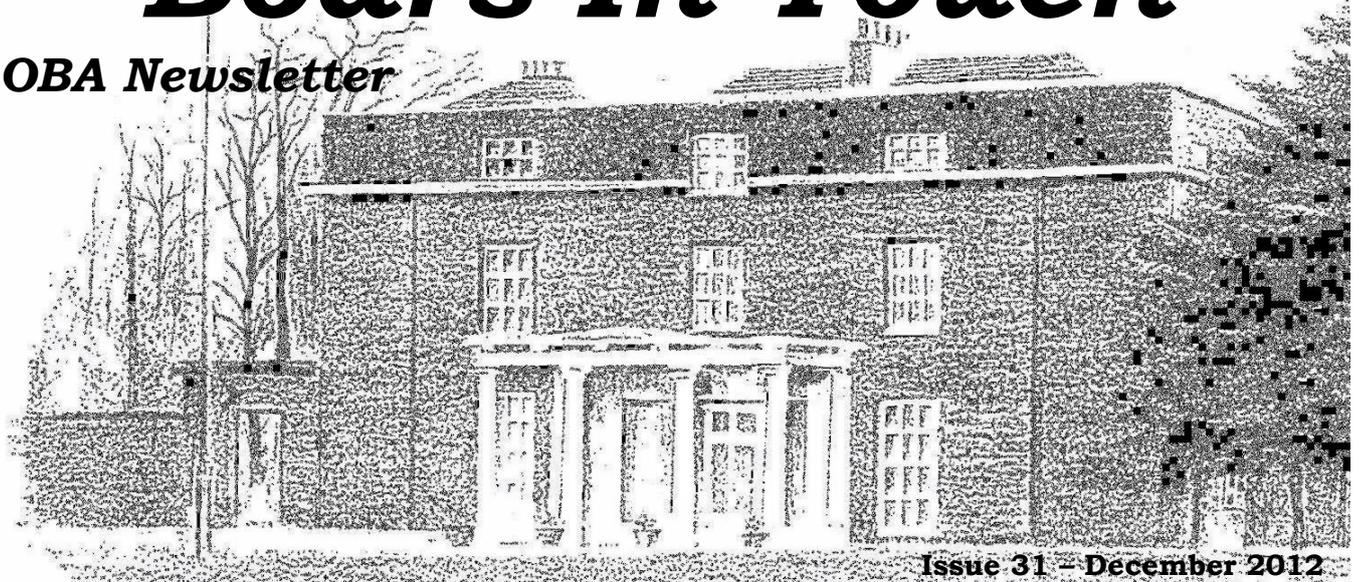


Boars In Touch

OBA Newsletter



Issue 31 – December 2012

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

**OBA Website Address: -
www.oldburwoodianassociation.co.uk**

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Editorial: - The Future of the OBA

Colin Sayer, BiT Editor, did tell the Old Burwoodians about restarting Profiles but still received only one since he published it in BiT 28 (March 2011). And he did not receive enough contributions from the Old Burwoodians to fill the usual 20 pages version of BiT 31 magazine. Colin needed to have contributions from members, not expecting to have them only from the committee who have given

some contributions. The BiT magazine needs them from you, reader.

Colin Sayer has stepped down as BiT Editor not only for the reason with above information but also because Colin has become really busy with the books / booklets he is publishing and the Messenger information he is putting together from around the world and would like to hand on responsibility for whatever comes after the BiT to someone else. Colin will be happy to be available "in the background".

M.Towler and R.Gibbins have accepted to replace Colin as BiT Editors till the Grand Reunion 2015. We are going to have a new look front page and produce possibly 8 - 12 pages per issue. The BiT Magazine will be issued as two magazines a year, one in June and one in December. M.Towler and R.Gibbins want to see BiT carry on rather than putting it on the Web. Profiles will be issued in BiT.

The Web only 15 people did vote about what do you think about the new Old Burwoodian Web as Burwood Park School had about 400 pupils with a lot of staff. How many Old Burwoodians see the Web? Ron had no idea of how many. He did meet someone at the Staff Reunion who said that Old Burwoodians did not bother to look at the Web. Some Old Burwoodians did not have computers at their home.

But one person who did have the BiT every 6 months, he/she did ask me about the name of an ex-pupil but I told him/her that he died a few years ago - and that it was in the BiT a few years ago but he/she never read the BiT, why probably no time to read.

So do you think it is waste of time to have the BiT magazine or putting it in the Web with the latest news of Old Burwoodians?

But Michael and Ron will continue with the BiT till The Grand Reunion 2015 in Bristol. We will despatch BiT 31 in December with the next BiT in June only about 8 - 12 pages. One Old Burwoodian said if no BiT he/she wants a refund from membership (even though he/she does not pay anything for the BiT: the Burwood Foundation pays for it!!).

Our present committee members, the older ones, will probably step down at the Grand Reunion 2015, but I am not sure about Leslie Banks, Martin Bogard, Mark Flower and Oliver Westbury. One younger committee member has already stepped down. Ron hopes Leslie Banks, Martin Bogard, Mark Flower and Oliver Westbury encourage the younger ones to join the OBA committee by spreading out the word among your classmates. They need to have a good reason for not joining, rather than making an excuses. OBA needs a group of younger committee members to keep OBA running after the Grand Reunion 2015 and they will probably be able to give a better idea about the future of OBA with better technology. There are a lot of younger Old Burwoodians around as Ron did remember at Edinburgh Grand Reunion 2010 some younger Old Burwoodians want to be committee members after 2015. If there is no committee after the Grand Reunion at Bristol, OBA will cease after 55 years and it will be a shame to cease - so bring the younger ones to keep OBA running. So think about it.

The other thing as I know Burwood Park School was in Surrey but do not forget that pupils came from different places apart from the Surrey area, but between 1988 and 1996 most pupils came from Surrey and London and the reason was that councils had financial problems in other parts of the country to enter Burwood Park School. That is why OBA held their functions at different places to be fair with others living away from Surrey. Ron and Michael are sure that the Bristol Grand Reunion 2015 will be a good one with hopefully over 150 people attending.

I am sure that Richard Willson, Colin Sayer and Ron Gibbins along with some others will be very disappointed if OBA ceases.

**OBA wishes to all readers
a very happy Christmas and
a very happy New Year.**

Classes 61 & 62 Reunion

The reunion was held in Cheltenham and Gloucester over the weekend of 13-15 April 2012 with the following names: J.Bosman, the Culver brothers Leslie and Kenneth, G.Eagling, R.Fitzsimmons, R.Gibbins, S.Healy, A.Krishna, P.Mowat, M.Towler and I.Townsley. All travelled by trains except for P.Mowat who came with his car. We met at the TGI Friday bar which was on the same vicinity as at the Premier Hotel in Gloucester Road, Cheltenham where we stayed for two nights.

