

Hitchin Boys' School

Old Boys' Association

Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association

Quarterly Bulletin

June 2017

A Date for your Diary – APRIL 21st 2018 - AGM and Annual Reunion.

General

Welcome to the June 2017 Bulletin. We have news of the AGM, the Dinner, new moves at the school and an adventure into Facebook. Please keep sending me your memories and photos for all your peers to see and eulogise over !

AGM

The AGM was well attended. We made our retiring Treasurer a Life Member in recognition of his 13/14 years as Treasurer. We have a new Committee Member in Les Mustoe who seems keen to get to grips with the issues we face. We also put forward a motion for the next AGM to change our name in respect to taking the gender out of the name. The proposal was well presented by the President and it is food for thought. Colin Bates will, later in the year, take over as Treasurer. The Hon Sec is doing another year, as is the President, but both need to be replaced next year, so get your volunteering caps on to find two good replacements!!!!

Dinner

Well, we are down to the hard core of those who attend the Dinner each year. Stuart Halsey managed to round up some of his peer group and they had a good time and the newcomers were sufficiently impressed to say they would all come again next year. The Dinner will run next year but I would love for us to get back to the 100 mark, or more. Let's see the Hall full and noisy again. I will get the Committee to think of some entertainment to make it more enjoyable.

That apart, the food was good, the speeches very good and the company excellent!



Facebook

I am having an adventure into Facebook, ably assisted by Kate Sutton despite Facebook not liking me for most of the time. Anyway we now have a group Hitchin Boys' School Former Pupils set up and I would like people to become part of the group. I can then put notes out and maybe get more Old Boys interested and even some new members as well as a much better reunion gathering. We shall see !!

News from Members

Derek McGilvray

I'm a graduate of Hitchin Grammar School (1954-1961) who previously lived at 61, Baldock Road, Letchworth. I'm not sure but I think we may have been at the school at the same time, (then again, maybe not). I have so many great memories of my time at HGS: catching the No. 52 double decker bus at the corner of Norton Way South and Baldock Road every weekday morning; Wednesday evening meetings of the School Boy Scout Troop with Stan Rainbow; learning Biology with Dicky Richards, chemistry with Mr. Poole and physics with Ernie Whitaker (sp. ?); acting in the annual school Shakespeare play (both male and female roles!!!); and playing rugby and cricket, not very well, supervised by Mr. Bartlett. I could go on and on...

After HGS I attended Manchester College of Science and Technology, graduating in 1964 with a degree in biochemistry. Three years later I completed my doctorate in biochemistry and microbial physiology at the University of Leicester and decided to travel to the United States for

postdoctoral work at Purdue University in Indiana. Originally I had planned to return to the UK in 1971, but I was offered the position of senior scientist at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, which I accepted. I've stayed in the USA ever since, and worked at Lilly for close to thirty years heading a research group for genetically improving microbial strains used in large scale fermentations to produce human antibiotics, animal health products, and insecticides. I took early retirement in 1998, left the lab, and with an Emeritus Professor developed and taught the first course in industrial biotechnology at Indiana University in Bloomington. Last of all, I started a consulting company for fermentation development, which involved work at biotech companies in Italy, and on the east and west coasts of the USA. I'm now fully retired, although I wish I could go back to the lab. Nowadays, as well as keeping up with the scientific literature, I spend my time on my favorite hobbies of gardening and auto-racing (although age has caught up with me on the latter, and slow reaction times have prevented me from track excursions).

I've been married to my wife Elaine, from southern Indiana near Evansville, for forty one years, and live on a lake in a housing estate just north of Martinsville. I have two daughters who live a long way from their parents: one in Seattle, Washington, and the other in Chicago, Illinois.

I would love to hear from my HGS school friends to discuss old times if they would care to contact me...

Nigel White

Seems to have lost touch with Hitchin and wondered if there were any newsletters. Email is nigel.white60@ntlworld.com if anyone would like to contact him.

Barry Bray

Has sent in a photo of the prefects in 1957, a motley crew who all did very well, perhaps you can remember them :-

In order of appearance from left to right:

Back row - Dr John Lanbourne, Dave Leonard, Bruce Cox, Maggie Marshall, John Bridges, myself, Dave Gideon, Mike Tippett, Dick Whitworth

Front row - Mike Sharman, Dave Howorth, Dave Butterfield, Mike Hoffman, Dave Varey, Mike Watts, Dick Crabb.



New Members

Ian Bugg

One of the first 2012 Associates to join as a full member. He is currently at Plymouth University, in the fourth year of a medical degree, having taken a year out. Next year he will be doing a masters.

Markian Mysko von Schultze

He was head boy in 2012 and gave an impressive speech to the Old Boys' Reunion Dinner. Since leaving the school he took Classics at Oriel College Oxford and obtained a first class degree. He now works as a Management Consultant for McKinsey & Co.

Kate Sutton

Kate is a new Term Member and she attended the AGM and the Dinner. Kate attended the school in the Eighties and had a pretty bad time before eventually becoming fully female. She was open about the subject and had spoken with the President, Secretary and the Head. Suffice it to say that she was well received by all at the Dinner and they did their best to make her visit enjoyable. She has since spoken to a forum at the School about the transgender issue and it was much appreciated and helped those present to understand what has to be learnt.

Other Old Boys

Obituaries

Sad news that **Roy Hawken** has just died. He had gone downhill over the last few months, according to his partner.

The funeral will be at Harwood Park Crem on March 22nd at 1.15pm

Just to let you know that **Norman Lincoln** sadly passed away on 26/12/2016.

Gordon Alexander Brown (1929 - 2017)

Generally known as Angus but nobody knows why.

