  
M: 07758 649721  
E: hbsobasec@googlemail.com  
8, Baldock Road, Stotford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. SG5 4NZ

Membership matters, please contact **Howard Gregory**, the **Membership Secretary**.  
M: 07876 246122  
E: howard.gregory@talktoroger.com

**Maurice Philpott:**

My name is Nicholas Philpott (Nick), and I am the son of Dr Maurice G Philpott, who was at HGC from (I think) 1928 until 1936. He was born in September 1919. In fact Dad sent some information about himself and his old pal Douglas Alexander, which is published in the October 2012 HBSOBA bulletin. Until a few years ago they met up at school reunions on a regular basis.

Dad has lived in the Hull area since becoming a consultant paediatrician in 1953, although Doug is still a resident of WGC.

At the age of 93 Dad has found it necessary to move to a residential home. He may well have been in touch over this, but his address is now: Dr M G Philpott, St Mary's Care Centre, Beverley Road, Anlaby, Hull HU10 7BQ. His personal phone is 01482 651732.

Naturally, disposing of the majority of his possessions is a lengthy and traumatic experience for all concerned. The specific reason I am writing to you concerns an archive of material which Dad collected whilst a very active member of the Scout Troop based at HGS. This includes several copies of 'Forest News' and reports on Field Trips to Snowdonia, The Lake District, Brittany and the World Scout Jamboree of 1937 in The Netherlands.

Dad is anxious that these documents are not destroyed, and that they should, if possible, be lodged in some greater archive, either at HBS or possibly with the local scouting association in Hitchin.

I (Ed) am now very pleased to say that I have Maurice's set of archives and very interesting they are too!! As a Scout, he attended the World Jamboree at Vogelenzang in Holland and we can read his diary and see all sorts of other mementos of his visit. Also included are Summer camp reports from the time he was at school, including a visit to Nant Gwynant in Wales, which was interesting for me, as I went there with St Marks scouts, a few years later ( well, about 20 actually!!). There is a copy of Joyce Donald's Book, The John Mattocke Boys with a thank you to Maurice from Joyce for help and assistance in providing information for the book. They will be in the capable hands of Tom, the School Librarian and I hope he will put them out for show on Old Boy's Day. Many thanks go to Maurice and his Son Nick for taking the time and trouble to put the data together for us and we all wish Maurice well in the security of his new home.

**Brian Duncan:**

It has been over 11 years since we arrived in Spain with 2 suitcases and the furniture in store in England. We live in, El Campello, a small town some 8 miles from Alicante. El Campello is a fairly typical Spanish coastal town, formerly a fishing village but now dependent on tourism, mainly the Spanish who come down from Madrid to enjoy the 6km of sandy beaches and the Med. We have a varied social life through different clubs but we have avoided the G & T brigade. We belong to the U3A, British Legion and two local Spanish clubs, where we are the only English. Of course, in the summer we don't need worry about the weather and we can plan in advance for barbeques and we have many of these at home with friends or at their places.

We have embraced much of the Spanish ways; the need for forms and photographs for almost anything you want to do, the take a ticket and wait in the queue until your number is called, the drivers at roundabouts, who rarely use indicators. On a more positive note, we can book a doctors appointment on line for the next day or two, the policia local will turn a blind eye to double parking as you nip in for you newspaper or prescription but will nail you if you park on a crossing or overstay in a limited time bay and the locals who will help you when you speak to them in Spanish and don't quite get it correct. It is refreshing to sit outside a cafe in the sunshine, watching the world go by, with no worries. Life in retirement is very good and I would recommend it to anyone.

Alan Nicolas is now in the e-mail loop.

Numbers of Old boys have showed an interest in joining, but only a few go all the way. If you have a friend who is an Old Boy, get him interested!!

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(Cont. from Page 1) Educational Trust decided to condemn the building and to consider ways of maintaining the value of the endowment and increasing the revenue received from it. In fairness they have offered to help finance a storage facility behind the pavilion, where the current explorer scouts meet.



