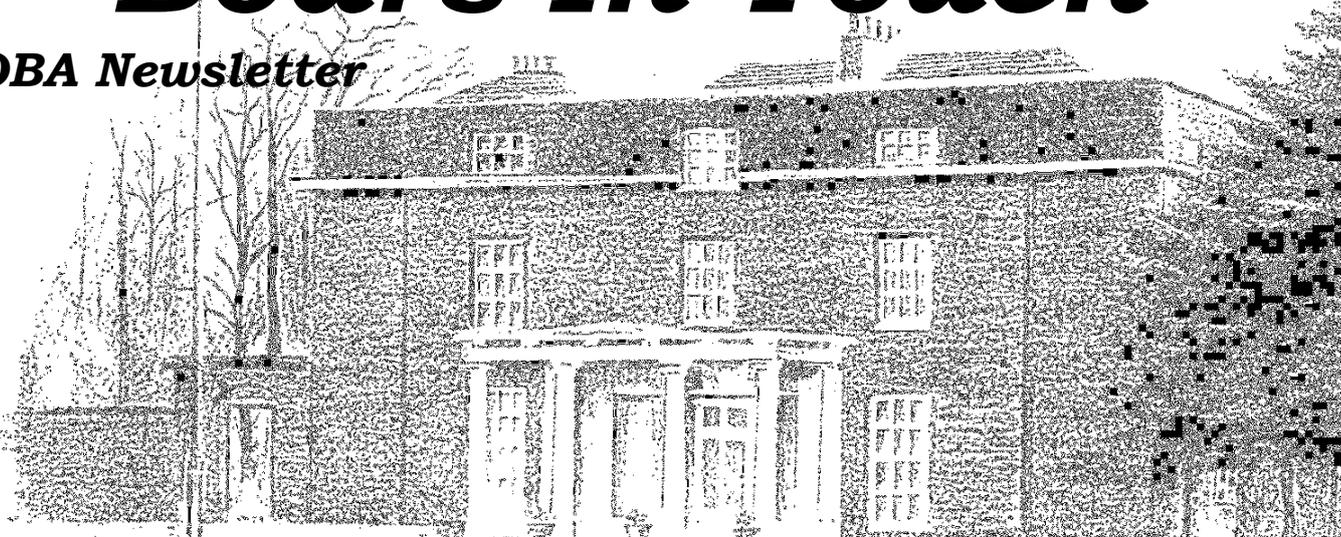


Boars In Touch

OBA Newsletter



Issue 32 - June 2013

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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: - We, the editors, need to have contributions from you, readers, not expecting to have them only from the committee who have given some contributions. The BiT magazine needs them from you, BiT reader.

.....
I am eighth Secretary since OBA formed in 1961.
During my time as Secretary since 2005, my aim was

to bring "youth" into OBA membership and getting them to join the OBA committee. Why? Because the "youth" are the best people to take over the "oldies" to keep OBA rolling for many more years. There are plenty of "them". Excuse me about the name "oldies".

The Website was created in April 2006 by Oliver Westbury and Burwood Park Foundation did give a grant to create it. Photos, history and future plan reports have been input on the site. But problems arise that OBA need to have permission from members to have photos of him/her on the site. Some members have complained about not putting up to date, but the secretary did give Web Creator to update about every 6 months. Why six

months - OBA have their committee meetings every six months so any reports or plans are up to date. Secretary cannot put any news or up to date without committee's approval. OBA are trying to input interests into the Website. So in 2012 OBA Website had a new design and a small grant has been given from the Burwood Park Foundation to set up new Web. Hope the new Web design will give the better opportunity for OBA to continue with interests.

Now about "youth", the Secretary did meet them and words were mentioned that "youth" are not keen on looking at the Web and or at the BiT but prefer to look at something else such as Facebook, e-board and Twitter but these are not good systems for giving them OBA news. Only Web and BiT have provided news such as history and future plans and so on.

The secretary did send out to each member about BiT emailing for a good quality instead of posting due to the cost of post and poor printing quality. Most members would like to have them by email. We had a meeting about the website and decided to carry on with it with more news, e.g. past BiT. For those few members who do not have computer, BiT will be sent to them. I have to announce that The Burwood Park Foundation has given a grant to cover the costs of the BiTs until September 2015.

The other thing is 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 175 people attending. The Secretary is going to send to ex members that have not been for renewal membership since 2006.

The Secretary's aim in 2015 is to bring "youth" into OBA committee for better organisations and ideas so "oldies" would love to see "youth" committee members and want to hear what they are doing and I am sure they would like to have reunions. I hope to meet some "youth" to discuss the possibility to become officials from 2015 as some members at Edinburgh Reunion did ask the Secretary about the possibility of being committee members after 2015.

