



Quarterly Bulletin



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY HITCHIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 2016

Hello again and a belated happy new year! There is quite a lot in this issue so I have not included the Minutes of the Last AGM. I will put them on the front page of the Web Site. The Agenda is included. We will start at 5.00pm, in order to have a bit more time for the social graces before the Dinner. The Ticket order for the Dinner which is being held on Saturday 23rd April 2106 is included. I would love to see more of you attending this year.

There are lots of promises!! £25.00 is a very good price.

Menu is Vegetable Soup, Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, Apple Pie and Custard, Cheese & Biscuits, Tea or Coffee.

Our Speaker this year is Peter Offer and I am sure he will be entertaining as ever.

New Members

James Tanner (1997)

BSc in Biomedical Science from the University of the West of England in Bristol, and then a Biomedical Scientist (Haematology and Blood Transfusion) at the QE2 in WGC. Moved into the private sector about ten years ago and am currently a field engineer for Abbott Diagnostics working on a range of laboratory equipment.

I'm married to Martina and we have two kids (Daniel 3 years old, and Charlotte 1 year old).

Matthew Jones (1997)

Attended Derby University and graduated with a BA Hons. In History and Heritage History. After Graduation started work at the House of Commons as an Office Clerk and moved to London.

Retrained as a teacher in 2005 and worked at Quinton Kynaston school in North London since then. Married in 2008 and now have two children and have moved back to Hertfordshire.

News from Old Boys

Paul Stuart (1965 entry) sends word that his latest novel is "I NEED A WORD" and was published in November 2015. You can find his books on www.connectionsbooks.co.uk

From Peter Taylor

Many thanks for the Newsletter, as always. I currently edit the Newsletters for the Queensland Branch of the Children's Book Council in Australia.

The staff member with 'Young Diz' was Stallard, but I can't recall his first name. He taught English. In one lesson of his we developed a list if collective nouns for staff members: a monastery of Monks, a stick of Stallards...

Does anyone still has a copy of the slightly subversive 'Hogwash' magazine written and compiled, I think, by 6th form members in 1966, printed I presume by Flossy and sold within the school, or is there one in the archive? I can still recite 'McGrew stood on the burning deck' from it!

I was a pupil 1960-67 and staff 1972-81. I moved to Brisbane in 1982, where I taught for 6 years before starting my Peter Taylor's Calligraphics calligraphy and paper-crafts business www.ptcalligraphy.com, and writing books www.writing-for-children.com. My latest one, a picture book, was shortlisted for Australian Speech Therapists' '2015 Book of the Year Award'. It's titled Once a Creepy Crocodile, has been wonderfully illustrated by Nina Rycroft and published by the Five Mile Press, and the words match the rhythm of Waltzing Matilda. While it's available from the publisher and 'all good bookstores and online retailers' in Australia and New Zealand, complete with a CD of the text and original version being sung, the copyright to Waltzing Matilda is still held in America (Australia had to pay them royalties to sing it in the stadium at the Atlanta Olympics!!). So to avoid royalty payments, the book doesn't appear on US owned Amazon or Book Depository websites, there is no trailer on US owned YouTube. My first books are now out of (**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, Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. SG5 4NZ

Membership matters, please contact
Howard Gregory, the Membership Secretary.

M: 07876 246122

E: howard.gregory@talktoroger.com

(Cont. from Page 1) print, but Calligraphy for Greetings Cards and Scrapbooking pub. GMC Publications, Practical Calligraphy pub. Hinkler Books and 101 Things To Do Before You Grow Up, also published by Hinkler Books, should be available in the UK if anyone is curious.

There is a chance that I may be back in the UK in the first couple of weeks in January, mainly to see my 95 year old aunt who lives near Huntingdon, but I hope to see some of 'the old crowd' if I can get to Hitchin. I'll check to see if any Old Boys' events are organised.

All best wishes

Peter

David Leyland

Met Geoff Parkes at Swanage on Saturday (17th). We had a good old nostalge. He left school in March 1964, unusually, not, as I assumed, in July 1963, and went to Newcastle University. He tells me that he has taught at every level from primary upwards in the UK, lived in Germany for 5 years, and latterly has specialised in teaching English as a foreign language, with his own school for that purpose in Southampton. His first wife was German, but tragically died young, no children. He is now married to a lady that he met in Havana some years ago whilst on a course to improve his Spanish. He has written various books on the topic of languages, and is now hoping to take up writing fiction.