As a last effort to try and save the hut I am having a meeting with the current leaders and the district Scout Commissioner with the intention of submitting a proposal to the Trustees at their next meeting. In the end it comes down to money; the cost of repair/upgrade and the potential income to the Trust. Perhaps traditional values and support for scouting activities in Hitchin may hold some sway. Decision time is not far away but all those memories of my time in scouting mean a great deal and I feel I must try to save this heritage.

# London 2012 reflections from Bernard Cotton MBE

As I left HBGS in 1963 Beatlemania was getting into full swing but much as I had dreamed of going to an Olympic Games little did I expect to be going to my 7<sup>th</sup> Games when I was 64!

When on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2005, the UK won the right to stage the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London, I decided immediately that I would continue working at the British Olympic Association until 2012. I knew from all my previous Olympic experience that the London Olympic Games would be the most emotional and exciting sporting experience.

Being part of 'Our Greatest Team' at London 2012 was an unbelievable finale to my 40-year Olympic involvement that has included playing in the 1972 Munich hockey team; working with David Whitaker OBE (HGS, 1959-66) and the Gold medal team in Seoul 1988; managing the Barcelona 1992 team; and working in a variety of roles with the British Olympic Association in Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. I was all set to retire after Beijing but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to be involved in our home Games.

In the 18 month build up to the London Games I was sad to be 'moved on' from some areas of work that I been leading for 12 years to be replaced by younger and more energetic colleagues. Thankfully I wasn't 'moved out' to an early retirement but asked to be Team GB's single point of contact for the sports of basketball, handball, table tennis, volleyball and, of course, hockey.

This 'sport engagement' role ranged widely across selection and appeals (nothing controversial in my sports thank goodness); media and marketing matters; kitting out; final preparations; Olympic Village arrival; and hour-by-hour issues during the Games. Dealing with the ramifications of Kate Walsh's (women's hockey captain) broken jaw was probably the single most challenging issue whilst the Team departure was the most stressful 3 hours in the 4 weeks of living in the Olympic Village. For the latter, between 0930-1230 on the morning after the closing ceremony 'Our Greatest Team' of 542 athletes, circa 270 coaches and support staff with over 3,000 heavy bags between them were ushered onto buses bound for over 20 different destinations in the UK.

Now in retirement, I can look back on a wonderful summer. I was lucky enough to 'run' with the Olympic Torch in central Bishops Stortford. I am proud to have been part of Team GB with 542 athletes the biggest national team at the London Games and the most successful GB team ever with 65 medals (29 gold, 17 silver, 19 bronze). I was even luckier to march in the Opening Ceremony when my younger Sport Engagement team colleagues insisted that I should have the one marching pass allocated to the Sport Engagement Team. I was one of the rear markers for the GB contingent and as such was one of the last to enter the stadium to the overwhelming welcome of the home crowd. How would we ever match the Beijing Opening Ceremony? Danny Boyle's creation did the nation proud and I, for one, will never forget it.



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## In Memoriam

**Barrie Richard Sanderson (1936 - 2012)**

A letter from Robin Barker (ex Letchworth Grammar School) tells us that Barrie died on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 after a three month struggle with pancreatic cancer. After he left school, he followed a career in the Merchant Navy with the British India Line. For the last 20 years he taught at the John Cass College in London, whilst living near Southend with his Wife Barbara( Nee Hubbard, ex Hitchin Girls' School). Robin had known Barrie from birth and said that Barrie was a lovely man and will leave an unfillable gap in his life. Robin was trying to contact Douglas Brodie, another Old Boy, who may also want to add something later.

# HBSOBA Annual Dinner 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Price of Tickets is £24.00

Dress is Jacket and Tie

## Menu

**French Onion Soup, Dinner Roll and Butter**

**Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, Fresh Vegetables in Season**

**Blackberry and Apple Tart with Fresh Cream**

**Cheese and Biscuits**

**Coffee or Tea and Mints**

**Licensed Bar**

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**Name**.....