The first outing on early Friday evening was to travel by double decker bus to the town, some went to the O'Neil pub while the others inspected the restaurant, 'Storyteller' which was previously booked by S. Healy for our evening dinner the following night.



On Saturday was a trip by bus (we all take advantage of the free bus passes but poor J.Bosman, he was not entitled to it except for a free bus ride in his Welsh territory!) to Gloucester where we visited the Cathedral, Maritime docks, the existing wharf building and docks were converted into an exclusive apartments and several yachts being moored there on a comfortable sunny weather. Later in the afternoon we departed for Premier Hotel as we



prepared ourselves for an evening dinner at the 'Storyteller' restaurant in the town. S. Healy provided a celebration cake with BPS logo on top with red and yellow ribbons around the perimeter of the cake. This is to celebrate the 50th year since the 1962 boys admitted to the school. G.Eagling also donated a Union Jack cake, also to celebrate the Queen Jubilee year.



On Sunday was the discussion and coffee at the TGI Friday bar and that the next venue for next year would be in Southampton. We avoid having the venue this year due to the centenary anniversary of the HMS Titanic where we expected a long queue of enthusiastic to the museum of the ill fated unsinkable ship.

Thanks went to A.Krishna for organising this reunion.



1992 - Classes 61 & 62
First Reunion at York

Top L-R
P.Mowat
J.Bosman
M.Towler
K.Culver
G.Eagling
Bottom L-R
S.Healy
I.Townsley
L.Culver
A.Krishna



20 Years later Classes 61 & 62
Reunion at Cheltenham

Geoffrey Eagling

Friends Still Reunited

After they left school..... We have passed the age of 60. From 1993 to 2012 Classes 61/62 through marriages and divorces, successful careers and failed careers, retirement, healthy children, grandchildren, family rifts, tragedy, illness, disappointment, triumphs and achievement, love and laughs..... Friends still reunited.

Stuart Healy

Staff Reunion at the Swan, Walton on Thames.

Astrid and I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend June 23rd and lucky good weather on that day for the staff reunion. Gladly we went and travelled with Ron & Pauline Gibbins early in the morning visiting old memories for nearly 50 years ago. We went through the old road A3 and turned off for Esher then to Hersham Village, we stopped by St. Peter's Church on Burwood Road, which we used to go every Sunday morning also reminded me and Ron that we told our wives that we went to the field opposite the Church where we had Country Dancing.



After that we went up the road to the Garden centre to have breakfast brunch. I asked Ron if he remembered this place when we all boys used to Cross Country run up Burwood Road from Church back to school.

I asked how many of you remembered the garden centre? Then we went and stopped by the gate way to Burwood Park, Burhill Golf Club and both gates of Whiteley Village and finally



went into Burwood Park opposite Walton Bridge.

Shame we couldn't see the mansion (School) because it was full of trees. Great to see the red pillar box at the junction, then went to pick up Mary Prentis at Walton-on-Thames Railway Station before arriving at the Swan hotel for the reunion in the afternoon.



I gladly met three of the staff, Colin Sayer, Jim Grave and George Dobbs and met other staff members introduced by Colin and Ronald. Display and Catering were great provided by Colin and Ron. I took nearly 75 photos of that great day till 6.00pm and now Ron Gibbins has the copies. There were more staff there than the pupils.



Richard Willson, Ron Gibbins, Michael Towler, Anthony Sanderson, Leslie Banks, Nick Sturley, Mark Flower, Kevin Whalley and Steve Wherry also I ain't counted the wives but they had a great time.

.....
The Staff, who all really enjoyed it all, were (1950s) Miss Prentis, Mrs Eagle and Mary Nield, George Dobbs, Mr Sayer, Mr and Mrs Grave, and later Mr Lucas, Miss Godfrey, Mr and Mrs Kitchener, Mrs Schofield, Mr and Mrs Whitley, Mr and Mrs Siddall .

After the Staff Reunion there was a reunion for the later Old Burwoodians and Mark Flower, Mark Bentley, Nick Sturley, Leslie Banks, Steve Wherry, Grant Peddie, Tyron Woolfe, Warren Smith, Michael Hull, Ryan Findlay, Ahmed Mudawi with his wife Milly and their two kids, and Himel Chowhury were there. Some of them told me that they had not seen some of the others since they left school.

Colin Sayer



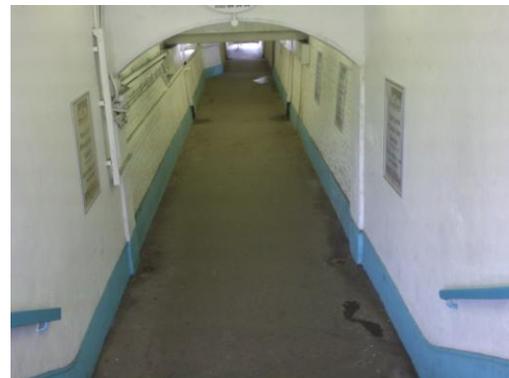
Do you remember the Nursery /Garden Centre while you were at school? Where is it?



Pillar Box Where? Did you post letters there?



Did you order a taxi? Did someone have a ride in a Rolls Royce?



Passenger Tunnel at the Station, did you play football in the tunnel?

Give us your answer with a story about the above questions? Thanks

Michael Towler

A "terpsichorean tailpiece".

(Mr Huntington sent this to C.S. after reading BiT 30 and the conversation between C.S. And Mr Grave.)

Dancing boys were certainly in evidence in the first 4 years of the School's history, sometime between 1955 and 1959. From memory I'm not sure whether girls were imported to impart normality (and, indeed, pleasure!) to the activity. I've a feeling that, if they were, there weren't enough of them to go round and, as a consequence, boys would be partnering boys!

I myself desisted from participating with the excuse that I tended to do the Quickstep to everything except the Waltz! Also, at 6ft.plus, messages from the brain didn't get down to the feet in time for strict tempo to be observed!

Steering the sessions at that time were Monica Potter, the School secretary, and her boyfriend (or maybe fiancé), Bernard. I can still hear Monica announcing, "Waltz Country Dance". No doubt she would initially demonstrate with Bernard before taking on one of the boys. Whether Bernard himself was then press ganged into dancing with a boy lies clouded in my memory! And probably in Bernard's!

Alan Huntington

MINI REUNION – VISIT BRITISH DEAF HISTORY MUSEUM, WARRINGTON SEPTEMBER 29th 2012

Last year Ron Gibbins went to meet Peter Jackson, BDHS, to discuss about visiting the British Deaf History Museum, so 26 people including their partners gathered at the British Deaf History Museum, Warrington on September 29th 2012 to see Burwood Park School materials as well other schools' materials along with history books. Two people from Burwood Park School turned up at the



Mr & Mrs D Northey

Museum that most people had not met since after they left school years ago. There are D.Northey and A.Wilson.

