

BOARS in Touch

OBA NEWSLETTER



Editorial

What a squeeze to get everything into this edition!! **Please forgive small type**: some articles and photos are included which we received some time ago and could not appear earlier. We apologise to the authors for the delay in their appearance.

The OBA moves on – our webpage and the ‘mini reunions’ are up and running. The whole committee wants to reach out to as many new members as possible. planning for the next, Edinburgh, reunion is already well under way. **You Members, DO encourage non-members to join via the Webpage** -

<http://www.oldburwoodianassociation.co.uk>

As from March 2008 the BiT can be sent through email if a member wishes, let the secretary know your email address. The BiT will be sent to you by post or email.

We do not have the Minutes of the September meeting, as it has not yet happened.

We thank all of you who have sent contributions – helping us to Keep the Boars **in Touch**. We are now nearly up-to-date with articles, so we NEED you to contribute – and sooner rather than later, please!! **Bit@oldburwoodianassociation.co.uk**

We also thank Katie who was the Editor for several of the last Editions: it takes a lot of time and effort to produce an edition and she felt she could no longer continue. I have taken over for the time being – I do have a certain amount of time “spare”, though retirement is hard work, really..... No, really! **Colin S.**

Issue 21 – September 2007

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If you have any comments, queries or ideas for future issues, contact one of us above.

Can you help?

Before the "Boars in Touch" the OBA magazine was called "The Old Burwoodian". There were quite a lot of editions, but we only have about 4 for the archive. I would very much like to have a full set. Why? I would like to provide a "50 Year OBA Magazine" for the Grand Reunion 2010. Hopefully it will be on sale at the Grand Reunion 2010.

Can you provide ANY copies?

Please help if you can Ronald Gibbins

Burwood Park Foundation and the BiT

The OBA thanks the Burwood Park Foundation for funding the production of the 'Boars in Touch', so that every member of the OBA will receive a free edition of the BiT each Spring and Autumn.

The Burwood Park Foundation

It was set up to help children over 11 who are deaf or who have acquired speech by special educational treatment.

Most of the money disbursed goes to organisations rather than to individuals, but individuals are very welcome to apply, in writing, explaining what they have in mind. At least 3 Old Burwoodians so far have received grants. The Board meets twice a year to consider applications.

The conditions under which the Foundation operates are very clearly laid out in its charter.

The address is: - The **Burwood Park Foundation for the Deaf**, Ince Castle, SALTASH, Cornwall PL1 2 4RA.

The Foundation is keen to become better known, and welcomes applications, all of which are carefully considered.

Why not put a Club / Association / Organisation Notice here?

Send it to: -

Bit@oldburwodianassociation.co.uk

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Would all OBA members, in future, **please remember to inform the Membership Secretary of any change to your address** and contact details as soon as they change. This will ensure that copies of BiT and any other correspondence in relation to OBA do not go astray, in the post.

Mini-Reunion, Redhill, Surrey 21st April 2007.

The OBA's April 2007 mini-reunion was held at Wetherspoon's The Sun Pub in Redhill town centre on a nice warm Saturday evening.

Twenty-five members including staff, Messrs Sayer and Dobbs, and Norfolk House College students attended the mini-reunion. Some of them had brought their partners along there and we all had a good relaxing evening. Colin Sayer & Ron Gibbins had brought some memorabilia for members to see and to purchase some of them.

We even had a canny Scotsman and his wife coming to this mini-reunion all the way from Aberdeen! Alas, he had been attending a 3 weeks training course in Cambridge and he was due an all-expenses paid weekend home visit to Aberdeen but he was crafty enough to use this to go to Redhill instead to see his old pals. Nice one, Leslie!!

I have had to make a list of members present that evening to see whether they had renewed their membership recently or not. About half a dozen of them (including myself – oops!) have apparently not renewed lately but most of them did renew and paid it on the spot anyway. I am sure the Membership Secretary will be pleased to hear of this ☺

I left the pub well past midnight with a few other people. Colin (well past his bedtime), Geoffrey, Darren, Peter and his partner remained at the pub. I believe they were discussing the Spectrum ZX81 (and the BBC) computer. I just hope Mrs S was not staying up all night with a rolling pin waiting by the front door!! ☺

Old Boys who attended the Redhill mini-reunion were Leslie Banks, Clive Boswell, Anthony Clarke, Christopher Davies, Peter Davis, Geoffrey Eagling, Simon Fisher, Mark Flower, Ron Gibbins, Stephen Holliday, John Jenner, Brian Martin, Brian McGrath, Allan Sharp, Roy Staines, Nick Sturley, Robert Taylor, Andrew Thomas, James Wengraf-Townsend, Darren Valentine, Steve Wherry and Richard Willson. (See 2 more photos P.4)

Thank you to all who made this trip to Redhill a nice pleasant evening. **John Jenner**

Anthony Clarke, Trudi and Leslie Banks, Steven Wherry





Jill Clark,
Colin and
Sylvia:
spot the
boule



John Clark
in action at
boules



Mr Clark's memories of 1955 No 2

Burwood Park, 0800 pm Thursday 29 September

A moment snatched to write a few lines

Very full programme. Real teaching began this week and we're getting into routine. I'm pleased so far with RI and French - great possibilities. (First French prep this evening!) I seem to be succeeding in my plan to insist on Francais only' during French periods - when we imagine ourselves to be in France. Some pronunciations are promising.

So far in RI it has been a matter of explaining grace and morning prayers. Response is good. Alan and I have practically a free hand - even to the extent of preparing graces and prayers for daily use. We're working at the moment on the principle of same grace, same prayers for a week - until they have built up a familiar repertory.

Managers' meeting on Tuesday. They include Dr M.M. Lewis! Mrs Ewing had a few words with me. She seems well pleased with everything -believing BP can be a great force for good in deaf education. I hope so.

We all went to church on Sunday: 7 RCs with Mr Davies, Christopher's father; 6 non-conformists with Alan; and the rest with me to Hersharn Parish Church. Spent half an hour running through the service with them before we set out - and prepared short guides which they took with them. There's a lot of work to do on the prayer book.

We got the tape recorder into action last night. The quality is magnificent. Only one snag: no means of identifying positions on tape. (I have it now. C.S.)

1956

Folkestone, Saturday 18 August Probably never so fully occupied as this year. But little inspiration. No attempt at a full diary - just brief notes of very notable events.

We've completed the first year at Burwood Park - with mixed feelings. Much has no doubt been achieved; but all is not well. Two things particularly worry us:

1 The Managers' public school' policy, which confines the boys to school and gives them little or no freedom. How can any sense of personal responsibility be developed like this? What sort of preparation are we giving them for life in the world? How does this tie up with modern deaf educational theory - maximum contact with hearing people?

We are too small a community to create much real life within our walls. We lack facilities. I personally very much doubt if deaf children, even of the quality we have, can ever create for themselves the kind of atmosphere that justifies the traditional public school confinement.

2 We are short-staffed. We just have not enough time to think and plan our lessons as we should. Prep setting and marking take all our evening time. We must have more free periods. These boys can take all we can give them. It is not that we want to do less, but that we must do more.

More staff seems to be the only answer - either another teacher (preferably), or someone to relieve us entirely of duty. I know money will be the problem, but it would be a pity to spoil such a splendid ship as this

Now for the transcription of the notes I have made from time to time - with any comments they may evoke ...

Monday 16 January Term begins.

Sunday 29 January Miss Massey, Head of Maud Maxfield School, Sheffield visited. *Good news. Had met her at Margate, when Lindsay Anderson was making 'Thursday's Children'.*

Monday 30 January Hamish: consolation prize for painting in Schoolboys' Exhibition. *Hamish Rosie, our School Captain from Aberdeen.*

Wednesday 1 February Managers' meeting - lunch: Lady Patricia, Mrs Norman, Dr Lewis, Mr Norfolk, Mr Askew (*Head of Mary Hare*).

Visitors from Middlesex County Council re Heston (*new deaf school being built - Eric Brown to be Head*).

First badminton.

Saturday 4 February House table tennis: Lennox-Boyd 6 Ewing 4.

Lakes frozen.

Wednesday 8 February First meeting of school magazine staff.

Saturday 11 February House football: E 5 LB 3

Saturday 25 February Metropolitan and Southern Branch meeting, NCTD.

5 March: 'Help for Deaf Boys', Peterborough, Daily Telegraph.

Saturday 10 March To Mary Hare Grammar School for return football match (lost).

Friday 18 May Whit holiday Boys to Regent's Park with WEW.

Sat 19 May To Hampton Court with KF

Sun 20 May To Whiteley Village Church with GD

Mon 21 May To Lord's with AH

Tue 22 May To Bognor with AH and JC

Saturday 26 May St George joined dragons. *The first of several Saturdays when Mr St George came to help us out with duty.*

Saturday 2 June Burwood Park's 'Pearl Harbour', when boys took themselves to the pictures in protest against confinement.