**Address**.....  
.....

**Post Code**.....

**Year of leaving school**.....

**No. of tickets @ £24.00**.....

**Cheque enclosed for**.....

**EFT transfer detail**  
**(20 characters, Name plus xDT where x = no of tickets)**

**Barclays Bank Hitchin**  
**Sort Code 20-41-12**  
**Account Number 40475017**

**Any special dietary requirements**.....

**Are you part of a table group**.....

**Are you enclosing a subscription (Y/N)**.....

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**£40 for Term (20 yrs)**  
**£20 for Term renewal**

Please send to:- Peter Hollingsworth, 8, Baldock Road, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 4NZ  
E-mail:- hbsobasec@gmail.com  
Phone: - 01462 834 854

**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association**

**Life President Emeritus: David Stancombe**

**Vice Presidents:** D. C. Baines, T. P. Brooker, W. S. Bowker, A. G. Buckland, D. Carnill, E. M. Cooke, R. F. K. Corder, J. C. Coxall, C. C. Day, D. Garvie, S. C. Harding, J. R. Mayhead, M. A. Norris, B. D. Robinson, G. H. Russell, G. L. Shaw, D. E. Simmonds, O. J. Stedman, M. J. Steeley, N. A. Thomson, K. Wadsworth, R. T. Whitmore

**AGENDA for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**to be held on**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 6.00pm in the School Library**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Hon Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts**
- 5. Hon Secretary's Report**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

**President for 2013 - K. Allard**

**President for 2014 -**

**Hon. Treasurer - M. E. Hart**

**Hon. Secretary - P. R. Hollingsworth**

**Hon. Membership Secretary - H. Gregory**

**Committee Members:**

Retiring in 2013 - M.J.Cranfield

Retiring in 2014 - A.Russell, M.Jones,

Retiring in 2015 - A. G. Buckland, R.J.MacArthur, M.Russell

Co-opted for 2013 - M. J. Cranfield

Nominations from the floor

- 7. Re-appointment of Hon Auditors – Messrs. Watts, Knowles and Hunt**
- 8. Head Teacher's Review**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Close of Meeting**

Peter Hollingsworth  
**Hon. Secretary**

**HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held at**

**6.00pm. on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 in the School Library**

**Present:** Tony Buckland (President), David Stancombe, Martin Brown (Headteacher), Stuart Halsey, Mark Hart (Treasurer), Keith Allard, M. J. Pratt, Ian Hare, Mike Steeley, John Russell, G. L. Shaw, Howard Gregory, Peter J Webb, Andrew Parr, David Garvie, Michael Cranfield, Nigel Richardson, John Mayhead, Leslie Mustoe, Derek Wheeler, Peter Hollingsworth (Secretary)

**1. Apologies:**

Chris Brooker, Roy Hawken, David Shakesby, Dennis Carnill, Simon Lupton, Bernard Cotton, Ken Omersa, Ian Murrell, Goeff Marshall, Mike Hart, Ken Porter, Peter J Thomas, Peter M Thomas, Eric Nutter, Richard Womwell, Tony Else, Andrew Sillence, Michael Norris, David Niven, Dick Crabbe, Nick Buckland, David Simmonds.

**2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:**

The Minutes of the AGM held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 were taken as read and confirmed on the proposal of Derek Wheeler and seconded by John Mayhead.

**3. Matters arising:**

There had been a request for the School photos to be placed on the web site. The Secretary had not found a way so far but the School Librarian felt that it was possible and he would liaise with the Secretary. It was noted that a 'drum scanner' might be the answer but it would have to be done professionally and cost might be a problem.

Ian Hare and the Secretary had not managed to get the name badges but a clear idea of what was required was now evident and it would happen next year.

**4. Hon. Treasurer's Report:**

Mark Hart, the Treasurer reported on the previous year. The raffle at the dinner had made a good profit and, together with investment income there was a surplus of just over £800.00. This gave the Association funds totalling £12,635.00. David Stancombe proposed and Mike Pratt seconded that the report should be adopted and all were agreed with a vote of thanks to Mark for his good works over the year.

**5. Hon. Secretary's Report:**

Peter Hollingsworth reported that the year had gone well and Bulletins had been produced and distributed. He thanked Stuart Halsey's son, William, who had been instrumental in creating the new look Bulletin. There had been no adverse response so far. The new web site is a great improvement and Peter reported that, although it would cost £12 per month to use the web site management, it was well worthwhile for the ease of posting data onto the site and the ability for Old Boys to access the data.