We all looked around and chatted about the school times.

They also looked at their previous school details before attending Burwood Park School.

In the evening we all, except D.Northey met again at the Waterside to have an evening dinner that we all enjoyed.

Stuart Healy thanked Peter Jackson and Ron Gibbins for the arrangement. Ron Gibbins and Colin Sayer told people to bring any pieces of school history and other documents linked with their schools, to the Museum. Peter Jackson will be happy to have documents in the museum and was saying not to leave anything in the loft that goes with the school, bring it down to give him for the Museum. We all enjoyed the day at Warrington.



Anthony Wilson



P.Mowat

M.Towler

R.Taylor



J.Pearson

A.Sharp



N.Clarke

M.Heaton

D.Bullock

F.Cooke

I.Cooke



C.Sayer A.Wilson

D.Bullock R.Willson



P.Jackson

M.Jackson



C.Davies

S.Healy

The British Deaf History Museum



← The Honours Board from the Front Hall

→ The Term Magazine and the Boar Weekly



It was great to see so much BPS material preserved by the BDHS: the preservation of Deaf History will become ever more important as time passes. Sylvia and I are delighted to see such things as the Honours Board and the display case so prominently on show. The display case was, in fact, greatly uprated, polished and reglazed by people with handicaps over one weekend after the BDHS received it.

Some more things will arrive at the Museum in a while, when I have sorted them – but two really special items are still missing. One will never, I fear, be found: a daily school diary sent by Mr Wood to at least one Governor – I have exactly 2 square inches (!!) of it. It was used as scrap paper and was between the pages of Mr Wood's diary. I think it says that Howard Woolfe had been to the doctor or dentist on one side. It would be brilliant to find some copies – but no chance, I am sure.



Display Case

The other is the original "Old Burwoodian". Only 3 copies are in the Archive (there were at least 14 editions I believe) – but surely some of you must have some more copies somewhere. If you have any do contact Peter Jackson or me, please !! You can keep the originals and we would make copies

Question on the Display Case

Where was this for a long time? Where did it go then? Where is it now? Who made it? (You?) What was hidden in it? Did you find what was hidden in it? Has it changed?

Give us your answer with a story. Thanks

Colin Sayer

My First Challenge for Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Caledonia 2012

What is Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Caledonia 2012?

It was a 81 miles cycling from Pitlochry to country of Perthshire and back to support Marie Curie on 13th May 2012.

So my work colleague, Damien went there last year therefore he asked some colleagues at our work to join him this year. I was unsure at first to join this bike ride for 81 miles because of my sore back. But Damien persuaded me to join so I changed my mind & registered in. So I told Trudi about it afterwards and she thought that I was mad to join the race because of my back problem with worn out disc. Five of us from work registered in for this event and Stena Drilling Ltd gave us to wear the new bike clothes with Stena logo.

I bought a new Giant bike for the race on the road last November. I kept going on training riding the bike nearly every week for average 33 miles expect poor weather. I think I'm lucky that my house is near the country roads and also some hills that is good for practice to ride.



On Friday 11th May, Trudi and I went to Pitlochry in the evening for the weekend. On Saturday, we had a nice long walk around the town (Pitlochry) with nice atmosphere and also nice sunny too. We saw lots of bikers there practising on their bike around the streets and there were some markets which sell energy snacks, drinks and cycling clothes plus to collect the event registration to get event number and timing chip. Then we went out for the meal in the evening with colleagues.

On Sunday 13th May, I had bad sleep through the night because I was nervous and worried if I could do 81 miles because of my back problem. Anyway, I got up at 5am for breakfast then my colleague and I arrived in the Start area on the closed road. The weather was full of clouds but we knew already that after 20 miles, there would be rain and windy. There were about 5,000 riders waiting to start. The fastest riders started at 6.30am and I

started at 6.56am.

I had a good start to ride on the way with 4 feed stations for drinks and foods. It was really hard to against winds with rain but I managed to keep on and there were some hard roads with deep uphill's! Some cyclists had punched tyres and they tried to repair the tube of wheels without any help and the bike chain had broken off etc. Lucky me, as my bike kept doing well About after 40 miles, my

back started to hurt but I brought my pain killer tablets and I didn't give up and kept going



until the finish line. The race was my first hard challenge. A lot of people who waited for all the riders to arrive to the finish line. I completed 81 miles in 5 hours and 7 min then I met my wife Trudi who was pleased that I had done it because she was concerned about my back. No pain or stiff on my legs but more pain on my back. I had enjoyed it very much to challenger myself with the weather and uphill's etc. I will definitely go back there again on May 2013. The winner racer did it for 3 hours and 37 min and last person to arrive was 8 hours and 2 min. We went home after I had shower at hotel and I was worn out. Now my next challenge bike ride will be on 21st & 22nd

September, cycling from Inverness to Aberdeen for 164 miles over two days in Ride the North to raise money for Monty's Maggie's Appeal.



Leslie Banks

2012 Wembley Trip

Rugby League Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 25th August 2012.
Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves

Michael & Astrid Towler with 6 deaf rugby fans arrived in London at 2 pm on Friday 24th August and stayed for 2 nights at Premier Inn, Old Street, London. In the evening we went on any bus to catch and alighted at Waterloo Bridge, then strolled along the River Thames Embankment to London Bridge to get bus back to the hotel to have a few drinks.



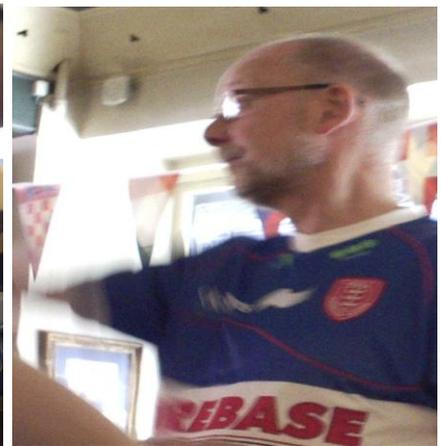
On Saturday 25th August we went to Kings Cross Railway Station at 9.45am to meet OBA boys, Robert Taylor and Douglas Richardson, and while we were there, thousands of rugby fans arrived from all over Yorkshire even 16 Leeds Rhinos deaf fans passed us. Most of us went to O'Neill pub to have some drinks while I was getting the tube tickets for 11 fans (normally cost £7.70 each). I've explained to them when I got to the pub, I got a bargain, being as a group and the tickets each cost £4.30.