Our present committee members, I will ask Leslie Banks, Martin Bogard, Mark Flower and Oliver Westbury about their future with the committee. Let OBA have "youth" on the committee for better organisation and better ideas through new technology. 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.

Our Education

All the deaf, disabled and hearing people all over the world have education at schools, colleges and universities. **

From the 1980s, we, deaf people needed sign language interpreters or writing down communicators to give help with our education.

At Burwood we worked very hard trying to pass the examinations or courses. They were worthwhile and very valuable. I have a Pitman's Typing Certificate, 'O' Level and A Level Qualifications from the school and NHC. Many people went to Universities for Degrees or Higher Diploma courses. **** If we did not have interpreters or communicators, then we would feel downhearted. Many hearing people have supported us.

I am very pleased to have attended Burwood Park School and Norfolk House College. Thank you very much and I have achieved something with my life. Burwood Park School was one of the best schools for deaf children,

Simon Fisher

** I wish this were true !! We all imagine it is - but many children across the world really do not get to school, still.

**** I did a survey of almost half of the BPS pupils who spent 5 years there, and about 48% had ONC, HNC or a Degree. (I suspect the other half is just the same.) I was able to give this information to Lady Boyd before she died.

Colin Sayer

THE BIG FREEZE 1962/63 – Peter Mowat

The winter of 1962-1963 (also known as **The Big Freeze of 1963**) was one of the coldest winters on record in the United Kingdom. Temperatures plummeted and lakes and rivers began to freeze over. The Big Freeze began on 22nd December 1962 and continued without let-up until 6th March - bringing with it 10 weeks of crisis and suffering throughout the country which took its toll in human and animal life.

December 1962 - The beginning of the month was very foggy, with London and surrounding areas suffering its last great smog before clean air legislation and the reduction in the use of coal fires had their full effect.

A short wintry outbreak brought snow to the country on 12th-13th. A very cold easterly set in on 22nd December as an anticyclone formed over Scandinavia, drawing cold continental winds from Russia.

29th-30th December 1962 - A blizzard swept across most of England and Wales. Snow drifted to over 20 feet deep in places, blocking roads and railways. The near-freezing temperatures meant that the snow cover lasted for over 2 months.

January 1963 - It was the coldest month of the 20th century, with an average temperature of -2.1°C. Much of England and Wales was snow-covered throughout the month. The country started to freeze solid. Freezing fog was a hazard for most of the country. In January the sea froze for a mile out from shore at Herne Bay, Kent, the upper reaches of the River Thames also froze over.

February 1963 - There was more snow came. It was also stormy with winds reaching Force 8. A 36-hour blizzard caused heavy drifting snow in most parts of the country.

March 1963 - The thaw set in during early March; 6th March was the first morning of the year without any frost anywhere in Britain. The temperatures soon soared to 17°C and the remaining snow rapidly disappeared.



Frozen River Thames at Windsor Bridge

Sports fixtures - One of the most noticeable consequences of the freezing conditions which hit the UK in the winter of 1962/63 was the enormous disruption to the national sporting calendar. For many weeks football matches in both the English and Scottish leagues suffered because of the severe effects of the winter weather. Over 500 matches were postponed in England and Scotland.

From our school experiences during school days

It does bring me great memories of the Great Freeze during our stay at Burwood Park School. I remembered the most is that when there are at least 18 inch deep snow fell on ground, there was a sudden warm up by the sun shortly after and freeze again leaving a pancake-like icing on top of soft snow underneath. This was taken advantage by boys, me too, to cut it around with hands and lift the whole pancake-like icing over unsuspecting boys heads from behind. What a fun to see the look on faces ...cruel maybe.

And again during the 6 weeks freeze up we were no longer required to play football...as I hate football so it was great...Mr Watson our game teacher got bored and being a medical student



himself years ago, he tried to teach us the basis of human biology during the weeks of non football activities...I find it interesting but many of us find it very boring. From that I find human biology very interesting and did a bit of read on it...but no luck on becoming a doctor although.

I remembered also when at maths lesson Mr White suggested us to look at the window behind us for a moment to see a big fox walking really

slowly at the rear golf course ground leave a crisp foot or should I say paw-prints behind. I bet the fox was starving and was trying his luck to find the food near the school. But for that moment, it stick on my mind since then.

And the snow fights we had in our spare time I remember someone threw a snowball really close to me and it finds its way into one of my ear flaps and it was really sore for days after. Well that was the price of getting involved in snow fights. Great time and no footballs during that period, hooray!