He is still in touch with Rod Cumin, who is a leading light in the Corsham Society, though Geoff thought that Rod has one stepson and two daughters of his own. We have an anomaly here! To get back to those groups with whom I appear to be obsessed, the mysterious drummer was not HGS, but talent imported from somewhere else, and Rod cannot now remember his name. The drummer with the Deadbeats is Ned Rainham, though the guitarist, who has a vague air of Nick Clegg about him (Nick Clegg wasn't born then!) and the bassist still elude identification.

Ian C. Barker Bio



Photo from Ian Barker (School Rugby shirt far right) of a group of Old Boys who left circa 1968. I don't know why the WAGS are so happy !!

Upon leaving school in 1968, Ian C. Barker worked as a reporter for the Hitchin Pictorial (subsequently renamed The Comet) for a year. He then emigrated to the United States to attend college in Panama City, Florida and Nashville, Tennessee, where he earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University. Following graduation, he returned to Panama City to teach journalism and serve as the advisor to student publications at Gulf Coast Community College. He held a number of teaching and administrative positions during his 22-year career at Gulf Coast, concluding as dean of Planning and Development. He also completed his master's and doctorate degrees while working fulltime and being involved in several community service and charitable organizations.

Between 1995 and 2000, he worked for an information technology firm, consulting with government agency managers in both Florida and Georgia. He returned to the education arena to complete his professional career with the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee. Since retiring in 2013, he and his wife have completed several extended camping trips in the U.S. In October, they made a transatlantic crossing on the Queen Mary 2 to attend an informal reunion with some of his former HBGS classmates: Gordon Duffus, Nigel Bullard, Murray Saunders, Alan Turner, Tudor Lomas, Frank Wingate, Ian Campbell, and Robert Massam.

Alan (Wacker) Turner:

- Left HBGS for Oxford Poly, as it was then, latterly rather grandly to become Oxford Brookes University, studied Building Economics for 4 years (it was a 4 year course, it wasn't that I was completely thick, although some would argue that of course);
- Met Rania, Greek Cypriot studying Hotel Administration whilst in Oxford.
- Qualified as an Associate Chartered Surveyor in 1972 (latterly to become a Fellow in 1978).

(Cont. on Page 3)

ATC Anniversary

I would like to thank you and your members for their time and consideration in looking into the archives for memories for No. 1066 Sqn. I would be extremely interested in receiving copies of any images your members have (Eric Foster certainly had some fantastic images in his collection!).

In celebration of squadron's 75th anniversary, I we will be holding an anniversary dinner in Stevenage next February. Would some of your members be interested in attending? If so, I could forward the official invitation to you?

Enquiries from Old Boys

Do any of the really Old Boys remember (Frederick) Philip Smith who was a master at the School around 1946 ? He was born in 1896.

Bernard Gray was a member of the school from 1972 to 1979. He was recently honoured in the 2015 Queen's Honours List with a Knighthood for his services to Defence, mainly, it seems in saving them a lot of money in procurement. Anyone remember him??

(Cont. from Page 2)

- Qualifications Dip Surv, Oxon; FRICS (Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) and ACI Arb (Chartered Institute of Arbitrators)
- Married Rania in 1972 in Oxford
- Lived and worked in Dar es Salaam Tanzania as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor from 1975-1978
- Played rugby (nr 12 or 13) for Dar es Salaam RFC - stretched off in my last game never to play again
- Two children, Hannah (now 39) and Laura (now 36)
- Set up own Chartered Surveying Practice in Windsor in 1978, which I sold in 1999
- 1999 - 2010 Partner of Gleeds, Chartered Quantity Surveyors.
- 2004 - 2010 MD of Gleeds Gulf in Dubai, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.
- 2010 - 2013 Finance Director of British Expertise
- Four grandchildren, Charles, 10; Abbie, 7; Daisy, 5; Beau, 2
- Interests in Retirement: Guitar, Music Theory, Golf, Rugby (now only watching sadly)
- Have lived with Rania in Bracknell for the last 32 years
- Vice President of Bracknell RFC

Tudor Lomas - Director, The Jemstone Network

Tudor Lomas is a former BBC journalist and communications professional, with nearly thirty years international experience. He established Jemstone, the first and largest media training and development network in the MENA region, initially funded by the EU. It linked nearly fifteen hundred senior journalists and carried out assignments in all the countries of the region, as well as Morocco, Yemen, Sudan, Qatar and Iraq.