Michael Towler



Robert Taylor



Douglas Richardson

We stayed there and more deaf fans came later before we left at 1.00pm catching the Tube to North Wembley from Euston Square. My mistake led us all going to Euston Station which diverted to St. Pancras then direct to Wembley Park. When we arrived at the stadium we all had snacks and drinks from the stadium which cost a fortune. There we met another OBA boy, Stuart Lee who had bought the ticket off Ronald Gibbins (due rest from hospital). Anyway Warrington Wolves beat Leeds Rhinos again for the second time in 3 years. After the match we all strolled back to catch the tube back to London and spent the evening at O'Neill pub, dined and drinks through the night.

I remind you that next year is on Saturday 24th August 2013 and the tickets as we all agreed that will be £31 per seat and in the same area. (We are definitely stopping an extra night in the same hotel), and possibly I may organise a mini reunion on Sunday 25th August 2013 in the city of London.

If anyone is interesting, please contact matowler@live.co.uk, thanks

Michael Towler

D.E.A.F

I am not going to tell you what this abbreviation stands for but I believe many deaf people know what it means.

I have two true stories to tell you. When you have read the two stories below I am sure you may sense your thought and whether **D.E.A.F** is a true fact in the Deaf Communities and their attitudes.

First story.....I cannot remember what year it was but I think it is around 1978. Late Geoffrey Queen, at this time, he was *BPSOBA's Chairman and I, as a temporary Secretary, were depressed because the BPSOBA had never been successful with a better number of members. For a long time, Geoffrey and I tried several of ideas to aim to increase membership and had a long discussion.

We finally agreed and should try one idea, his idea. We hired a first floor room, once a month, 1st Friday each month for one year at a public house in London. I remembered the road called Savoy Street and the public house called 'The Savoy Tup', quite near the Charing Cross and Waterloo British Railway Stations. In this room, there was a small private bar that was being served by one of their employees. Geoffrey and I created 150 letters, in red and yellow papers (School's symbolic colour). In this letter, it included an encouraging announcement, date of first opening and its time and the map to all Old boys. April was the first night and we were, very much, expecting, at least, over 20 Old Boys to turn up. A big disappointment, only 4 Old Boys came. The following May, it was the same again, 3 turned up. And, every month up to September, it has never more than 5 Old Boys. Geoffrey and I were upset and did not understand why.

We, because of this and our agreement with the one year contract, realised there was no point to carry on until the very last month the following year. After a few days, I had an idea. We decided and agreed with this idea. We knew it was risky because we could lose a lot of money. The idea was to give away - **one free drink and one round of sandwiches to every Old Boy and as well as to his partner or friend**. We announced the 'give away - drink and food'. In October we could not believe it and **62 people** came!!! (approximately, two-thirds Old Boys and one-third partner or friend). Geoffrey and I were very thrilled and pleased. On that night, we pleaded with the Old Boys to come again next month, November. In November, it was the same old story, 2 turned up and the same again in December. We did not continue with the three remaining months. **Were they really D.E.A.F?**

Second story..... Again; I cannot remember what year it was. Geoffrey and I hired a large room with a bar for 4 hours, 7pm to 11pm, in Tottenham Court Road for the BPSOBA's Reunion. I believe there were more than 125 people, mostly Old Boys plus their partners or friends. Geoffrey and I were concerned about the extra charge if the time went past 11pm. 15 minutes before, Geoffrey stood on the stage and gave a call to say the time was up and asked everyone to move out politely. They did not move out and were carrying on talking. They just ignored us and it was impossible to move them out. As the time went near to 10.55pm Geoffrey went back on the stage and said, '**There is a free cup of tea or coffee downstairs and it will go on till 2.00am**'. Unbelievably, they moved out swiftly and smoothly. A Securicor man closed the hired room, just at the right time, 11.05pm. Ten minutes later, a few Old Boys came to us and asked where the free tea was. Geoffrey told him that he was fooling them. **Were they really D.E.A.F?**

* **Burwood Park School Old Boys Association** (Now, it is Old Burwoodian Association)

Richard Willson

My Job

From 1987 to 2006, I worked at Enterprise Engineering Ltd as Document Controller/Draughtsman. At the start I enjoyed my job but they didn't give me a chance to get promoted to a better job, etc. I had enough of this job and I decided to look for a new job somewhere in London.

Someone told me that Stena Drilling was looking for a draughtsman who could use AUTO CAD to take on some work for someone who had no time to do all the work and travelled to various countries therefore he needed someone to support him to do some work for the new Drillships and Rigs. I was asked to send my CV and had been offered an interview. On the interview day, I met two people from the Department for the interview then they showed me around the office etc. Two hours later, I received the email from them offering me the job of Design Draughtsman. I started work from January 2007.

My responsibility is providing layout and manufacturing drawings for various projects relating to the upkeep and improvement of Stena Drilling Rigs and Drillships. And I visit other countries to attend FATs (Factory Acceptance Test) to check equipment.

In June 2011, I went to Geoje, in South Korea to visit the last Drillship at the yard. I did drawings of 'extra' materials / structure work on AutoCAD after measuring areas on the drillship and possibly other Drillships in the future.

In December 2011, my boss asked me to go to Melbourne (my first visit to

Melbourne lucky me!) to do some drawings and measuring so I can work on AutoCAD to upgrade structures on the Stena Clyde rig (Photo 1) on the sea near Portland. I did my job to try to think of any ideas to remove the bulkhead (wall), bumpers, equipment, stairs, containers rails etc.(Photo 2). Stena Drilling had a new contact with a firm "Origin Energy" which is based in Melbourne. They wanted to use their equipment (name of equipment is Xmas Tree Assembly) which couldn't fit on the rig rails or through the structure therefore I tried to think of ideas to move the structure to make sure the Xmas Tree Assembly could through the structure

and moonpool. I stayed there for 5 days but I returned there again last February and did the same thing again, this time with my boss. While we were some men were doing their

job to remove the wall and equipment etc. I stayed there for 9 days before back home. My job was done last April. (Photo 3).

How do you think I have moved from the small boat on the sea to the top of the rig? (Photo 4). There is a crane carrying the Billy Pugh Basket lowered to the small boat where I jumped onto the basket to hold the ropes. The crane then lifted the basket



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 4



Photo 3

the basket to hold the ropes. The crane then lifted the basket

up to the top of the rig.

In April/May 2012, I went to Houston (for first time, lucky me!) for 5 days with some work colleagues to visit the Offshore Technology Conference to see all new equipment of Xmas Tree, Surface BOP, ROV, platform, AutoCAD, lifeboats, survival courses, lots of different things. I enjoyed the exhibition and learned something from there.

