

Hitchin Boys' School

Former Students' Association

**Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association and
Hitchin Boys' School Old Boys' Association**

Quarterly Bulletin

October 2018

A Date for your Diary – APRIL 27th 2019 –

AGM at 5.00pm in the Library

Annual Reunion 6.15pm for 7.15 in the Hall.

General

Well, it will soon be Christmas again and nothing seems to have moved on the Treasurer and President front.

I have had some late acceptors for the Data Protection, if you STILL haven't replied, I would like to hear from you !

We have had a bequest of £1,000.00 from the estate of Eric Foster, which the Committee will discuss with the School on an appropriate project. If you have fond thoughts of the school, it would be nice for you to think of a bequest for some future project that the Old Boys can invest in with the school.

Facebook

Kate, who has joined the Committee now, is busy getting some photos of the school and these will appear on Facebook in due course.

AGM

As a result of the AGM, we are still short of a Treasurer. It is not onerous, four meetings and the AGM to attend. The accounts run themselves due to

our previous Treasurer giving us a preset spread sheet to work on. Is there anyone out there who is interested ?????

Andrew, our President IS RETIRING at the next AGM and we need a willing volunteer for two to three years in the post. You attend and Chair the Committee Meetings and the AGM. You have an amount to say at the reunion and there is a laid down script for you to follow. Again, it is your association, are you interested or know someone who might be gently coerced ???

The Committee are looking into the Proxy Vote System, as requested. We do have a concern that if we did allow Proxy votes, no-one would turn up for the AGM OR the reunion dinner. Proxy votes would only be allowed for constitutional changes. We will have a proposal for a rule change in the post Christmas Bulletin.

Annual Dinner

We have a speaker for the next reunion on 27th April 2019. His name is Peter Mitchell and he was a student at HBS from 1999 to 2006. He is now a successful professional musician and he is very pleased to do it.

Start thinking about your year groups, Those who started or left in the 8/9 year, however long ago it might be, get together. The more of you, the better the evening and there are always the delights of Hitchin after the dinner !!!

News from Members

We do have one new member and a number of enquiries, which sometimes never make it ???

Colin Jamieson (1964) has joined the Association. The majority of his working life was spent in social housing, working with local councils and housing associations. He attained the rank of Housing Manager, responsible for over 100 people and a budget of over £4m. His leisure time is spent working on the Bluebell Heritage Railway in Sussex where he is a Fireman on the Steam Locomotives.

His contacts would be Patrick Brooker, Tony Warner and Peter Voutt.

Please send an application form as I would be interested in joining the OBA as an ex-Hitchin Grammarian 1969-1974.

David Tollafeld

Shaun Prutton has expressed an interest in joining the Association

Widge Buckland has had the temerity to send in a photo a year group lunch he attended. It is a pity they won't come to the Reunion so that we could see them!!

From left to right they are. Frank Abbott, Paul Jesson (formerly Jackson), Widge, Geoff Marshall, Rick Vaughan and David McDonough. Stuart Macdonald was due to be there but was unwell. I think we started at HBS in 1957.



You are doing yeomen's work for HBGS. That's why I want to add to your burden. About 10 of my 1968 classmates and spouses—Australia to USA—are planning a get together in early August. Where would you recommend we might stay in Hitchin, or close by? Is there a restaurant or other venue

that would be conducive to food, fun, and few stairs? My sister, Rosemary (Barker) Tidy, lives in Ickleford and can serve as local contact for details. If you can help, please let me know.

Thanks,

Ian Barker

(Ed. I supplied all the usual names, I hope they enjoyed it and may give us some feedback !!)

John Stutley and Stan Mincher have now connected by snail mail after a long long time !!

John Goodwin's brother Robert, has been looking for Jack Fox and Boris Rumsey as they were peers of his brother John. He last saw them at John's funeral in 2004. He now has a contact with Jack and his nephew Adam Goodwin and his wife Kim visited last month and Adam brought with him some excerpts of Boris's book.' John has since bought his own copy and looks forward to a long read as the nights draw in'.

Actuarially speaking, John says, it's doubtful I'll need to renew my HBSOBA subscription! (Looks like I stop his subscription in 2022 then !!! Ed)

Other Old Boys

Obituaries

From Eugene Gavin

My elder brother , Brendan, died in Ipswich Hospice on June 16th. He would have been 82 on August 1st this year.



Brendan was the middle brother of the 3 Gavins who transferred from St Michael's College to the Grammar School in the 1940's. He attended between 1948-1953. Despite joining late, he contributed fully to School activities.. He took speaking parts in School plays, and represented his House on the playing field . He played for the School Football 1st X1 alongside the legendary striker ? Telfer. He was also a School Prefect. Although all 3 brothers went on to University, it was only Brendan who appears on the School Honours Board.(A.B.Gavin) for achieving the prestigious State Scholarship.

Brendan always had very positive memories of his Grammar School days. A few years ago, he found time to attend an HBGS Annual Reunion Dinner. He much enjoyed the evening.

After School, he read Engineering at Birmingham University and , on graduation, was immediately recruited by ICI. He was then called up for National Service. After representations from ICI he was admitted as a ranking officer in the Royal Engineers. He worked for the same company until his mid 50s and ended his career as Works Manager at an ICI plant near Ipswich. He then took up an opportunity to fast track into teaching, and gained a teaching qualification after 2 years study at Homerton College Cambridge. Shortly after graduation, he was fortunate to be appointed full time Maths teacher at the Northgate High School in Ipswich where he already resided. When he retired, he was given a standing ovation from the

whole school. His former Headmaster attended his funeral on behalf of the school.

Brendan lived a full life beyond work. He was a handicap golfer, competent in a sailing boat, and a more than competent watercolour painter. He enjoyed weekly a very competitive game of Bridge. He was also father to 6 children, 2 from his first marriage and 4 from his widowed second wife. The eldest sons from both marriages gave Eulogies at his funeral.

From Freda Waters

Freda Waters has written to me with news of the sad loss of Brian Waters (1948) after a short illness.

Brian was born in 1931 and grew up in Hitchin, attending the Grammar School in the 1940's. When his parents retired, he moved with them to Newark in the early 1950's.

After doing his National Service in the Royal Air Force, he served an apprenticeship in motor engineering at W. Donald Ltd., of London Road, Newark.

His leisure interests were, and remained all his life; choral music (he had been a choir boy at St Mary's in Hitchin), archaeology and industrial history, especially of aeroplanes and flying. Though his interest in archaeology, he met Freda, who worked at Newark Museum and they were married in 1956. In 1960 Brian also entered the museum profession, training at Leicester City Museum. Whilst at Leicester, he achieved the long held ambition of becoming a pilot, training at Leicester Aero Club.

After Posts at Derby and Leicester again, he moved to Derby to open the Derby Industrial Museum, where he spent 17 years, also working with Rolls Royce Ltd building up a representative collection of the Derby built aero engines.

On retirement, Brian and Freda moved back to Newark and Brian's leisure interests followed the same pattern, gliding with Newark Gliding Club, helping at Newark Air Museum and choral music with Southwell Choral Society. In all these group he made many dear friends. A highlight of Brian's retirement years was being co-author of 'Made in Nottinghamshire – the motor car manufacturing heritage' published in 2013 by Nottingham County Council.

Brian's only regret was that, in his eighties, he was no longer permitted to fly without a safety pilot! However, he was still able to enjoy driving until a few days before his death.

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

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