Memories of Gordon are mainly associated with scouting. Gordon was an Assistant Scout Leader with Stan Rainbow at the school scout group and took over as Senior Scout Leader. In 1956 Gordon transferred to become Group Scout Leader of the 3rd Hitchin; probably due to the fact that Betty, his future wife, was involved there. I was a senior scout at that time and I still remember Angus coming back now and again, to see how we were getting along.

Gordon held various district and county appointments including District Scout Leader, member of the County Training team and eventually District Commissioner before hanging up his uniform in the early 90's to become a District Vice President – a position he held until his death.

During his scouting career Gordon was awarded The Medal of Merit, Bar to the Medal of Merit and A Silver Acorn. His continuous involvement with the movement was spread over 75 years.

David Stancombe, with thanks to Tony Freeman for the details.

COLIN CHARLES DAY

7th December 1931 – 5th June 2017



We are very sad to announce that Colin died peacefully in our cherished family home of Carrie Dene aged 85. He will be greatly missed by his wife Margaret, his children Caroline and Chris and his grandchildren William, Georgie, Tom and Isabelle.

A lifelong Letchworthian and greatly respected member of the local community, Colin worked tirelessly for those around him. Attending Norton Road School and Hitchin Boys' Grammar before studying at Bristol University, he went on to become president of Blueharts Hockey Club and Hitchin Boys' School Old Boys' Association. From choirboy to churchwarden, he was a dedicated mainstay of Letchworth Parish, working hard for St Michael's and St Mary's Churches throughout his life.

As Managing Director of Ironcrafts (Stotfold) Ltd., the family business founded by his father in 1949, Colin spent over 60 years proudly nurturing the firm's national reputation for excellence in handcrafted, decorative ironwork.

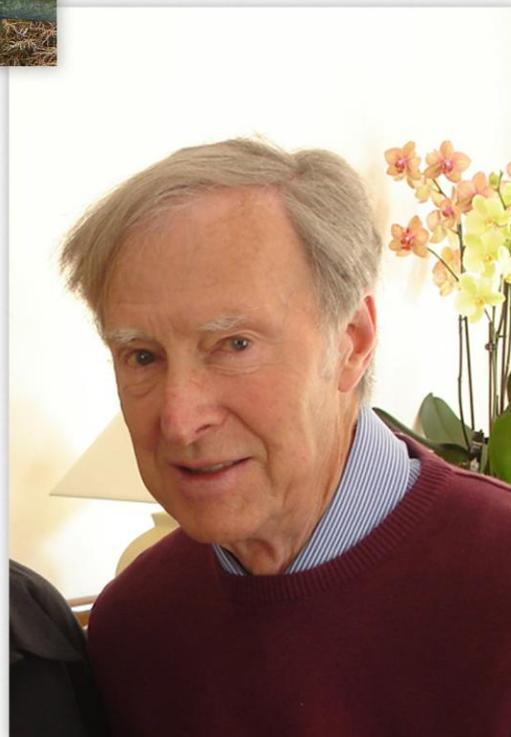
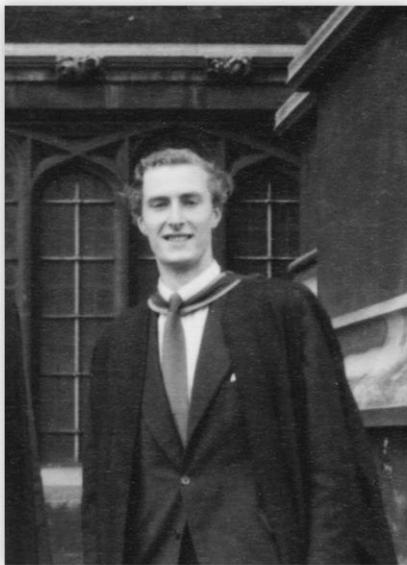
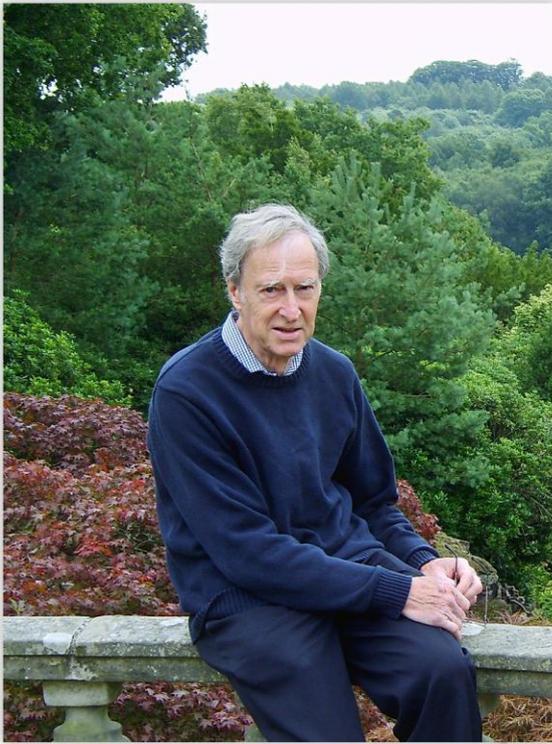
Colin would never rush to judge nor hesitate to help and a lifetime of generosity, wisdom and warm, playful wit means he will be deeply missed.

The funeral service will be at **11.30 am on Friday 30th June 2017** at the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ, followed by cremation at the North Hertfordshire Memorial Park and Crematorium, Bedford Road, Holwell, Hitchin, SG5 3RT. Afterwards there will be a reception at Carrie Dene.

Donations to Parkinsons UK can be given in Colin's memory via:

www.justgiving.com/CCDay

Margaret Day
Carrie Dene, 119 Wilbury Road,
Letchworth, Herts SG6 4JG
Tel: 01462-685876
Email: carriedene@hotmail.co.uk



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