Last April 2012, I went on training on the "Universal Refresher Survival" (must complete this kind of training every 4 years). As I sometime fly on helicopters and need the certificate to show that I had been on training courses for health and safety purposes. Various activities – Fire training brief/practical, Skyscape brief/practical, Emergency First Aid, lifeboat, liferaft and Helicopter underwater escape.

I was more nervous of the helicopter underwater where I had to learn how to escape. I had to wear the survival suit and lifejacket with emergency breather system (small one like 007 James Bond). Then I swam in the pool to go inside the helicopter and the helicopter lifted up from the water by the crane while I put on the seat belt. At the start the helicopter crashes slowly down into the water by the crane and the water flowed to inside the helicopter and filled it up while I took EBS (Emergency Breather system) out from the lifejacket and put it on my mouth to breathe before the water went up to the cabin then wait for 7 seconds then I pushed the window off the helicopter before letting go the seat belt then swam through the window from the helicopter. (I did it 4 times to different exits). I passed the certificate and enjoyed the training course. I will have to go back in 4 years' time!

Stena Drilling has 3 oil rigs and 4 Drillships around the world. The last Drillship, Stena ICEMAX was completed last April 2012 (Photo 5). We all thought it would be the last one but now Stena Drilling has been discussing that they may have two new Drillships hopefully to be built in South Korea or Singapore.

I enjoy my work very much because I learnt a lot from the Drillship and how rig equipment works and what they are used for and enjoyed travelling around Europe, South Korea, Singapore, USA and Australia. I'm still busy drawing (AutoCAD and 3D) for structural details and equipment. My aim would be to learn more about various issues within the rigs and also to be able to visit and stay on the rigs / Drillships.



Leslie Banks

A Heart – Warming Story Part 1

Joanna and I have been busy with triplets!!

Yes! We have 3 beautiful daughters and their names are Milly, Molly and May - (not Mandy from the book by Joyce Lankester Brisley, because we didn't like the name and we changed it to May because of the month when Joanna and I first met) and they were born on 9th October 2011.

What a journey we had - before the babies born, during and after...I think I have better tell you our personal story from the past to the present....

When my wife - Joanna - became pregnant in 2007 we were so happy after we were married in November 2006. One day she collapsed at work and was rushed to A & E, where she was told she had an ectopic pregnancy, the tube had ruptured and she was bleeding internally: she had emergency surgery, she came through but was devastated on the loss of the baby. In total she had 3 ectopic pregnancies one after the other until she was told her tubes were damaged beyond repair. She became despondent and longed for her own baby: we were told IVF would be the only way forward for her. So she started on IVF treatment in 2010, the gruelling hormone treatment made her feel ill at times and she didn't think she would get through it. About 12 eggs were collected altogether and I think about 5 were good enough to use: one was put back into the womb, the others were frozen.

She had to wait 2 weeks before going back to the hospital for a pregnancy test, but before she was due to go back she started to bleed so we knew it hadn't been successful. We were all devastated once again and Joanna was nearly at the end of the road, depressed and tearful for a lot of the time, 'Why couldn't she have what most couples took for granted, a baby?'. I supported her all way through and encourage her to think positive and it would happen.

After this we have decided to move and had a break from treatment as we went to Rome for a long weekend in April and we enjoyed it and we saw almost everything we wanted to see. We prefer Rome to Paris! We were supposed to come home on Monday but we came home on Wednesday because of volcanic ash!

Anyway, early last year we decided to try again as we had frozen eggs available for a second try on the NHS. If this wasn't going to work that was it on the NHS - no more tries, only 2 allowed. She started the hormone treatment early 2011, and the day after mother's day she went into hospital to have 2 frozen eggs put back in: she just didn't think she was going to get pregnant and was so upset, tearful and fearful all the time and I kept telling her to think positive. She had to wait 2 weeks again for the pregnancy test, but this time she was pregnant!! We were all overjoyed with happiness; we had to go back in 2 weeks for her scan. The 2 week wait for the scan went by really slowly, even though we knew she was pregnant but she was still unsure if there would be a live embryo there, but when we went back we were shown the scan and 2 beating hearts plus a 3rd shadow and the nurse asked us to come back again so we had to go back the next week for a 2nd scan to see, so we thought 'Wow. Twins!' as we weren't expecting that at all, and we were shocked and it had worked so well, we knew things could go wrong and it was early days so we couldn't get too excited as we had been used to disappointment too often.

When we went back the next week it was confirmed it was triplets, three beating hearts, one of the eggs had split into two meaning a set of identical twins and a singleton.

We were all overjoyed but worried at the same time, that she could miscarry as the risks of multiple pregnancy were very real. The consultant asked if we wanted to terminate one or more foetus: we were shocked to be asked but it is a normal thing in multiple pregnancy as some choose to reduce the number but we said no straight away and we didn't need to think about it; the babies were a miracle and we wanted to give them every chance.

The pregnancy continued with problems with her blood pressure as she had this anyway. She had a couple of spells in hospital for rest and to stabilise her blood pressure: she had extreme tiredness and really swollen legs and feet, having to work fulltime and cope was hard for her. She managed to work on and off up until the 26th week, when she started to have really high blood pressure, so had to stay off work for more rest.

We were told all the babies were girls, which we were all thrilled about but there were concerns about the smallest twin which wasn't getting enough nutrients from the placenta so growth was slowing.

At 29 weeks Joanna was taken in as an emergency: a c section was planned - if not, the smallest twin was seriously at risk from dying. There were no beds locally - Birmingham Heartlands Hospital - so she was taken 80 miles away to Bristol Southmead hospital, in an ambulance, and I had to follow the ambulance in my car. The babies were born within 2 hours of getting there. May, the biggest, was 3lbs, Molly was 2lb 2oz and Milly was just 2lbs, but all were breathing on their own: at last we had our babies and we were over the moon!. The down part was Joanna was stuck in a grotty room on her own with no TV and nobody she could really communicate with. After 4 days she was discharged to rooms at the hospital where they let mothers stay: she was there for 2 weeks visiting the babies all the time as they were in neonatal special care. They all required oxygen help to breathe, had problems with their lungs, and needed blood transfusions. I came to visit them in the weekend because of work and I didn't take my parental leave because it is would better when they are at home so I can help out.

Our families came to visit her too and they were so pleased to see our babies and see Joanna and she was happy to see them because of being on her own most of the days. After 2 weeks incubators were available at Heartlands hospital, Birmingham, so she was able to come home: she had been homesick and lonely.

When home we continued to visit the three babies every day and help with their care. They were 11 weeks early but doing well and getting stronger. May was the first to come home on November 23rd, 4lb 4oz: they were born on Oct 9th so she had spent 7 weeks in hospital. Molly, 4lb, followed a couple of weeks later after being weaned off oxygen. Milly didn't make it home for Christmas so we went to the hospital to visit her and give her cuddles and kisses. Milly came home at the beginning of January having beaten all the



odds to survive and we were so glad that we had our family complete.