Postage costs are our one big expense and I shall request that all Old Boys who can receive the Bulletin by E-mail, be put onto the E-mail list. Currently, about 170 are sent by snail mail and over 300 by E-mail. Peter had pre-empted the rise in Postage costs by purchasing 500 second class stamps, before the rise. He would announce the new Mail sponsor in the next Bulletin.

Membership had been maintained over the year with some losses and gains. The membership is in the low 500's but, we could do with more from the newer leavers, from the 1990's especially. Tony Buckland has been very active in this area and we will have a new committee member from that era, who is keen to get some of his contemporaries on board.

The Old Boys Pavilion is in need of repair and we will be putting on an event with the PFA in June to help raise

funds. There was a flyer on the tables at the dinner. The likely cost of repair would be in the region of £10,000. Finally Peter thanked Martin Brown for the use of the School facilities and help with printing the Bulletin and also all the Old Boys with whom he had talked to over the year and their input to the Bulletin. The Hon Sec received a vote of thanks for his efforts over the year.

#### **6. Election of Officers and Committee:**

The following members were put forward by the committee and elected or confirmed in office. The meeting agreed unanimously.

**President for 2012:** Keith Allard (Proposed Peter Hollingsworth, Seconded Tony Buckland) All were agreed.

**President for 2013:** Keith Allard (Proposed Tony Buckland, Seconded David Stancombe) All were agreed.

**Hon. Treasurer:** M. E. Hart (Proposed by D. Stancombe and seconded by S. Halsey) All were agreed.

**Hon. Secretary:** P.R. Hollingsworth (Proposed by Tony Buckland and seconded by Ian Hart) All were agreed.

**Committee Members:** (Vacancies to be left to the discretion of the committee)

Retiring in 2012 – R.J. MacArthur, M. Russell

Retiring in 2013 – M.J. Cranfield

Retiring in 2014 – A. Russell, M. Jones

Members co-opted for 2012 – R.J. MacArthur, M. Russell

New Member to retire in 2015 – A.G. Buckland

The above were proposed by Ian Hare and seconded by Stuart Halsey.

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of the new committee.

The retiring President expressed his appreciation of the work of those committee members retiring this year and wished his successor well in his term of office.

#### **7. Re-appointment of Honorary Accountants:**

It was proposed by Mark Hart and seconded by Peter Hollingsworth to re-appoint UHY Hacker Young (WKH had been bought out). The meeting expressed its thanks to Chris Maylin for his work on behalf of the Association.

#### **8. Headteacher's Review:**

Martin Brown gave his second report to the Old Boys. Martin stated that he felt that everything going on at the School would be how the Old Boys would like it. Over 500 boys had gone on School trips last year which included anything from local trip to far flung locations in the world.

The Music scene has been phenomenal, with so many boys taking up instruments, not because their parents wanted it but because they wanted to. The Comic Relief effort, with all the boys doing the 2012 metres run and an amazing effort in the town with music and aerobics, raised well over £3,000. The drama section put on High Society and the boys taking the female parts really took their roles seriously!!

Sport was, as ever, well supported with over 500 boys representing the school in all manner of sports. Outstanding points were that the U13 Hockey side were ranked in the top 50 in the UK and the athletics team are in the top 10 nationally.

In a contest called Youth Speaks, the u16 team came second in the regional finals and they were two years younger than the other competitors.

Exam results are still improving and the School received a letter from the Secretary of State telling the School that they were in the top 100 of most improved result.

**9. Any other business.**

DS requested more information on the Pavilion as he was concerned that money was being raised without properly costed quotations. MB replied that the roof was causing some problems with it pushing out the walls. They needed underpinning and although it would not fall down yet, there was need for the structural work to be done and the School had been given a likely cost of £10,000.

Leslie Mustoe felt that there should be some form of 'memorial' for Stan Rainbow and Bert Reid, who had given 30 years service to the school. PH replied that it would be on the Committee's Agenda. DG felt that Messrs Parr, Allard and Stancombe could be included in the list.

Mike Steeley asked that, as we have a lot of money in the funds, could we not use some of that to fund the Pavilion repair. PH responded that this was a possibility but that the Committee would also explore other donations and fund raising attempts as well.

**10. Close of meeting:**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.43pm.

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013 Signed .....President



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