His media background is in broadcasting as a reporter, presenter and manager for BBC news and current affairs. He's also worked commercially, designing and delivering training to senior media figures, government spokespeople, business organisations and NGOs. He's advised on communications strategy, organised and chaired high-profile Round Table seminars and conferences, including pioneering Arab-Israeli events and conflict zone workshops.

In addition, Tudor is a social development practitioner, with expertise in seeking creative, participatory solutions, building the trust that enables this to happen and developing a sense of ownership, enthusiasm and commitment. Tudor combines the clear-sightedness of good Western journalism with the empathy and respect that underpins the 'participatory development' approach of Robert Chambers, who advises practitioners to "move slowly, sit and listen".

Tudor has a degree from Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and much more recently, a master's in Social Development Planning and Management from the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Wales. His dissertation was on media and development in a globalising world.

Tudor now works as a mentor and coach to senior executives and public figures; he leads and motivates small teams on key assignments; he operates as an outside consultant, diagnosing, trouble-shooting and delivering solutions.

He is based in Amsterdam; and still works extensively throughout the Middle East. His current projects include a sustainable micro-development initiative with bedouins in rural Jordan; a study of media, identity and conflict in Lebanon, Northern Ireland and The Netherlands; and the creation of a ground-breaking intercultural journalism module at INHolland University in Rotterdam. He is now revisiting, for discussion, an earlier proposal from ten years ago:



Yet another Reunion.

It was noted in the Comet on 4th Feb that a large group of Old Boys met at the Bridge Street Bistro, celebrating their 50th birthdays. I could only find ONE member of the Association on the list Paul Jordan, and have now got his mail address. I have told him that our reunion is a lot cheaper than the Bistro !!! The Names mentioned were :- Jeremy Williams-Leroy, Richard Lucas, Russell Millign, Martin Newman, Graeme Cook, Rob Glenister, Graeme Lockyer, Chris Sansom, Dave Wilmot (came in from America !), Chris Cataldo, Jason Smith, Ian Clark, Tim Gale, Johnathan Humphrey and Paul Jordan. If you any of these guys, make them aware of what they are missing.

In Memoriam

Norman Greenshield (July 2015, from his Daughter)

After leaving school, Norman qualified as a teacher in French and music, getting married in the same year to his wife Jean, to whom he remained married until he passed away this year in July. He lived in North London where my father worked as a teacher of mathematics, at John Hampden and then at Ashmole School, where he became head of the maths department for a time. He was also involved with the school wind band, organising yearly band camps. **(Cont. on Page 4)**

(Cont. from Page 3) He was also involved with the school rugby, organising rugby trips to France and Holland. He also instigated and ran the school tuck shop. After retirement, he continued teaching maths at Southgate school. After leaving there, he continued as a private tutor of maths until June this year.

Noel Parkhouse – my best man and a very good friend *by David Stancombe*

There are friends and friends. Some are for a short time – at school or college, at work or play and some for almost a lifetime. Noel was one of the latter. We first met when he came down from Letchworth and joined a group of young fresh-faced boys at Hitchin Grammar School. We were in the same class throughout our schooldays and in the same school house, which meant we played in the same team for the variety of sports when competing against other house teams. We shared the same spirit for the school teams we represented, particularly rugby where Noel was a fleet footed fly half and me a bungling forward. I even joined the potential doctors and dentists when I studied the sciences, including biology, at A level.



While still at school Noel was also responsible for a brief lapse into amateur dramatics at the Settlement. GBS's "Arms and the Man" saw us and Eddie Abbott on stage in a rather ambitious enterprise.