Monday 4 June Weekly swimming begins - at 'The Hour Glass', Esher.

Saturday 21 July First Sports Day. Alan Lennox-Boyd presented the prizes. Nigel Robinson, Victor Ludorum. *JC recorder and announcer.*

'Burwood School held first Sports Meeting' Walton and Weybridge News 'Colonial Secretary at Walton School' Surrey Herald

Wednesday 25 July Third term magazine published.

Thursday 26 July Term ends. First year completed.

Folkestone, Saturday 1 September Letter to WEW: 'Boys' freedom - staff time.'

Friday 14 September Returned to Burwood Park

Sunday 16 September Derek Brown arrived. Alan later.

Monday 17 September 1000 am staff meeting with Lady Patricia and Mr Norfolk - review of first year. *Won more freedom for boys.*

Boys returned pm. 6 new: Derek Pritchard, Alan Cook, Keith Williams, Christopher Saunders, Andrew Lethbridge, Richard Willson

Tuesday 18 September Timetable thrashed out. Geoffrey apologised for choosing optional history rather than French! TV set arrived - permanent loan from RNID.

Wednesday 3 October Collected THE CAR from Kensington! 'BOB'- bought by Car Club for £7 10/- 1936 Standard 16.

To St Mary's, Oatlands, Youth Club with Mary Prentis and David Mansell, Colin Palmer, Patrick Chapman and Tony Wilson.

Wednesday 10 October First Confirmation class at St Peter's, Hersham, with Colin Palmer, David Kettle and David Schofield.

Wednesday 24 October Colyn Walden to Shepperton Studios for 'Esther Costello' (Nicholas Montserrat and Joan Crawford).

Friday 26 October Half term. Guildford reconnaissance for visit.

Sunday 28 October JC with boys to Guildford: matins at Holy Trinity, lunch at Castle, visit to Cathedral.

Wednesday 14 November Managers' meeting. Preliminary meeting on future of older boys with Lady Patricia, Mr Norfolk, Prof and Mrs Ewing, WEW and GD).

Wednesday 5 December Colin Palmer, David Kettle, David Schofield confirmed at St Mary's, Oatlands, by Bishop of Guildford (Ivor Watkins).

Here end the fragments - discovered only by chance while looking for something else jhc 0606

Corinthian Casuals

I met an ex Surrey, Sussex and England cricketer at a rally this summer, and asked him about the football matches with Burwood Park School from 1969 to 1974.

His team was the 'Corinthian Casuals' from Woking. He remembered playing in these games held at BPS but he did not know or recognize our games master, Mr Watson.

I expect the pupils thought that all the Corinthian Casuals players knew Mr Watson at these times, but they didn't. **Simon Fisher**

Redhill Mini - Reunion

R. Willson, James Gibson, Brian McGrath



Nick Sturley, Darren Valentine



Own Business

Any other ex-BPS running their own business successfully at the moment?

Yes, I myself, have been running a construction business in Los Angeles ever since in 1990... Been doing well and I have two different companies, one for commercial work under Pyramid Construction Co and one for residential under Value Home Construction..

Any other questions if interested on how to run it here in the USA? It is very competitive here just like in any other countries I believe. Especially here the good weather helps me a lot.

Been doing lots of work for the stars, no kidding and I have pictures, autographs and in fact they are just like us, no difference, uglier in person heh!

Paul Davis

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The BiT would be delighted to hear from any more of you who are running your own businesses. Contact Bit@oldburwoodianassociation.co.uk Go on!! Or write to Colin, address on front page.

Deaf Education

B.Whalley

We have seen the number of deaf schools dwindle down from 155 in the 1950s, to about 27 today. Approximately, 5 schools are taught orally, while the rest use Total Communication or Sign-Bilingual. I've taken out an extract from an essay I did for my PGCE course on Teaching Deaf Children. I've updated it and hope it may be of some interest to readers of the BiT, briefly highlighting how Deaf education is changing in Britain today regarding placements of deaf children in schools

TEACHING DEAF CHILDREN

In the Warnock Report (1978) Special Education Need (HMSO), it states that there is only **one population of children**, some of whom have disabilities and special needs. This was followed by the 1981 Education Act, which embodied the concept of special needs as a consequence of a learning difficulty. What is still not widely understood is that the term learning difficulty was used in the psychological sense in which all behaviour is learned. Thus emotional, behavioural and social difficulties are embraced as well as the more traditional cognitive ones. The Act had a profound effect on education provision for deaf children by integrating them into mainstream schools. This action resulted in fewer deaf pupils entering special schools in Britain which eventually led to closure of many of them like Burwood Park School.

The Warnock committee considered that at some time in their education, 20 per cent of children might be expected to have special educational needs. The definition of special educational needs centres on whether or not a child has *"learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made"*. (Davie 1989) The key criterion must always be that the *"child's needs are met, and that should take*

precedence over where they are met". (Chasty et al 1991) The act states that most needs could be met in ordinary classrooms, that some children with greater difficulties may need support or withdrawal from that classroom, while others, with more severe needs, require greater withdrawal and less linking back to the ordinary school. Some children will need highly specialist help in special schools for deaf children only.

It is the duty of the LEA, under Section 7 (1) of the 1981 Act, in statement cases, to determine special educational provision and to make a statement of the child's special educational needs. A statement must accurately define a child's needs and the provision to meet those needs. A child's statement is reviewed annually and if the parents are not satisfied with their child's educational provisions, the statement is reviewed, amended or re-assessed. It is from the statements that each deaf pupil is assessed to decide appropriate placement in mainstream schools, units or special schools. It is crucial that deaf pupils are located at appropriate schools in their early infant age to receive the best education possible under their statements and to settle and develop their personal and social needs.

Placement of deaf pupils is usually focused on which communication method is most adaptable that develops language and learning. It is still argued that if the severity of their hearing loss is not properly diagnosed and their communication needs are not properly identified, a born severely or profoundly deaf pupil could be easily misplaced in an oral rather than a total communication or a bilingual educational setting because of being labelled "hearing impaired" and the confusion of speech and language. Surveys have been carried out that indicate that the total communication method provides a *"better platform for linguistic, cognitive, academic and social emotional development than the limited communication approach of oralism"*. (Morris 1986) Today, it is assumed that most deaf children in special schools are taught through the sign-bilingual communication method in preference to Total Communication. Bilingualism is used in education to separate the two languages – English and British Sign Language. Total Communication uses the two languages together, known as Signed Support English – using sign language to support spoken English grammatical word order that aids lipreading.

In mainstream schools, it has been reported that deaf pupils do have some difficulty in integrating depending upon the severity of their hearing loss and lipreading skills. Difficulties may arise in the classrooms when teachers have unrealistic ideas of the problems of deafness. To overcome the problems, the pupils are generally accompanied by support teachers, teacher's assistants (TA) or communicators to address these difficulties, giving daily educational support in classrooms and also feedback and reinforcement in a withdrawn one to one situation. Further drawbacks may occur for some deaf pupils who may be struggling to receive adequate education if their educational support fails to meet their needs and have limited social skills to integrate satisfactorily with their class peers. On a positive note, it helps

pupils to cope in a hearing community in preparation for adult life and career.

At special schools for the deaf, as part of the Code of Practice (DfE 1994) on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, the deaf pupils' Individual Educational Plans (IEP) are derived from their statements and reported in their annual reports which outline the progress of each child, their areas of strengths, weaknesses, attitude, behaviour and goals. The purpose of the Code of Practice is to give practical guidance to LEAs and the governing bodies of all maintained schools - and to all those who help them, including health services and social services - on the discharge of their services under Part III of the Education Act 1993. Parents are invited to attend annual reviews to discuss the educational needs of their child. Some special schools cater for pupils with a diversity of needs in their IEPs and deliver education of life-skills and independence skills for some pupils with additional needs and/or complex learning difficulties.

The most critical and concerned areas of deaf pupils' educational needs are their literacy skills. A lot of publicity in newspapers and television media has highlighted the plight of pupils' poor literacy skills, owing to today's family life, schools and technology such as using computers and watching television. *Deafness can have a deleterious effect on the child's acquisition of speech, language and literacy. (Webster et al 1989)* For deaf pupils who are deprived of hearing speech that their hearing peers take for granted, it is paramount that the deaf pupils undertake as much reading and communication as possible to acquire sound linguistic levels in accordance with their age group. The pressures of providing educational provision of the whole National Curriculum to meet individual pupils' education needs, regardless of their ability and background are a daunting task for special schools and for teaching staff.