The story ends with us finding out that all three babies have been diagnosed with a hearing loss, Molly is mild, Milly moderate to severe, and May severe. It came as a big shock for us and we did not want our babies to face the problems we had faced growing up; discrimination is still there, and we will make sure they will be brought up well, such as good education and excellent speech, but the main thing is that they are healthy and continue.

We have a big family

network and Joanna has good friends always willing to lend a hand, with 18 bottles a day to make up and at least 20 or more nappy changes, we certainly need help and night feeds have been exhausting for us in the last few months, but it's all worthwhile, and the babies are now 6 months old and they are smiling a lot and have started to grab things and finally they sleep through the night now which is much easier for us! We are so happy that our dream comes true and we are so glad that we didn't give up because we kept thinking positive all the time.

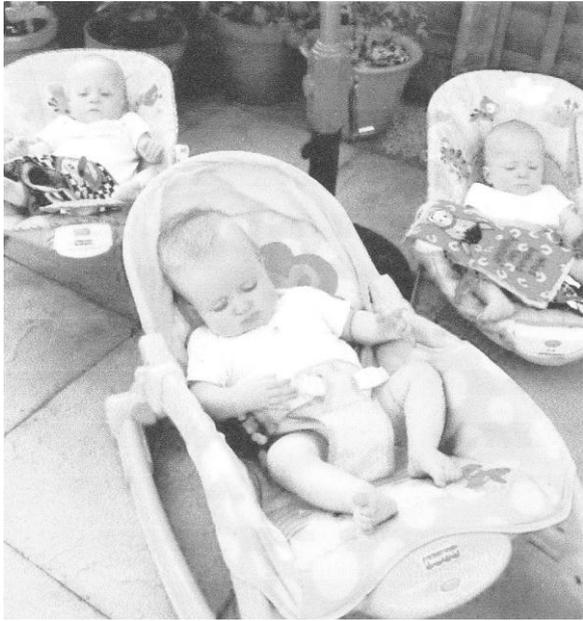
I can't wait to tell them a story about my time in Burwood Park School when they are older and I am sure they will laugh, and be interested, asking questions, etc. about BPS.

Michael Reid

Milly, Molly and May Part 2

We are so busy with Milly, Molly and May because they love to get attention and they must have got it from their Mummy! They are 11 months old now but their learning development is 8 months old because of being premature.

Where can I start? Let start in the morning.... everyday 1st thing in the morning when they wake up we feed them their breakfast and they are sitting in the highchairs in the kitchen. We are glad our kitchen is a good size and boy, it will be a mess when they all start eating finger foods: May have already started it but Milly and Molly are not quite there yet. We use the same room for their lunch and dinner. Sometimes Jo or I have to feed them all because Jo goes to work early or I come home late, etc.



We manage ok and they have very good patience to take turns eating! While we are at work, my parents, Jo's parents and also her sister look after them and they know which day their duty is because Jo creates a monthly rota for them! Jo is a very good organiser!

Every time when we take them out for a walk the public always come up to us or look at us and they say, "Is it triplets? Wow!" We get used to it now

and one time, we went to Stratford for a day and it is always full of tourists and my wife went to a shop and I was waiting outside with Milly, Molly and May and there was a small group of Chinese people came up to us and took photos of us all and said congratulations in their bowing style! I thought was funny and my wife was disappointed that she missed it and she wanted to be in the photo because they may broadcast it in China!

They are very good in the evening and they know how to unwind and get ready for bed and again they still sleep throughout the night. They have got a few teeth but they haven't had any pain yet, as screaming, not like some babies so we are lucky really and we get good sleep.

We don't watch television nowadays because we are too busy with them and when they go to bed which is around 8pm we have to tidy up, washing up, prepare their meals for the next day, so by the time is around 9pm sometime we go to bed if we are tired which usually does happen ! Or later if there is a good drama on TV and that is the only time we unwind. This is how it goes each night. Then every morning the baby alarm wakes us up around 6.30am and we continue our routine as above.

We are so happy and very proud to have 3 beautiful daughters and I have enclosed the latest photo and that was taken in the Summer.

Michael and Joanna Reid

Small Reunion at Nottingham

An unanimous decision in a little space of time prompted Dave Walker, Richard Eminowicz, Roger Foreman and myself to arrange a small reunion from the same class to catch up with all the news we had missed over the years. We had seen one another previously but never had a chance to get all four of us together at any one time since leaving school.



Birth of The Four Musketeers, 1961: Foreman, Walker, Eminowicz, Payne

Dave and Roger had not seen each other for 48 years, that is since they both were eighteen-year-old dudes at time of leaving school in 1964 to cool great looking sixty-five-year-old blokes!

We the four musketeers got together around lunchtime in the later part of warm August in Nottingham being equidistant from our home and stayed for one night at Travelodge on the suburb of the city. Dave came by car from Middlesbrough and the rest of us by train from London/Essex.

We settled in a comfortable pub next door to the hotel and talked about how we were getting on generally, such as jobs over the years (all of us retired now), families, home, present activities, etc. and naturally we enquired about the news we knew about any ex-BPS pupils. Dave brought his iPad to show us the old school photographs he had downloaded. Those snaps brought us great memories; I wished I had brought mine, too.



The Four Musketeers again, 1963: Payne, Walker, Eminowicz, Foreman

Having enough of one place all afternoon, we moved on and went to town by bus, rather than by Dave's car as he had enough of driving for one day all the way from the North. We strolled about the town to show the locals what we the musketeers were capable of, but no one noticed us! I was the only one who had been to Nottingham before and tried to remember where the statue of Robin Hood was as I wanted to show it to the others. We eventually found it on the boulevard after searching round the edge of the castle.

After exploring the historic part of Nottingham we refreshed ourselves with another pint on the alfresco by the canal at the back of the old pub, which we noticed was the former barge house, and continued our conversation. Later we were back to the hotel and enjoyed our evening meal in the same pub next door to the hotel chatting the night away.