Noel left school in 1956 to go to dental school and I stayed on at school for another year. During that period I was travelling up to London on many a weekend as Noel was able to obtain West End theatre tickets which were given to students. We saw a large variety of shows and even managed to get three theatre visits in on one day – this involved a bit of a sprint from Drury Lane to the Savoy theatre in the Strand. During this period Noel was playing rugby for Letchworth – often in the first XV – and I joined as well, but played in the lower teams where the tactics of the older players were not to my liking and I emigrated to play hockey with Blueharts in Hitchin. Not that this made any difference to our friendship as we still met up for a pint or two. Many of these were at the George in Ickleford. Noel would cycle down from Letchworth and I would meet him there and we often finished up with a fry-up and a game of darts back at Bearton Green.

I remember the meals cooked by Noel's mum – she seemed to enjoy putting on a spread for the lads and we had many of these after whatever we had been up to earlier in the day. It was always a welcoming home and I treasure the memories of those occasions.

Once Noel was earning he bought a car, I say car as it had four wheels, was red but a bit on the small side. Having said that it got us up to Wales for a few climbing holidays together with all the gear.



Noel did teach me to drive in this Goggomobile but despite all efforts I failed the test trying to reverse it round a corner. It was only a week before Sheila and I got married that I eventually passed but still had L plates on when we went on our honeymoon



Noel and I together with our then girlfriends, (later wives) had a sailing holiday on the Norfolk Broads. The most memorable event was the loss of a quant pole when Noel gallantly clung onto it while the boat moved on. We left him to retrieve it with the dinghy. It was a good holiday and says much that both pairs stayed together for over 50 years.



Brian Pickard, From Andrew Parr

My first boss and oldest Hitchin friend (over 44 years) has died somewhat unexpectedly at the age of 73 from a sudden and massive stroke. Brian was educated at Cheltenham College and Kings College Cambridge. He began his career at Hitchin Boys' Grammar School about 1966 and was very rapidly promoted to Head of Modern Languages. With Maurice Dolden, he appointed me in 1971 and was my friend and mentor until he left in 1977 to become Deputy Head of Bishop Stopford's Church of England Secondary School in Enfield. In 1988, he became the school's Headmaster and was highly esteemed in that role in which he continued until his retirement in 2001.

Any HBGS/HBS Old Boys who were taught by him will remember his kind and gentle manner which did not, however, prevent him from keeping excellent classroom discipline, sometimes with a somewhat assumed gruff voice which he put on for the purpose. He was a consummate linguist with a phenomenal memory for detail. He was the fastest marker of exercise books in the business but the output was always neat, precise, helpful and encouraging. As a trainer of young teachers he was the ideal professional, always kind and generous, although his sheer expertise and dedication were hard to emulate.

Brian was a gifted pianist and often gave a mini-recital before assemblies in the Main Hall. There, too, he delivered fascinating assemblies from the stage, often based around railway timetables which he seemed to know by heart. He sang in the school choir and occasionally contributed to school drama, the final time probably being when he played the harmonium on the hall balcony for the performance run of "Our Town" in the mid 70s.

Trains remained a life-long interest for Brian as did buses. He had been a bus conductor during summer vacations back in Cheltenham. In retirement, armed with his free bus pass, it was his joy to see how far he could travel free of charge. It mattered not if he spent hours doing so when taking the car would have shortened the travel time by 75%! His knowledge of London bus routes was encyclopaedic and he used them frequently for concert, opera, theatre and gallery visits.

Brian was a devoted Christian and was organist at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church for several years. He continued this service when he returned to the Anglican Church in Broxbourne and Wormley, also serving as Churchwarden in Broxbourne as well as being a much-valued School Governor of Wormley C of E Primary School until quite recently.

Brian leaves a wife, Mavis, a daughter, Claire, a son, Simon and a granddaughter, Charlotte, as well as a loving wider family and hundreds of devoted friends and colleagues. Enthusiastic, intelligent, bright-eyed, boyish, scrupulously honest and honourable, a true friend, Brian has enriched all areas of life he touched and his departure leaves the world a considerably poorer place.

Gerald Cherry (15th Feb 1932 – 13th November 2015)

Gerald was a member of a well known local family who were Traders in Nightingale Road for many years. He had brother and a sister. He first went to the local school before gaining a place at the Grammar School. He left at 16 and went to the 'TAB' as an apprentice toolmaker. For his National Service he went into the RAF and finished up as a Sergeant. On leaving the RAF Gerald went into the family firm and was responsible for looking after the lorries. This continued all his working life until the business closed down and he and his brother Arthur retired. There are two children, Mark and Susan and five Grandchildren. Gerald was always a colourful character and his language was not for the Ladies ! But he spread himself about with lots of voluntary work. He was a founder member of the Hitchin Rugby and an Hon. Life Member. He also played for Blueharts in the Sunday B XI and was always to be found mowing the extensive grounds at Lucas Lane. It will not be quite the same without him at the Annual Reunion as he and Bill Boyd always used to go together.