To conclude on SEN provisions for deaf pupils, it may be seen that the advocates of one method of communication as opposed to another, frequently support their fervour with promises of better educational achievement. The delivery of appropriate methods of communication to deaf pupils is often highly debated. Many factors influence deaf pupils' developmental progress such as degree of hearing loss, intelligence, cause of deafness, ethnic background and family circumstances. The

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My Trip to Singapore (Sept 18th – 25th 2006)

Lyndon Clifton

Map of Singapore

On September 18th morning I woke up at 7.00am feeling excited to meet my schoolmate from Burwood Park called Paddy Chee who is in Singapore. I set off from home at 7.45am by bus to Halifax Rail Station then to the train station in Manchester Airport. At 1.30pm I got on Fokker 70 Royal Dutch Jet (KLM) and sat on the right side at a window seat: then we took off at 2.00pm flying around 270 degrees to see all terminals and all planes at Manchester which I have not seen and it was a beautiful view, cruising to Amsterdam Airport: just before landing there were other beautiful views of landscapes with windmills. I arrived at Amsterdam airport at 16.25pm then I got



commonsense approach is a pragmatic one, to accept that what works for some children, their families and teachers may not work for others. Special schools will seek to provide a flexible variety of educational opportunities which permit a well-tailored response to the individual needs and circumstances of the child and family. There must be "*flexibility and an openness to the notion of adapting provision to the particular needs of individual children*" (Warnock 1978) The change of education provision for deaf children under the 1981 Education Act has influenced the public's attitude towards most special schools being negatively labelled as a school for less able or learning difficulties pupils.

A few questions for ex-pupils of BPS – today, if you were still at school:

- Would you have been placed in a mainstream school or in a special school for deaf children? Why?
- Which communication mode would best meet your educational needs?

Lastly, at the present situation of deaf education, if we, Burwoodians, were at secondary school age now, perhaps most of us would be happier being at a school like Mary Hare, orally educated, but use signing in leisure time than being mainstreamed!? A few might choose Heathlands – Townsend school, who favours Total Communication, with English, Maths and Science being taught in the school for the deaf, and other subjects in the mainstream sector? Or, Sign-Bilingualism might suit some of us, if we chose BSL as our dominant language from birth, preferring not to wear hearing aids!?

B. Whalley

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The 'Boars in Touch' would be extremely interested to receive your opinions and experiences relating to Brian's article.

He asks you two questions. Here are two more: -

Do you feel that going to Burwood Park (oral) school helped or hindered your success in life in the hearing world?

If you have deaf children now, would you have sent them to Burwood (as it was)? Why, or why not? C.S.

the connection flight at 21.20pm. At 20.45pm I got on a Jumbo 747 Royal Dutch Jet (KLM) eight weeks old and sat on the left side on a window seat (25A) just above the tip of the front wing with two huge engines to look at, oh what a beautiful sight. Then again the plane took off at 21.20pm, cruising to Singapore travelling 598mph at 37,000 feet just before we reached Pakistan to look at the beautiful view. There were black fluffy clouds with white bright stars above that looked like steps and the bottom white bright arc of the moon (it was like a smile) while far away there was a little white bright sky just above black clouds: oh what beautiful view again! Cruising to Bangkok suddenly the plane got a bit jumpy: we were going up and down for about 15 mins. We had to put on our seat belts: it was perhaps air turbulence. Cruising to Phuket I looked at a beautiful view with blue/green seas



surrounded by a bay of beaches and small mountains. Arriving at Singapore then we went down to 18,000 feet, the left wing turned down to about 45 degrees flying a full circle round three times. I looked out from my window: there were lush green trees and orange roof tiles: oh what a beautiful view. Then suddenly just before landing I saw out of my window a cargo ship with big red boxes. We arrived at Singapore Changi Airport at 15.35pm: the total flight time was 12 hours and 7 hours in front of British time. Oh what a wonderful flight.

Jumbo 747 Royal Dutch Jet (KLM)

When I got out of the plane, I walked to passport control, where they gave me a small sweet and said 'Welcome to Singapore': they were lovely people. I walked to collect my baggage then I put my old Burwood Park school cap on my head to make my schoolmate recognise me so I met Paddy Chee. Then we went to a coffee shop of course chatting for about 30 mins. I was wearing a cream suit. Paddy told me to take my jacket off so I did, then we walked to the exit and when the auto-doors opened I felt the heat wave on me and then I felt sweaty. The weather was 30 degrees and 85% humidity. There are large numbers of air-conditioned taxis and reasonably priced so I got a taxi to Hotel 1929 in the south side of Chinatown and all the road kerbs were painted black & white. There were various flowers and palm trees in the middle of the road and it was very clean. I arrived at Hotel 1929 then I unpacked then we went to Mass Rapid Transit (like London Underground) to get a value card ez-link to explore some places and this is one of the best undergrounds I have seen. It was very easy to follow and very clean, plenty of cool air internally. I arrived at Orchard road to look at chic designer shops, themed pubs and some impressive skyscrapers and gleaming buildings: all this was in the city. Of course there were plenty of Chinese food restaurants surrounding. In the evening we went to Clarke Quay river bay to explore pubs and to watch the world go by of course. We had some drinks and chatted: at midnight there were firework displays behind the impressive skyscrapers so I went back to the hotel at about 2.00am but then I could not sleep well so I walked around in Chinatown by myself and I enjoyed looking at the Chinatown illuminations (like Blackpool Lights): there was various dragons, flies, ants and the lights were wonderful. There were colourful lights hanging on it. There were some trishaws with a person riding a bicycle with a two seat carrier on it. At 7.30am I had a full English breakfast and also get in a roof top hot tub in my Hotel. Paddy came to meet me about 10am at the hotel from his home and we then went to Singapore Botanic gardens to take a leisurely stroll through the selection of gardens and spectacular varieties of flowers: there was a tropical forest and there was a layout of a model of new buildings including the Singapore Eye wheel that is being built: it will be completed in three years time. We had lunch with Chinese food including squid. I enjoyed eating it. I had a drink of fresh sugar cane and it is very cheap. We walked to the Hospital which was not far for Paddy to visit his dad who had been ill and then we went to the Underground to explore some places to video them. Then we went to Orchard Road to meet some other people. There was a curved path with curved steps below from the ground floor including some tables, chairs and some plants and at the base a coffee shop with cakes and we had some coffee also cheese cake. At about 9.30 in the evening the weather was 26 degrees: we met two deaf friends of Paddy's then went to a pub and we enjoyed ourselves with some beautiful girls to serve us with tiger beers from a cooled glass barrel with a tap and we were chatting for ages, using one hand sign language. I arrived back at the Hotel 1929 at 5.10am: oh what a good day I had had.

I went to Sentosa Island, south of Singapore by Cable Car from Mount Faber: there were three beautiful views: on one side there is a massive dock with impressive skyscrapers behind, on the other side some river bays and below there are big cruise ships, gliding to Cable Car Station: just before arriving there was a huge tall Merlion Statue.



Flying Squirrel

On the Island there are three finest soft sands, clean water and plenty of palm trees hanging out of the sand and it was good for Sun worshippers also plenty of beach volleyball games to watch and a dolphin lagoon. Late afternoon we went to the world's first Night Safari with wildlife on a 45mins tram ride or you can take leisurely strolls through a selection of Trails: we went to see a giant flying squirrel cage with nests all round and a squirrel flew above my head twice. It was spooky with little spots of lights inside.

Late evening we went to the restored 1920 Raffles Hotel, one of the best hotels in Singapore: we visited the Long Bar (like an English Pub) of course we had a sip of a refreshing Singapore Sling - this cocktail drink since 1915. There is a full mosaic tiles floor with chestnut wastes on the floor.



Singapore Sling Drink

We went to a cinema to watch a film called The Haunted House Affair which showed Chinese and English subtitles at the bottom of the screen and it was a good film. The cinema had air conditioning.

I visited Paddy's house with his family to have a wonderful lunch with them and they showed me around their house and then late in the afternoon I went to Sentosa Island again which I loved for colourful evening lights and there was a construction area in Sentosa so Paddy said to me, "There will be a Universal Studio Theme park to be built and completed in three and a half years time."

It was the last day for me so I went to Singapore Shopping Malls to buy some presents for me and my family then early afternoon back to my hotel for packing. I got the underground to Singapore Changi Airport. I arrived at the airport about 19.00 and there was a surprise. There was beautiful flowers, palm trees and waterfalls inside the airport buildings and very clean. This is one of the best airports in my life. I had some Tiger beers

before I got on Jumbo 747 Royal Dutch Jet at 22.00pm which took off at 22.55pm, cruising to Amsterdam Airport and I was put in the same seat number as above but then suddenly just before landing it was raining when we landed. There was a beautiful view of smoke and water coming off the tip of the wing like a cyclone upwards and it took 20 mins to arrive at the airport from the runway at 5.20am then I got my connection flight to Manchester Airport. Then again the plane took off at 7.10am and I looked out from my right window and there was the Humber Bridge with river bays at Hull: I arrived at Manchester Airport at 7.20am.

I personally need to say a big thank you to Paddy for looking after me, and I am looking forward to visiting Singapore again when Universal Studio Theme park and Singapore Eye Wheel are completed and send my deepest condolences to Paddy and his family remembering his Father who passed away on 23rd September 2006. What a fantastic trip to Singapore.