The Four Musketeers (retired), 2012: Foreman, Eminowicz, Payne, Walker

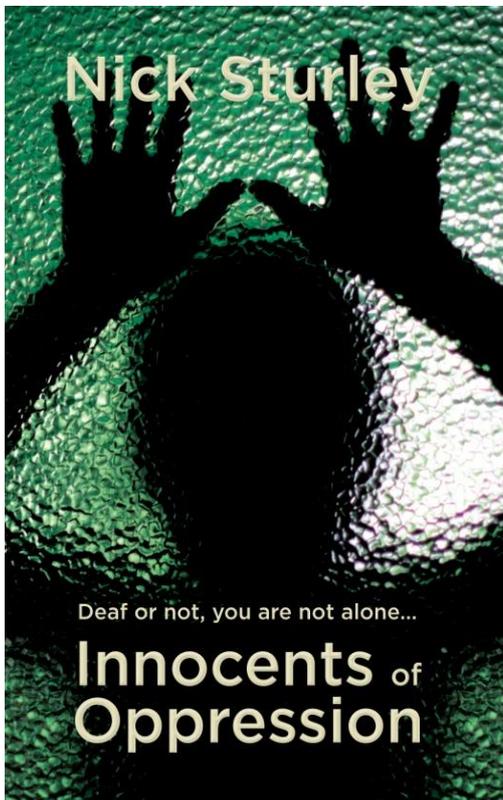
The following morning we went back to the city to have breakfast, as Travelodge does not serve any meal. After having our breakfast, we continued to wander around; there was some sort of events going on with fun fair, entertainments, market stalls, mass of sand laid on the market square for the children to play with, etc. We noticed that there were several lace shops making different things like net curtains, wedding dresses etc. I found out later on that this city was once famous for manufacturing lace.

Then we sat down in the middle of the shopping arcade having our coffee, see photo below, and talked about next time.

Time had come up for all good musketeers to end our free-flowing swashbuckling adventure and exchanged farewells. Richard, Roger and I headed back to London by train while Dave was driving home up North.

It was only 24 hours, but we caught up so much to be said and we aim to meet again soon, hopefully with additions from our class of 59-64

Michael Payne



New Innocents of Oppression Novel

I'm delighted to announce the publication of my second major novel called Innocents of Oppression. It was launched at Remark London office on the 24th of October.

It is powerful and controversial story about a close friendship between two Deaf teenage boys in an oral boarding school for Deaf boys in England during the late 1970s.

The story takes a fascinating and candid insight into the life of an oral boarding school during one of the most pivotal decades in history, taking both Deaf and hearing perspectives into account.

The central storyline, based on Chris and Aaron's friendship, also brings forth an array of other characters' funny, thought-provoking and disturbing accounts that are based on real-life experiences. It also incorporates real Deaf education issues and history, both Deaf and general, spanning back centuries and today, making this groundbreaking work of fiction an unforgettable read.

The synopsis is as follows:

After more than thirty years, Chris Matthaus returns to his old Ewing Hill Park boarding school in England to attend the funeral of his headmaster who was like the father he never had. There, he looks back on his boarding years.

It begins in September 1977, when Chris, a popular but troubled 13-year old, meets new boy Aaron Stephens, from Bristol. A close friendship soon forms between them as Chris guides Aaron through the first term. With Aaron and his loving hearing family, Chris starts to believe in himself.

There they deal with the arrival of the school's new maths teacher from West Germany two years later and his blind hatred towards sign language. Chris then struggles with his own sexuality, which not only jeopardises his popularity at school, but also may destroy his treasured friendship with Aaron.

The other boys' diverse backgrounds bring their own issues to the story some of which are adolescence, suppression of sign language, language barriers, family life, bullying, eyesight problems and abuse.

A parallel political and emotional battleground is also taking place among the teachers at the school, especially over how deaf children should be taught. The school's headmaster, trained as an oralist, is dealing with his life-changing experience in America at the same time dealing with his battles with the school's surdophobic governors who are against any change towards the oral education approach.

Unexpected revelations, the shocking truth behind sign language suppression and the escalating tension against the oralist oppression soon surface; it leads to a shattering climax that changes the school, forever.

I started developing the story twelve years ago, however, I had spent the last two and half years writing the 213,000 word work of fiction that is based on real-life experiences by Deaf and hearing people in Deaf education. I interviewed many of them face-to-face, video chat, email and Facebook to gather as much information as possible from them for me to attribute into the fictional characters. The story has two perspectives: one from Deaf and the other hearing on the oral education. I also included real Deaf education issues, Deaf and general history and several subject matters to make the book as realistic and authentic as possible.

From the story's description above, you'd think "Oh it's all about Burwood Park School!" but it isn't. I used the school as a template to create a fictional oral boarding school along with my own architectural tweaks and additions. It basically represents a traditional oral boarding school in general rather than our very own school. However, I've included many subtle and humorous references about our school that you'll be forever ticking them away!

It's been a long, but incredible, journey writing the book and I hope that it will make a big impact because it paints a realistic and honest picture of the state of Deaf education and to make people really understand Deaf people. As I write this article two weeks after its launch, it's already caused a reputation.

Priced at £14.99, the book is available to buy online at www.innocentsofoppression.com. It is also available on Amazon. You can also phone to order directly from the publishers on 08444 593 8440.

I will be at the York Grand reunion on April and I will be more than happy to sign your copy if you can bring it!

Nick Sturley

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Mrs Arter - (Mrs Arter's daughter, Sue, sent us this sad news).

"Mrs Beryl Arter died in February and her ashes were interred with Father's in the churchyard of All Saints' Church Hartford last Monday. Although I miss her it is a blessing that she is now reunited with Father, free from pain and at peace.

My Mother had been poorly for many years, deteriorating in health more rapidly since Father's death in January 2009, eventually unable to do anything for herself and with very bad dementia. It was fantastic that they had managed to move up to be so near to me, only two doors away, in August 2008 enabling me to visit her on a daily basis.

She couldn't have been looked after better by her live-in carer and all the other carers who came in three times a day, her relief carers who took over when her live-in carer had time off and all the medical professionals who came to support her at home. It was due to their combined efforts that she was able to stay in her own home, dying there in her sleep in the early hours of February 8th 2012.

I have wonderful memories of both my parents being so involved with 1st Burwood Park Scouts; I can remember helping clear the site, spread concrete, build the hut, scout camps, badge work activities and so much more. In fact it was through a Burwood Park Scout Camp at Polyapes that I first started going out with John - we have just celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Please could you pass on the news of my Mother's death to any of the others who will remember those times. "



Mrs Joyce Thomas

Mrs Thomas died peacefully in October and there was a small family service. In the last week or so she recognised and appreciated close members of her family, which had been very difficult for her before, and this was a blessing for all.

She and Mr Des Thomas were at Burwood from 1969 until they left in 1986. He came as Deputy, becoming Headmaster in 1981, while she worked as Matron when required.

Colin Sayer

.....
OLD BOYS NEWS

Alan Cook

We are still travelling to London every year to see our daughter, Wendy who works in London Bridge. She works as Research Chemist but recently got promoted to Senior Quality Audit Assurance.