Philip Hywel Davies

Philip died suddenly yet peacefully on 3rd November at the age of 84. He was at the school in the period 1942 to 1948. In 1948 he took an interview for the Ministry of Supply for an Apprenticeship to become an electronic and electrical engineer in Malvern at the Telecommunications Establishment. He remained in Malvern for the rest of his life apart from National Service in the RAF during 1953 to 1956. He kept in touch with Hitchin through his parents and various people including Brian Grant who was a contemporary of his at school. There were many stories about their times at school, it was obviously a very happy time for them.

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association

Life President Emeritus: David Stancombe

Vice Presidents: K. Allard, D.C. Baines, T.P. Brooker, 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, A. Parr, 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. Whitmoree

AGENDA for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 5.00 pm 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 2016 - A.Parr**
 - President for 2017 - A.Parr**
 - Hon. Treasurer - M. E. Hart**
 - Hon. Secretary - P. R. Hollingsworth**
 - Hon. Membership Secretary - H. Gregory**
- Committee Members:**
 - Retiring in 2016 - M.J. Cranfield, P. Britton, S. Garrod**
 - Retiring in 2017 - K. Allard, Colin Bales**
 - New Committee Member**
 - Nominations from the floor
- 7. Re-appointment of Hon Auditors – Messrs UHY Hacker Young**
- 8. Head Teacher's Review**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Close of Meeting**

Peter Hollingsworth
Hon. Secretary

HBSOBA Annual Dinner 23rd April 2016

Ticket Order

| | |
|--|---|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| | |
| | |
| Post Code | |
| Year of leaving school | |
| No of tickets @ £25.00 | |
| Cheque enclosed for | |
| Any special dietary requirements? | |
| Are you part of a table group | |
| Are you enclosing a subscription? | <p>£5.00 per annum</p> <p>£40.00 for Term (20 yrs)</p> <p>£10.00 for part Term</p> <p>£ 20 for Term renewal</p> |

Please send, with remittance, (Cheques made payable to HBSOBA) to:-

Peter Hollingsworth
 8 Baldock Road
 Stotfold
 Hitchin
 Herts
 SG5 4NZ

Alternatively, you can e-mail the form to me:- hbsobasec@gmail.com and send the remittance by EFT to :-

Barclays Bank, Hitchin

Account:- HBSOBA
 Sort Code:- 20-41-12
 Account No:- 40475017

Description:- (20 Characters, Name plus xDT - where x = N^o. of tickets)

Order Form for Tie, CD and/or Photo

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| | |
| | |
| Post Code | |
| A4 Sketch (UK Post) - @ £3.80 | |
| A3 Sketch (UK Post) - @ £6.50 | |
| A4 Sketch (Int. Post) - @ £5.30 | |
| A3 Sketch (Int. Post) - @ £9.50 | |
| No. of Ties - @ £10.00 | |
| No. of CDs required - @ £10.00 | |
| Photos required - @ £17.50 | Year:- |

Years Available:

1893, 1906, 1908, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929, 1937, 1947, 1953, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1982 (Upper School), 1982 (Lower School), 1989, 1994, 1999, 2007

The CDs contain all the years mentioned and can be loaded onto your computer if you have a CD/DVD drive.

Please send, with remittance, (Cheques made payable to HBSOBA) to:-

Peter Hollingsworth
8 Baldock Road, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 4NZ

Alternatively, you can e-mail the form to me:- hbsobasec@gmail.com and send the remittance by EFT to :-

Barclays Bank, Hitchin

Account:- HBSOBA Sort Code:- 20-41-12 Account No:- 40475017

Description:- School Photos, School Ties or School Sketch



Photograph Editing, Archival and Restoration
Black & White and Colour Printing
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Business Cards, Letterheads and Fliers

Negative Scanning and Photograph Printing
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Website Construction
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