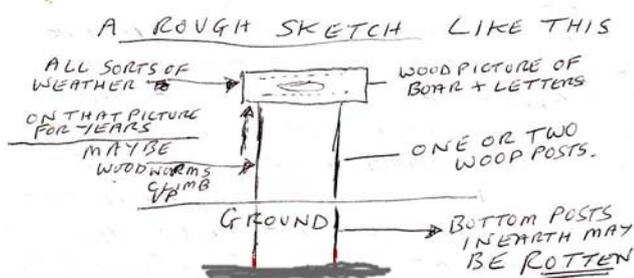


Paddy Chee Lyndon Clifton

Lyndon Clifton

A Missing Woodcarving

That clever Old Burwoodian, Hamish Rosie, made a fabulous wood carving of the Boar with text which stood outside Burwood Park School from 1956 to 1959. It was a beautifully made wood carving by Hamish who was excellent at Art too. When I



mentioned it to Mr Sayer he told me that it has vanished into thin air. (As did the very large School Notice made, I believe by Mr Pearson, and which stood between the entrances to the school and the college. C.S.) It was NOT displayed in the hotel in Woking with loads of impressive Burwoodian items in Sept 2005.

It is very hard to believe that this Boar and its text are around 50 YEARS OLD. It is a great pity to miss it as it would be one of the finest Burwoodian handmade memorabilia. It may have been attacked by the weather, or by woodworm.

Does anyone know if it still exists?

Christopher Davies



Mr Dalziel

We are sorry to have to tell you all that Mr Dalziel has died. He was the first Deputy Head when BPS opened (1955), and was very pleasant when Mr Grave and I were students in 1959, but had left when we came in September. He taught the boys speech + maths and was keen on rugby..



Mr Wood, as Head, and Mr Dalziel, as Deputy, laid the solid foundations which the school built on over the years.

Mr Clark remembers that all the staff were fond of him, and he was specially kind and helpful when Mr Clark was landed with teaching metalwork - of which he had no experience whatever! Mr Dalziel kept him a lesson ahead.

He went on from BPS to Plymouth Deaf School as Headmaster. C.S.

ObituaryDennis Colville (085B)Dennis Colville 1950-2007

Dennis was born in Southport, a well-known floral town on the Northwest coast on the 17th May 1950.

Dennis was diagnosed Deaf and with his parents, moved to Huddersfield where he attended Odsal House School in Bradford.

He passed his 11+ entrance examination to Burwood Park School and started in September 1962 alongside fellow classmates, Arun Krishna, Stephen Austin, Jonathan Bosman, Ian K Townsley, Robert Fitzsimmons, Albert Clinton and Kenneth Culver.

Dennis was fondly remembered for his big frame and grew up to be a pleasant gentle big man. He was a keen badminton player and excelled as both school goal and wicketkeeper from junior ranks to senior level where he was awarded his 'colour' school tie for sporting achievements. He was also a keen scout and in 1967 worked his way up to 'Queen's Scout'.

In July the same year Dennis left school and moved back home to Yorkshire, he started work as an apprentice plumber only later to be told that he could not continue because deafness was a risk factor.

Dennis and his parents moved to Leeds where he worked as an accounts clerk at High Royd Hospital, Menston near Bradford: he later spent the greater part of his working life at Tetley Brewery and later at the Department of Social Security until his ill health forced him to retired early in 2000.

As a young man, Dennis became self-conscious of his large frame and joined a health club with two friends. He spent gruelling sessions of weight training which resulted in him losing several stones and transformed into a new-look guy.

In 1968 he met a Welsh lassie, Diane Griffiths, at a cricket match in Leeds. Dennis was outgoing

batsman, and he greeted her with a smile and said "I'm Dennis the Menace". They married in 1971 in Treharris, nestled in the Merthyr Valley, when they were supported by Old Burwoodians, Stuart Healy as his best man and Ian K Townsley as the groomsman.

Dennis continued playing badminton both for work and Leeds Deaf Club and was involved with various activities: he served on various committees such as Leeds Branch of the British Deaf Association (one of the largest and most active branches in the UK), Deaf Church Choir and Leeds Deaf Drama Group.

Dennis became ill during the early months of 2000, never to really recover from his illness.

Sadly just 2 days short of his 57th birthday Dennis departed on 15th May 2007. He leaves his wife Diane, behind.

A service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Life of Dennis Colville took place at Cottingley Crematorium, Leeds on Wednesday 30th May and afterwards at Leeds Deaf Centre. (The OBA placed red and yellow flowers with a ribbon. Some of the Burwoodians sent donations to the Leeds Deaf Church and I.C.U St James' Hospital)

Several notable Old Burwoodians, Stuart Healy, Peter Mowat, Michael Towler, Arun Krishna, Stuart Lee and myself attended.

Diane kindly brought over several photos of Dennis at Burwood Park and as young man and it was like another mini-reunion.

Dennis, you will be fondly remembered in our hearts.

Ian K Townsley

There will be a memorial service on Sunday October 21st 2007 at Leeds Deaf Chapel, North Street, Leeds commencing 2pm.

Ron Gibbins: - Dennis became a new member of the OBA three weeks before he died. The OBA did send him BiTs 17, 18, 19 and 20. Stuart Healy sent me the message that Dennis did look at all BiTs, only the pictures, to see if he recognised the people and he did mention how changed the people were. When Class 61 and 62 Reunion was held in Leeds in May 2004, some of us did visit Dennis who had been taken ill at Leeds hospital. We give our sympathy to his wife.

David Morris: - I will NEVER forget him: when I first come to school to begin with in Form 1 he was the person that looked after me.

Here's my sincere sympathy to his family and my thoughts will be with them now and always. May he rest in peace.

Geoffrey Eagling: - I have known Dennis at school for four years but I have not seen him since I left school. Stuart Healy informed me regularly about his failing health for the last few years of his life. I well remember the time when Dennis and his classmates were creating a new hobby – model

rockets. I think it was Dennis who built a beautiful rocket that was made out of a bamboo stick, about four feet long as a main body and finned tails that were made out of a tin can. He did not hem the tails thus exposing sharp edges. When he sent it off from the Old Field into the direction of the New Field, he released it but he almost severed his index finger. The tails, almost like a razor blade, slid through his fingers and of course he was in agony. He was rushed to the hospital so the new hobby was halted abruptly. I recall that his rocket landed in the New Field by the pavilion, a distance of something like 300 metres.

Colin Sayer. I remember Dennis as a delightful person, who will surely be greatly missed. It so happens that a few days ago I discovered that I was watching Dennis, as I had discovered a videotape, made from an 8 mm film, which I had completely forgotten about. I was transferring it to DVD and there was Dennis on the occasion when the 4 Queen's Scouts were filmed at BPS.

My Job

K.Whalley

From an article by Fritha Sutherland in "Accounting Technician"

At first glance, Kevin Whalley's office in South Harrow looks like any other. Co-Director of accountancy firm Fiscal Perspectives, he sits at a desk that displays the usual gadgets of the modern office, with the addition of one essential item: a textphone.

His practice, which caters for both deaf and hearing clients, offers services in financial accounting, management accounting, charity accounting, taxation, partnership accounting, limited companies accounts and consultancy.

Kevin says: "When I first decided to go self-employed in 1995, I was operating on my own, from a bedroom at home. I had about ten clients and carried out sub-contract work to supplement my working week while my portfolio gradually grew."

A year later and things were looking up. Kevin moved into a rented office in Harrow in 1996 which he shared with another accountant, Arwyn Bailey. "At that time we were trading as separate businesses, but decided to merge into one practice - Fiscal Perspectives - in 2002. Arwyn is hearing, but he can use sign language and also has deaf clients."

Since then, the accountancy firm has grown to 70 clients and operates with one office manager, two admin clerks, two financial advisors and one support worker.

"Our company's annual turnover is now approaching the half-a-million mark. We have had our ups and downs, but we're doing well," says Kevin.

Fifty per cent of Fiscal's client base is deaf and the remainder hearing. Kevin's individual approach to the needs of his clients has helped to build its success.

Kevin's success is even more remarkable when you consider that he is one of only a handful of accountants around the globe that are deaf and running their own accountancy practice.

"I left school at 17 and began a traineeship in engineering. I had been doing this for seven months, but then I saw a job advert for a trainee Bookkeeper/Accountant with chartered accountancy firm Thornton Baker (now Grant Thornton) based in Northampton, and decided to apply. I had always enjoyed maths and I got the job."

During his four years with Thornton Baker, Kevin gained his professional accounting qualification with the Institute of Accounting Staff (before the inception of the AAT) and progressed to Semi Senior Auditor. In 1993, he obtained the qualification of the Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT).

In 1977, he and his family decided to relocate to Harrow. Kevin left Thornton Baker to join Casson Beckman, a large London-based chartered accountancy firm, specialising in the entertainment industry, among other areas.

Although the company had one other deaf employee (as well as one hard of hearing), Kevin felt that the firm did not give him as much support as he would have liked. "I was passed over for promotions and held back because of my deafness. I felt discriminated against but my managers didn't acknowledge this.