We are looking forward going on a Christmas and New Year Caribbean Cruise on 23rd December this year. We go to Manchester Airport on 22nd December and stay in a hotel

overnight and fly to Barbados on 23rd December. The cruise will visit various Islands, St Vincent, St Maarten, British Virgin, Antigua, Dominica and back to Barbados, continuing to Aruba, Curacao, Margarita Island (Venezuela), Grenada, St Lucia and back to Barbados. We will be home on 7th January.

Roger (our son) is fine and lives in a bachelor flat. We have no grandchildren yet.

The weather had not been good during the summer and lots of rain affecting bowling competition with cancellations. During August and September, I played lots of bowling competitions to finish off before the season closed. I was selected and played for Croftfoot Bowling Teams (private club) against another clubs and won three trophies. For Croftfoot members' competitions only, I won one Men Pairs final (see photos) and two runner ups.



Stuart Healy

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to OBA Chairman, Stuart and Karen Healy to become grandparents for the first time on August 28th 2012.

Their daughter gave birth to a baby girl, name Sophia-Lily.

Congratulations to you all Healy's family.



Nigel Clarke

Teacher of the Year 2012 awards were held at Plaisterers Hall, London last November 2nd. Meal and Drinks have been provided courtesy by Signature only for the winners as well bringing a guest to accompany. Nigel Clarke receives an award Teacher of the Year for Yorkshire and Humberside.

"I have been teaching BSL for over 16 years in different various colleges and centres around Yorkshire Area. I was speechless when I heard that I was nominated by SigniaSigning based in Harrogate where I ran BSL courses for them. I kept working with them and helped them to build their business and now it has been successful. You can find us on their website www.signissigning.co.uk"



Well Done Nigel, Editors.

Members of Old Burwoodian Association
October 1st 2011 – September 30th 2016

Roll Nos	Surname	1st Name	Roll Nos	Surname	1st Name	Roll Nos	Surname	1st Name
004B	Rosie	Hamish	100B	Cooke	Ian	233BN	Sturley	Nicholas
006B	Chapman	Patrick	102B	Bullock	David	236B	Valentine	Darren
010B	Long	Michael	105B	Holliday	Stephen	237BN	Clarke	Anthony
013B	Lee	Stuart	107B	Freund	Michael	242BN	Ferguson	Grant
014B	Schofield	David	108B	Jenkins	Vaughan	246B	Mackay	Iain
015B	Northey	Daniel	109B	Klein	Herbert	247B	Weinbaum	Richard
020B	Hewett	Ian	110B	Woolcock	Jeffrey	252B	Kelberman	James
021B	Wilson	Anthony	111B	Burton	Michael	254B	Boswell	Clive
022B	Davidson	Derek	113B	Brown	Peter	255BN	Flower	Mark
023B	Pearson	John	114B	Dudley	Kenneth	256BN	Jones	David
024B	Haywood	Malcolm	115B	Sanderson	Anthony	257BN	Pritchard	Robert
025B	Wheatley	Kenneth	118B	Morris	David	258BN	Wengraf-T	James
027B	Davies	Christopher	121B	Bazeley	Robert	266BN	Reid	Michael
029B	Lusher	David	123B	Kelly	Michael	269B	Sanders	Glyn
030B	Walden	Colyn	126B	Whalley	Bryan	286B	Bojas	Christopher
033B	Jackson	Peter	129BN	Bogard	Martin	293BN	Bentley	Mark
034B	Williams	Jonathan	131BN	Scolding	Andrew	303BN	Sudra	Sumit
035B	Sharp	Allan	134BN	Chee	Paddy	307BN	Forbes	David
036B	Pritchard	Derek	135BN	Clifton	Lyndon	314BN	Skinner	Henry
037B	Lethbridge	Andrew	137BN	Gardner	Phillip	355B	Westbury	Oliver
038B	Cook	Alan	138BN	Wrighton	Paul	011N	Roach	Craig
039B	Willson	Richard	145BN	Fisher	Simon	014N	Taylor	Andrew
046B	Handy	Peter	147B	Jackson	Matthew	073N	Watson	Mark
047B	Morris	John	148BN	Martin	Thomas	078N	Armstead	Sarah
054B	Woolfe	Howard	150BN	Davis	Paul	001S	Sayer	Mr Colin
061B	Hetherington	William	153B	Templeton	Keith	003S	Huntington	Mr Alan
064B	Taylor	Robert	158B	Stavert	William	005S	Faragher	Mr Kenneth
065B	Payne	Michael	162BN	Bromley	Kerry	006S	Clark	Mr John
067B	Sadler	Michael	164B	Vanoestren	Michael	014S	Garonzhki	Mrs Sue
068B	Holmes	John	165B	Davies	Mark	019S	White	Mr Ian
070B	Healy	Stuart	166B	Craddock	Paul	020S	Coombes	Ms Eileen
071B	Staines	Roy	167BN	Clarke	Edward	021S	Godfrey	Miss Barbara
072B	Seccombe	Charles	172BN	Sinclair	Graeme	027S	Dobbs	Mr George
074B	Culver	Leslie	174BN	Clarke	Nigel	029S	Grave	Mr Jim
075B	Mowat	Peter	178BN	Turrell	Charles	039S	Boyd (Simon)	1st Viscount
077B	Eagling	Geoffrey	183BN	Sinclair	Malcolm	040S	Young	Mr Tony
078B	Gibbins	Ronald	186B	Hoare	Patrick	041S	Threlfall	Mrs Margaret
079B	Richardson	Douglas	189BN	Plaster	Andrew	044S	Thomas	Mr Paul
080B	Towler	Michael	193B	Cameron	James	049S	Prentis	Miss Mary
081B	Krishna	Arun	200B	Jenner	John	061S	Schofield	Mrs Victoria
083B	Bosman	Jonathan	201BN	McGrath	Brian	095SG	Hickes	Margaret
084B	Townsley	Ian	204B	McKee	Allan	096SG	Hughes	Mrs Pauline
086B	Fitzsimmons	Robert	211BN	Oulton	Mark	097SG	Butterworth	Mr Chris
088B	Culver	Kenneth	212BN	Rayment	Craig	098SG	Clarke	Mr Kenneth
089B	Daly	John	221B	McCormick	Kenneth	100SG	Kumsang	Dr Margaret
092B	Young	Robert	222BN	Banks	Leslie	101S	Eagle	Mrs Marie
097B	Billam	Jamie	224BN	Wherry	Steven	106S	Denaret	Ann
099B	Heaton	Mark	232BN	Longworth	David	107SG	McAlpine	Mr Hamish

So far OBA has **144 members**, please will you to tell your classmates/school friends to become a member of OBA, mostly need for a renewal membership. Kindly tell him/her to get a membership form from Old Burwoodian Association Web and send to R.Gibbins. Thanks