There were clients who would tolerate my deafness and those who would not. Those who did made up my client list. I was with the company for 19 years [1977-1996] but, although I was the person who worked on their accounts, rarely was I personally introduced to my clients. Most of the time, the Partners would communicate with them face-to-face."

He found support in the form of another deaf colleague at Casson Beckman who, although he had had similar experience at the firm, did make a management position. "We became very good friends," says Kevin.

Technological lifelines

Today, his situation is very different. At Fiscal Perspectives, Kevin meets regularly with both deaf and hearing clients. This does not pose any problems for himself or his clients - besides, technology has moved on since his career began in the early 70s, with fax, e-mail, textphone communications, mobile text messaging and BlackBerrys now at his and others' disposal.

"E-mail is of huge benefit to my communication ability," says Kevin. "Thirty years ago, we did not have access to the technology that we have today. It has made life much easier for deaf people to communicate."

Kevin uses lip-reading and sign language in the office and in client meetings to communicate and will only usually use an interpreter if he finds it particularly difficult to lip-read a client.

He points out that it is especially difficult to lip-read accents. While Kevin has no problems with one-to-one conversations (if people speak slowly and face him directly), groups can be frustrating because he cannot follow multiple conversations. "In these situations, I feel cut off and I don't feel part of the group because I don't have a voice."

At Casson Beckman, this was the most frustrating aspect of Kevin's professional life. However, at his own practice he has enlisted the help of a support worker two days a week, which enables him to overcome any communication barriers.

Community support

Socialising with the deaf community has helped Kevin and his family feel part of a collective support network. In fact, he met his New Zealand-born wife Kathy - who is also deaf - at a London club for the deaf.

Married for 19 years, they have three children - Daniel (16), Hannah (14) and Patrick (10). "Daniel is hearing, but Hannah and Patrick are both deaf and attend specialist boarding schools for the deaf," says Kevin.

With today's advances in communication technology, he is sure that their experience of childhood, and subsequent adulthood, as deaf people, will be much easier than he and his wife experienced - even though they both have done well thanks to their upbringing.

In addition, the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) has made discrimination on the basis of physical or mental impairment unlawful, and has given disabled people rights in employment, education and access to goods and services.

Although progress has been made through the DDA, the campaign continues: there are still 'glass ceilings' out there preventing the advancement of those living with physical and/or mental disabilities.

Kevin makes use of Access to Work, a government body that provides financial support for interpreters. He feels lucky that he is a member of such a supportive professional body as the AAT which provides BSL interpreters when he is on AAT courses or at events. Other training organisations have not been so helpful, he says, and have been unwilling to pay for interpreters, despite the requirements of the DDA.

For Kevin, the problem isn't so much being deaf, as the fact that hearing people often take a negative view of deaf people and underestimate their capabilities.

He played in a celebrity charity golfing tournament recently, but brushing shoulders with the rich and famous is all in a day's work for Kevin, who looked after the accounts of TV, music and film celebrities - such as Boy George, Lulu, Val Doonican and John Moss to name but a few - at Casson Beckman. Today, his client base may not be as famous but is no less important, he stresses.

"I now have more work satisfaction than ever before and running my own firm has been the peak of my career," he says.

Opening his world

Outside of work, Kevin's hobbies include genealogy, calligraphy and water painting, but his passion is golf. "I've been playing golf for 36 years and have a handicap of 12. I was inspired by Tony Jacklin, previous winner of the British Open [1969] and US Open [1970] Championships," he says.

Kevin has been heavily involved with the British Deaf Sports Council, organising golf tournaments in the UK for deaf people. He is currently the President and Treasurer of the English Deaf Golf Association, having previously been Secretary for a number of years.

Kevin is also Treasurer of the World Deaf Golf Association and, in the past, has represented England against Scotland at UK level and in World Cup golfing tournaments for the deaf. Most recently, in July last year, he played in a celebrity charity golfing tournament to raise money for Sign, the national society for mental health and deafness.

"We played in teams of four, with each team comprising one celebrity and three amateurs. The celebrities included *BBC Breakfast* TV presenter Bill Turnbull, Warren Clarke and Dennis Waterman."

Speaking Spanish

Paddy Chee

I learned to read and write conversational Spanish for my trips to Costa Rica and Mexico, but spoke very little. When the people there knew I was deaf then it did not matter to them when I wrote and read notes in Spanish, as I would tell them I never had formal speech training in Spanish. They cannot speak English. So it was much better to write in perfect basic Spanish, than to speak Spanish very badly ! (BUT, I knew how to speak voiceless Spanish , moving my lips without voice)

Then , as it happened, I went to Barcelona , Spain about 8 years ago to visit the Spanish Deaf Theatre. A lot of deaf Spanish people were there and they don't know English at all. But I noticed a lot of them can lip-read in Spanish, and some could speak. And their sign language is not the same as BSL and ASL.

So I thought to myself, why not try to speak to those deaf Spanish in Spanish , combined with A LITTLE sign language, without voice. To my surprise , they were able to lip-read me in Spanish, no matter about the wrong pronunciation or different accent . They still understood ! Because in Spanish the lips must move a

lot more than several other languages.

But, of course, if I want to speak Spanish to the hearing Spanish people, I would want to make my speech in Spanish "perfect" or "understandable" rather than poor or low standard. Because they can hear and spot every single mistake!

I never forget my speech training at Burwood Park School with Colin Sayer which proved that the deaf have the potential to learn anything, given the motivation, desire and drive. Knowing this, it would be better to take Spanish lessons with a private teacher,

both written and spoken, for maximum benefits in the Spanish speaking world.

I want to spend a lot of time in France in the future, so I know I have to learn French.

How were the past and present pupils at Mary Hare Grammar School doing in French and German? I never had much information about them. I would like to know more. **Paddy Chee**

(We enjoyed some German language and French conversation, but NOT to a high standard. C.S.)

'Memories of Burwood'

I have to make a dreadful admission. On page 53, at the bottom on the left is a photo of the Boar Weekly team. It says that Leslie Banks was the Editor

This is WRONG. Steven Wherry was the Editor, and was indeed in charge from 3/10/81 to 7/7/82, NOT Leslie Banks. I made a stupid mistake, solely based on the fact that Leslie was standing up, in the front! I do apologise to Steven.

Errata (as at 2 Aug 2007) (with my apologies to all. C.S.)

P. 34 Scout Hut opening. Not June 1976 P.37. Oliver M.Kelly, not K.Dudley Gardening A.Wright, not A. Loft

P. 39 Party, 1970, not 1971 .P. 45. 'Arethusa', not 'Arethus'

P. 53 'Steven Wherry Boar Weekly Editor 3/10/81 to 7/7/82', NOT Leslie Banks.

P. 104 Norfolk House 1980 Common Room ?? = Shahab Sagerwala (Reza)

P.109 The words 'funeral' and 'memorial service' are the wrong way round.

P. 117 'Lord Boyd and Lady Boyd's great grandson, Peter Spens (2)'

PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY OTHER ERRORS, as I shall be giving the BDHS a list of Errata, to be included with copies of 'Memories'. **C.S.**

National Insurance Contribution Stamps.

It might be a good idea to enquire about them.

I mean, some businesses or other employers do not have N.I. contributions for their workers, so these workers are eligible to apply to enquire about N.I. contributions towards their pensions. Ages upwards from 60 / 65 may be eligible for pensions. **Simon Fisher**

(also, quite separate from Simon's advice, you may be eligible for a pension even if you do not realise it!! (Especially the ladies.) You may have only worked for what you think was quite a short time, but if you apply you may find that you are eligible for a very useful little pension!! If you do not apply, you may never hear anything about it. **Ed.**)

Visiting Different Football Grounds

During the school holidays I was taken to watch football matches at Highbury, White Hart Lane or Upton Park with my young hearing childhood friend, Alan Bernard.

At these times, most football matches had lots and lots of fighting between supporters, the police and stewards. Also, the supporters kept on chanting and threw lots of toilet rolls, bottles or iron bars. (in these days there were no police or stewards' checks before they went into the grounds.) (And today we hear how dreadful 'the youth' are, who were so very well behaved in the past. Also – remember the Mods and Rockers? Ed.)

Just to tell you, while I was at school, a friend of mine was arrested for swearing at White Hart Lane, so he went to court and was fined £50 (in around 1976), therefore worth about £250 now!

I also met Kenneth Sanders to watch Southampton v. West Ham Utd in 1974 and then Kenneth Dudley or Gerald Dixey and we all went to a few matches at Fulham at Craven Cottage and also Stephen Gibson to see Liverpool v. Middlesbrough (F.A. Cup Quarter Final), at Anfield in 1978.

I am always a West Ham fan but I must give my appreciation to these other people for taking me to see the football games, with many thanks. I wish it had never stopped!

Simon Fisher



Who ?? →



Libby and Eoin Barcy



Three members of your OBA committee. (And in the mirror?)



←
David Lewis, Shelley and Cherry, aged 3

David's other daughters, Nina and Liza
→



←
Brooke Davis

10 months

Blake Davis
→



Talitha and Jemima with Leon Wengraf - Townsend

The photos on this page could not be included in No 20, so they are a little behind the times.

In No. 19 the photo "Sumit Sudra and friend" was really "Sumit and Ben Pike"

The Wedding of our Chairman, Clive, and Emma James (1st Best Man) Speech

- Hello Ladies, Gentlemen, Children.....Lovely Day.....
My name is James, first best man speech, many more after me no..... I was joking there are only two more after me!
- Before I start my speech, let me check with Clive..... Oh god he looks very sweaty already! I haven't even started my speech!
- I would like to thank you (to Clive) on behalf of three Best men, bridesmaids, maid of honour, Ushers and pageboys for having us here, very special Day.
 - Please raise Toast (*raising toast in their honour*) *"To the bride & groom"*

- "Our School time"

- Clive and I first met at Burwood Park School in 1982;
Clive was a tall, unsporting boy, Bookworm, Non signer.
I was short, very sporty, hate reading Books, signer.
 - Funnily we are opposite but attracted to each other in our special friendship like a married couple!!!! Yes we are strange!

Quiz -True or Not True?

- During our 3rd year, one night we were in the dorm and the lights were out. All of a sudden the lights came on and our attention was drawn to Clive who had craftily got up and put it on so we could all chat. After a while it curiously went off.
Clive got up and put it on again and got back into bed and we continued chatting.
After a while it went off AGAIN!!!! Clive got up for the 3rd time and switched it on, then he stood tight to the wall next to the switch and sure enough within a few moments a hand squeezed through the crack in the doorway heading for the switch.
Clive grabbed the hand and tugged it sending the owner tumbling across the room onto the bed! Everyone was gob smacked.
He then looked up to find that he'd just hurled a teacher across the room!
- OK what about this one..... Clive - remember your History folder???? No??
Well, at school our lessons were held in different rooms. On this particular day we were running late for our History class, so, I ran off ahead and thought it would be a good idea to hide around the corner. When Clive came running along, I put my foot out and sent him sprawling across the floor and his folder with him! There were papers everywhere! (Sorry Clive!) Anyway we collected his papers and went to class.
The teacher got us settled and asked us to turn to page 20..... well we did but Clive couldn't find it!!! Ha ha. He was asked to sort out the folder for the following week.
He didn't. the following month? He still hadn't!
20 years later..... I went to help pack up when he sold his house and found it in a box, guess what..... He still hasn't sorted it!!!!
- Every Weekend he went to a specific classroom in evening 7pm to 9pm. It was DETENTION PERIOD! Yes Clive always argued with all the teachers at School!
- Okay here's one for Mark, Martin, David AND Clive!
Remember the sofa that ended up on the bonfire? All because it ripped Clive's trousers!!!! Only 1cm long... I am still waiting for your apologies....I got into trouble for that!
- Well It is your decision to believe me or not.....Maybe you could ask Clive later.
- The story shows we are different people. It does not mean we cannot be good friends!



It is the same for Clive and Emma as they both come from a very different life so this means it's a perfect marriage!

I am sure we all are looking forward to see Clive and Emma grow a new life in their marriage!

**Thank you
James Townsend**



Old Burwoodians' Class of 61' & 62' Annual Get-Together

12th Reunion - Newcastle-Upon-Tyne 30th March - 1st April 2007.

A group of Old Burwoodians in their late 50's however ageless, hailing from two classes of 1961 and 1962 gathered at the elegant hotel, Jurys Inn, in the heart of the contemporary, cultural, stylish and historic Northern city of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

The group consisted of 8 amiable Boars - class of '61 - Stuart Healy, Leslie Culver, Peter Mowat, Geoffrey Eagling & Ron Gibbins and class of '62 - Arun Krishna Jonathan Bosman and Ian K Townsley



Because I worked as a freelance TV On-Screen Interpreter for Signpost which is part of ITV network at Tyne Tees Television Centre, in Gateshead, I was persuaded to ask for a tour organised to see how BSL is combined into main TV programmes and was happy to do so. However because of my connection with the city, I took organising reins off Arun who was proposed to run the weekend. I had a series of personal meetings with several local contacts prior to the weekend programme which was as follows:-

Friday 30th March 2007

2.30pm Meet Jurys Inn Hotel Foyer

2.45pm Taxi to ITV's The Watermark, Gateshead

3pm Arrival at Signpost at ITV Television Centre

Introduction to Joseph Sheridan, Signpost Deaf Manager who kindly gave a tour round Signpost to show how they work on on-screen TV interpreting.

Meet Deaf On-screen interpreters and hearing transcribers.

3.45pm Ian interprets two episodes of an American soap opera – Barbershop.



5.00pm Tour ends with a general visit to ITV organisation and especially the Weather News section to check for tomorrow's weather! We returned to the hotel to refresh. Leslie and Jonathan arrived.

7pm Socialise and a pleasant Italian meal at Pinocchio's –

9pm Leisurely stroll along Quayside, observing world famous

breathtaking bridges over Rive Tyne. The oldest is the High Level Bridge, erected in 1849 and designed by Robert Stephenson. Next came the Swing Bridge in 1876, followed by the spectacular Tyne Bridge

in 1928 and more recently Gateshead Millennium Bridge (so-called the "winking bridge" because it opens and closes in the same manner as eyelids). We marvelled at the perfectly engineered grace and beauty. We walked by The Sage Gateshead, an architectural wonder rising spectacularly from the south bank of the Tyne.

Saturday 31st March

10.00am Visit Discovery Museum – a stone's throw from the hotel

Meet Martin MacMurtrie, a full-time Project BSL Coordinator for Tyne & Wear Museum, who kindly worked with Ian and organised today's programme and introduced us to one of the Deaf BSL Volunteer Guides, Joe Drummond.

Leslie was amazed to see a steamboat – "Turbinia" on display and exclaimed that he used to have a model of the same make when he was a little boy (all those years ago!) its cute to see one's face lit up in boyish wonder! "Turbinia" was the first steamboat in England, the fastest ship of its day and was launched at Gateshead.

We were introduced to Newcastle Story which was beautifully translated in visual imagination and the richness of BSL.

We learned so much about the story: it proved that there is a North and South divide over issues which arose throughout ages: for example we have had the Great Fire of London 1665 harping in our history curriculum, but Newcastle & Gateshead have had huge fire disasters in their time and many people were killed, compared to the so-called quote that 5 people were killed in the London event.

12.00 noon Had a quick light lunch at a local Geordie cafe

1.00pm Visited Museum of Antiquities – Hadrian's Wall: BSL Guide Martin MacMurtrie. With his wealth of knowledge and keen interest Martin introduced us to the fascinating collection of artefacts, models and archives which inspired and educated us. Martin explained that

Newcastle was originally founded by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, whose wall runs across North of England from Bowness-on-Solway to Wallsend. There are parts of the wall still to be seen running through the centre of Newcastle.

2.30pm

We went by local transport – Metro to South Shields on the North Sea coast alongside River Tyne

3pm

Visited Arbeia Roman Fort which is a huge supply base for Hadrian's Wall over River Tyne and Museum. Martin was downhearted to discover the museum had closed! And found that the longer opening times would start a week later! Nevertheless we were fortunate to be able to see the site through open railings so we have not missed too much!

5.30pm

We had relaxing drinks at a local pub and the local Geordies were amused to see lively old codgers entertaining themselves! Rib-sticking laughter echoed around the room. Tour ends with a leisure ferry trip across River Tyne to North Shields: it's part of the Metro system and well worth every penny from our all day round visit ticket!

We were impressed with Martin's friendliness and humour, so we invited him to spend the evening with us. Unfortunately there was not much time to get back to the hotel to refresh for the evening; we went straight to a simple steak restaurant in Bigg Market and ate hearty, excellent meals.

We came out of the restaurant to find the place swarming with lively young people with just a few stitches to spare covering their modesty! I could see several wide drooling mouths with a glint in their eyes as though they were having a sly peep at the glossy magazines on a top shelf in a newsagent!

Having enjoyed their memories of youth days we lingered on to Jurys Inn for our nightcap before retiring wearily to welcoming beds.

Sunday 1st April – All Fools Day

10.00am

After a hearty breakfast and several feeble April's Fools jokes we discussed next year's venue and after several suggestions of different suitable locations, Portsmouth was overwhelming voted and Ron Gibbins, voluntarily, offered to be the group organiser for 2008.

Finally I asked if anyone had read the Jurys Inn Guide book: they ALL said no, so I explained that there is one article that would be of interest to us especially those who are keen on Deaf History. I, sternly, described the article saying that the site of Jurys Inn was the site of a burial ground and before the hotel was built, they came across a section where Deaf people were buried and found a stone inscribed.....(slowly I manually finger spelled the word, while the educated Old Boars listened earnestly)..... APRIL FOOL

Imagine the thrill and huge satisfaction I got to see 7 gullible faces collapse into laughter!!! I understand we will not have the next year's reunion on the same weekend!

The Old Boars were kind enough to present me with a classic and handsome book on Newcastle & Gateshead Architecture and Heritage to commemorate my organisation on that great weekend.

Soon after we all posed for a group picture and retreated south by car, train. and coach, and the Angel of the North bade us fond farewell.

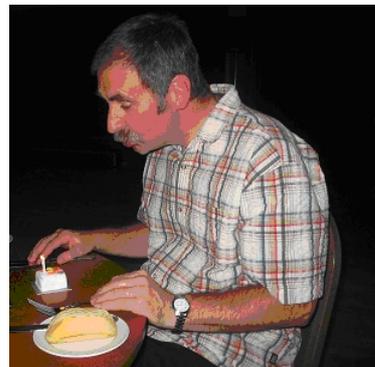
Ian K Townsley – Newcastle/Gateshead Reunion Organiser

Old Burwoodian News

(10B) Michael Long says, "I went to Australia on a cruise with Linda while you had the Grand Reunion at Woking. We flew 13 flights around Australia in September 2005 for seven weeks."

(014B) David Schofield and Jean have enjoyed their retirement life but need to cut down a little. He says, "I am the chairman of Chesterfield Deaf Club and go there every Saturday evening for a few hours drink. One day in the past, we met Stuart Lee who is a wonderful and active person doing non stop signing. Hope to see you all in Edinburgh."

38 Alan Cook says, "This year Beatrice and I will celebrate our Ruby wedding anniversary."



64 Robert Taylor 60th Birthday at Warners Hotel, Nantwich last May 2nd Blowing only a single candle!!

230 James Sharp is a proud father . Their baby Max was born on Thursday 1st Feb 2007.

129 Martin Bogard and Heidi went to Normandy in May and the visit to the beaches was very interesting with the history of D-Day etc.

They will be going abroad a lot in the coming months for badminton business and to see Heidi's family and friends in Germany.

134 Paddy Chee says, "I flew to Singapore on the 5th of May 2006 for my parents' 50th golden wedding anniversary for about a week.

On 5th August 2006 my father fell ill, and I rushed back to Singapore on that same day - he was only 72. He was in a coma for two full months and passed away late September 2006, and I stayed on for another month, making it a total of 3 months in Singapore, the first time to spend ample time with my mother in almost 25 years.

My father's funeral was done in the Catholic way as he went to a Catholic School in Singapore. Lyndon Clifton my classmate from the same Form at BPS was visiting Singapore for a week while my father was comatose. I showed Lyndon around Singapore a lot, and when my Dad died he did visit my house and my Dad's funeral. He was the first Burwoodian to visit me in Singapore in 30 years since Geoffrey Queen visited me in Singapore. His mother, Mrs Betty Queen, also visited Singapore around that time (1970s ..)

Lyndon Clifton enjoyed himself a lot in Singapore. (His interesting report is in this edition: we apologise that it was not in No 20. Ed.)

When everything was done, my mother told me not to worry about her being alone as she has her two maids and a secretary to look after her domestic and business affairs. She has a singing teacher to teach her singing (for some years already), and she uses her computer and scans and prints old photos, etc. She is 75, and is busy enough in her retirement, having asthma under control.

Then I went to Thailand for two weeks on my way back to the States last Oct / Nov 2006.

Then I flew by myself to Brazil for a month for my 50th birthday. I went to Rio de Janeiro (south), Sao Paulo (further south), Salvador (east), Fortaleza and Natal (North East). I studied some Portuguese before that trip, and I enjoyed myself immensely.

Last month in February 2006 I went back to Rio de Janeiro for a month and studied more Portuguese and I hired a good person who could teach me how to pronounce and speak Portuguese. He tutored me almost every day for 3 weeks. Portuguese is really interesting. I didn't speak English for a long time! I think part of that training indirectly helped me with my speech in English a bit.

We had to concentrate first on the vowels like A E I O U, and then say SA, SE, SI, SO, SU DA, DE, DI, DO, DU TA, TE, TI, TO, TU GA, CE, CI, CO, CU and so on. He got very cross with me when I said TA instead of DA many times. What therapy! But we haven't finished ... I had to cease my training and return to the States.

But I shall be going back to Brazil again to continue my Portuguese lessons.

I have stopped working as a dental technician for now, but I am still waiting for my father's will to be sorted out, hopefully by July. (it takes 6 to 9 months)

I would like to set up a cybercafe in Brazil and

somewhere in Europe or maybe the UK. I shall see. It is expensive to buy a flat in London, and it's much cheaper to buy a flat in Brazil. I will go back to the UK and see what I can do there for a few months each year. My goal is to spend probably 6 months in Brazil and another 6 months in the UK / Europe. I don't know. It may be difficult for me to go back and feel like a slave working as a dental technician giving me back and neck problems and restricting my wish to travel anytime. "

159 Nicholas Mears says, "I am well and got married on Saturday 14th April 2007 to Agnes Toldi. We had a small wedding, reception and house party followed by another reception in Hungary. We spent a night in the Gellert Hotel in Budapest before going to Agi's family's home in North East Hungary. We had beautiful weather on both occasions. Jeffrey Powell came to the wedding. He is well, recently being made redundant, still living on his family's farm but not working as a farmer as they packed up the business side of it a decade ago because of the poor income they were getting in return. It doesn't seem to have stopped him regularly updating his car, having all the gadgets in his latest one!!!! One of the gadgets being a SatNav and as he arrived here late he had to go straight to the wedding ceremony, ending up being delayed due to road works. I used directions from multi-map and arrived with just a little hiccup as I missed the turn off. We have just returned from our honeymoon in Sicily. We had a great time. Weather was 30° c. nearly every day. We met no deaf people there except an elderly deafened man from Belgium wearing "Eric Sykes" style glasses with built in hearing aid.

I've now been living in my new home in Orpington, Kent, for 16 months: we are very happy there apart from some niggly issues with one side of my neighbours who I like to describe as seriously lacking in commonsense! The other side are fine: we have no problems with them at all. It's nice to be nearer the countryside and also somewhere where the pace of life is a little slower. We have two dogs now..a German shepherd now 19 months old and a Springador (Labrador Retriever/English Springer Spaniel), now 8 months old and a cheeky little devil! At 4 months he mastered the technique of climbing over a baby gate we had put in place to keep the dogs downstairs!

I now work in Mornington Crescent having previously worked in Paddington for some years. My employers have just become a Foundation Trust so we have been very busy with the end of the financial year as well as one month under the old name before we start adopting new reporting practices which are standard practice under Foundation Trusts. I am also hoping to move on within the NHS as I am not too keen on the new office and its location.

168 Paul McCusker is a Project Worker, specifically Active Futures Sports Co-ordinator, and his plans for the future are just to be happy and enjoy life! He has been married for 23 years and they have 2 boys, Graham, 15 and Gavin, 12.

From school he remembers sports every day - "which is rare nowadays, which is a pity." He says, "In the 1st year always second last at Cross Country,

3rd year 2nd in 1500m on Sports Day and 4th and 5th years 1st in 1500m on Sports Day – which shows my achievement in running.” He remembers the importance of carrying “the black book” to record Good / Bad Marks and House Matches, especially football: very competitive. He has missed seeing Mark Davies and John Doig since leaving school, but regularly sees Andrew Thomson, Dean Humphreys, and occasionally Graeme Sinclair.

216 Neil Robinson has got married and moved to the south coast.

224 Stephen Wherry

has 3 girls, 11, 9 and 7 years old. He has been working for Sainsbury's for 10 years and is a Pensions Project Manager. This is a final salary scheme and he deals with individual people and their pension plans. There is also another scheme for smaller benefits which is called a 'career average' scheme.



He is a Trustee for UK Deaf Sport – the Deaf Sports governing Body for all deaf sports organizations. 30 organisations are members, such as Martin Bogard – Badminton and Kevin Whalley – Golf. Stephen himself is deeply involved with Deaf Rugby and still plays.

236 Darren Valentine

used to work in Social Services, but got tired of being in an office, so he now runs his own business, Deafsure. He works with deaf people with learning difficulties, who are in some sort of trouble. He works with Social Services, the Probation Service, Magistrates Courts and the Crown Court, which call on him when they need his help. He also works with Community Support Services and as a Relay Interpreter and Communication Guide. He seems to be very busy and works all over the country.



237 Anthony Clarke and Emma have 3 children – Scott (10), Bethany (8) and Toby (20 months). He has been working for a Housing Association for 3½ years as Finance Officer dealing with rent accounting.

247 Richard Weinbaum and Shana Grummitt - No wedding bells yet!



(Part of this photo was in No 20)

He says, “I had a good Christmas break and am busy decorating my second new property in Hemel Hempstead near Redbourn in Herts.”

254 Clive Boswell says, “I’ve just got married (5th May) and we moved into our new home when we came back from our honeymoon. It is a detached Victorian house in South Norwood and we are in the process of refurbishing the house. The house is in need of a lot of work - it needs complete refurbishment (new windows; re-wiring; new floors; roof requires strengthening and repair; new bathroom; extension to enlarge 3rd bedroom; and once all this has been done we will have to decorate the whole house! Not only that, the garden needs complete revamping and overhaul and new fences. It will be all worth it when it's all finished! Guess who will do some of the work for us?! (See later !! C.S.) We plan to live there for 2 years before embarking on another diplomatic posting.

We honeymooned in Mauritius which was beautiful. The weekend we came back from Mauritius we flew to Poland for a wedding. We are spending a week's holiday in South France in August. That's it for the year!

I still work for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but now am based in Whitehall, London. My new job is with the Conflicts Department. I manage the deployments for police and civilian specialists in support of international peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions to countries such as Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sudan, Iraq, Congo and Palestine.”

He has lots and lots of memories of school and says, “I am pleased to be able to share them on a constant basis with the other ex.Burwoodians whom I meet regularly. Three of them were bestmen at my wedding and four others were ushers! There were several others as guests too.”

He does not have stories to relate at this stage but says, “There are plenty of interesting stories in the BiT and I will write more stories shortly. Everyone should contribute as we all love to hear one another's news and gossip.” In answer to the question, “Are there any OBs you have missed seeing since leaving school?” he says, “Simon Kitcher was one of them and I was pleased to be reunited with him last year. I now see him on a regular basis. He runs a building company now and is also doing some work in my new house! I see all my old form regularly (most live locally!) and several others all the time!” (STOP PRESS. Clive and Emma are expecting a baby in February.)

255 Mark Flower is a Qualified Accountant (4 years of study) and has been working for HSS Hire Shops for 8 years.

He has done a charity walk for the NDCS – the Great Wall of China! 33 people did 50 miles in 5 days. Of course this was no walk on the level – it was up and down mountains all the time! He could see mountains all round and the Wall as far as he could see in both directions, all the time. And in August this year he is going to Peru for another charity walk, to Maccha Picchu. (I am writing this in July. I hope the spelling is right. C.S.)

385 David Weatherley “I'm great but busy at new flat (in Fleet) and a new job a few weeks ago.

Old Burwoodian Association

Next Mini Reunion - West Area in October 2007 (Details attached)

There will be a Mini Reunion every 6 months in different areas as shown below. The one after the West area will be in Scotland.. At every Mini Reunion there will be some sales such as 'Memories of Burwood' at £10 each, BPS/NH Mugs at £1.40 each, DVDs and some other items like pullovers and tee shirts at reasonable cost. Non-members are welcome to attend the Mini Reunion where our officials will explain about OBA. Could members of OBA please tell non-members living in your area to join the Mini Reunion. The Grand Reunion hopefully will be in Edinburgh in September 2010. The list below is slightly changed from the previous ones.

DATE	VENUE	ORGANISER
OCTOBER 2007	WALES / WEST AREA	GLYN SANDERS
APRIL 2008	GLASGOW, SCOTLAND	PETER MOWAT
OCTOBER 2008	ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE	RON GIBBINS
APRIL 2009	MIDLAND AREA	CLIVE BOSWELL
OCTOBER 2009	EAST AREA	IAN COOKE

GRAND REUNION 2010 INSTALMENTS

We have so far 125 renewed members/ new members (up to date August 7th 2007) and we have plenty of time to pay for the reunion. I have attached a standing order mandate form. I am sure it will help you to spread out your expenditure in the long term. I have estimated the costs for everyone so that you have a rough idea and hopefully this will meet with your requirements. There will be 30 payments in total, from December 2007 to May 2010. See Below

Instalments from December 2007 till May 2010 – 30 months

One ticket and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£6 per month	Total	£180
Two tickets and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£8 per month	Total	£240
One ticket and two nights at hotel (Fri and Sat)	£10 per month	Total	£300
Two tickets and two nights at hotel (Fri and Sat)	£12 per month	Total	£360

At the end of May 2010 we will know the exact cost for the ticket and room at the hotel, and we will inform you whether the total amount is in surplus or not. The difference of the amount will be refunded or adjusted to meet the right amount.

Should you wish not to have a Standing Order, you are welcome to put down a deposit and pay the full amount before June 2010. We will need a deposit of £10 per ticket and £10 per room if desired. We will refund the full amount should you wish to cancel providing it is before June 30th 2010.

A deposit form was enclosed with edition BiT 20

Deposit required. (Payable to OBA Grand Reunion)

Ticket £10 per person (Two tickets per member), Members come first

One ticket and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£20
Two tickets and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£30
One ticket and two nights at hotel (Friday and Saturday)	£30
Two tickets and two nights at hotel (Friday and Saturday)	£40

In the Standing Order mandate form, your bank account details are required, along with your signature and date. The form is to be handed in or posted to your bank. And to remind you the last instalments should end during May 2010, so you should inform your bank. It could be before if we give you the details about the total cost.

A Standing Order form was enclosed with edition BiT 20

Please feel free to ask any questions, I will be happy to help. Thank You

Ron J Gibbins

My Mistakes on Instalments – BiT 20

It should read as below: -

Instalments from June 2007 till May 2010 – 36 months

One ticket and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£5 per month	Total	£180
Two tickets and one night at hotel (Saturday)	£6.70 per month	Total	£240
One ticket and two nights at hotel (Fri and Sat)	£8.30 per month	Total	£300
Two tickets and two nights at hotel (Fri and Sat)	£10 per month	Total	£360

For those you already paying the instalments on/before/from June 1st 2007, just continue paying what you have put for the instalments so that when the time comes for the exact cost, I will let you know, whether you have to pay more or get a refund. And to remind you the last instalments should end during May 2010, so you should inform your bank. It could be before if we give you the details about the total cost.

GRAND REUNION 2010**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

(It was agreed by the previous committee members before Woking Grand Reunion, so I am doing the same method)

A. Cancellation

You are entitled to cancel or amend the tickets as long as it is before June 30th 2010. The full amount of the deposit will be reimbursed.

B. 2nd Ticket

For those who ordered two tickets, the full name for the 2nd ticket must be forwarded by June 30th 2010. From July 1st 2010, those 2nd tickets, without a name, will become ineligible to the holder and will be sold to others. The reason for this is that we see this as being unfair, especially for those members who need one.

C. Settlement of the outstanding balance.

Note: Those who are remaining on monthly standing orders are exempted from this.

The outstanding balance must be settled and be paid in full amount by June 30th 2010. With effect from July 1st 2010, a 5% interest charge will be added against the outstanding balance. With effect from August 1st 2010, depending on how far behind the outstanding balance is at this time, those who have failed to settle the full amount of the balance will be taken into consideration and, in the case, if we see a serious deficit, the ticket(s) and the accommodation will become ineligible and you may lose some of the funds. The returned tickets will be sold to others.

D. Existing Monthly standing Order

You will receive the updated personal statement; the outstanding balance will be shown. Depending on the balance, we may ask you to ensure that full amount of the out-standing balance be settled as soon as possible, if possible by August 31st 2010. Thank you.

E. Cancellation or reduction of the tickets (from two to one) and the accommodation

With effect from July 1st 2010, any cancellation or amendment, unless with a good reason, will mean you will not receive the full amount of the deposit. The reason for this is that OBA is preparing to pay a deposit of a quite large amount of money to the Hotel and Function room and it is not refundable.

F. Receiving the ticket(s) and the information

Providing the full amount of the cost has been settled, the tickets will be forwarded two weeks before the Grand Reunion date. With the tickets, there will be several attachments, such as programme, direction to the hotel, interesting places to visit and general details.

G. General Enquiry

It is very important to get in touch with us, should you have any doubts or need to know anything for definitely sure. We will be happy to assist or help you.

Our contact Fax: 0208 367 7790, SMS: 079 5786 2067, <oba1955_1996@hotmail.com>.

Thank you

Ron Gibbins

Grand Reunion on September 2010

The renewal members / new members from October 1st 2006 will be eligible for tickets: we will remind the non – members (for those who had been members before expiring date – September 30th 2006) once again.

The following members have ordered 2 tickets and they are on the list. (Up to Date Sept 1st 2007) -

S.Armstead
L.Banks
J.Billam,
M.Burton,
I.Cooke,
C.Davies (1),
P.Davis,
G.Eagling
S.Fisher
M.Flower
R.Gibbins
O.Westbury
T.Woolfe

S.Healy
I.Hewitt
S.Holliday
M.Howgate
P.Jackson
Stuart Lee (1),
D.Lewis
A.McKee
D.Morris
S.Mullins
I.Paul
K.Williams
H.Woolfe

C.Rayment
C.Roach,
C.Sayer
D.Schofield
K.Templeton
M.Towler
I.Townsley
D.Valentine
M. Van Oestren
C.Walden
N.Warnock
R. Willson

74 tickets