But it was a great fun memories.

Leslie Culver

.....
I remember it was my last year at school. We had one off football match on the ice lake in the wood thro back gate during six weeks freeze. We played, it is not easy so slippery but it was great fun. Once we were so close together and Mr Watson heard a crack on ice and told us to spread out so quickly. Good thing that we did not fell in freezing water.



Again we boys were fooling around the lake and tried to break the ice and found several fish dead on top of water under the ice.

Stewart Hetherington

.....
To be honest I couldn't remember much about this big freeze. I was surprised to read that there were no games for 6 weeks.

The only things I recalled that the lakes were frozen and we were allowed to play on the ice which was not supposed to be safe. Also we were able to reach the island in the middle of lake. We, boys, have been dreaming of going in the island.

When we were cold, we used to sit on the old type radiator in the hobbies room to keep our bums warm.

I thought that there was a match of snowballing which was refereed by Mr. Watson one day, I couldn't remember who won.

Jonathan Bosman

Sorry, I can't remember at all about Big Freeze and what happens 50 years ago as I have too much to do all my life outdoors.

Form 3 pupil at that time.

I remembered a lot during The Big Freeze at Burwood Park, there were no football fixtures for many weeks! Also the lakes were frozen over, I was a bit annoyed because a lot of boys managed to walk over to an island on a small frozen lake because a year before that I got whipped by Mr. Wood for going on the island! We used a rowing boat.

On frozen Broadwater Lake, lot of boys were skidding along the ice, Miss Prentis was skating. There was a go-kart roaring across on the frozen lake, at one time we were gathered around to browse the go-kart, I think Mr. Grave (duty) told us to move back because of the weight of the boys and go-kart on one spot. It would have been a disaster if most of us fell into the lake!

On 20th February the first school football match of the term was held against Ottershaw, whom we beat 4-3. Our football matches were affected by many cancellations, because of the bad weather. - The Boar 1963 - page 7

Peter Mowat

.....
I was chatting with George Dobbs about the Freeze and these are his special memories.

He was having a snowball fight with some of the boys, who presumably saw Mr Wood coming and disappeared. George was making a snowball, when Mr Wood asked him what he was doing. He saw the boys had gone and he was all alone and said, "I'm just checking the snow to see if is possible to make a snowball with it."

He could not work on the garden while it was covered with snow: indeed, Mr Wood told him not to try. (He would have done more harm than good to the plants.) He also could not possibly have cleared any of the football pitches.

But he does remember keeping the paths outside the school, and the steps, clear of snow and ice and putting down sand and gravel. He had plenty to do with that and working inside the building. When he had spare time he played games and read books from the Library.

Finally, he remembers football being played in the Gym.

Colin Sayer

.....
Fifty Years later – 2013

Snowstorms and the big freeze returned as Britain was battered by hurricane-force winds. Blizzards and icy roads caused chaos for drivers as up to 15cm (6in) of snow fell in parts of the country.

Mrs Arter

I have forgotten to tell you all that after Mrs Arter died on February 8th 2012, my wife and I went to the churchyard of All Saints' Church Hartford last March 2012 to lay flowers and a card from Old Burwoodian Association.



Ron Gibbins

Jackie Harrison, sister of Old Burwoodian, Paul Harrison, 1986-91 and Richard Weinbaum, 1981-86 as the Co-Ordinators for the Deaf Sports Personality of the Year 2012

Deaf Sports Personality of the Year (DSPY), is a voluntary non for profit organisation aiming to promote Deaf Sports and their athletes within in the UK. After a successful awards night in 2010 at Wembley Stadium, DSPY held again on Saturday the 17th of November 2012 at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

Good to seeing a number of Old Burwoodian - Mike Aston, Conrad Keil, Darren Upton, Steve Wherry, Bryan & Kevin Whalley, Martin Bogard, Memnos Costi, Katie Mowat, Herbert Klein, Derek Rowley, Craig Rayment, Vaughan Jenkins, Andrew Scolding and others.

The importance of DSPY awards is very much on the rise as for many years, there has been no formal recognition of the achievements of deaf/hard of hearing sports heroes in our community. Three years ago we felt it was time for us to host our own Deaf Sports Personality of the Year every two years. By the term, Deaf athletes, this is open in any sports organisation, this is regardless of their specific hearing loss as long as it meets the regulations of their specific sport body which they are involved with. Sport has been, and always will be, a huge part of every deaf person's life, something that transcends barriers of age, class, creed and colour.

We intend to continue raising the profile of the DSPY2012 Awards Ceremony and to continue a truly memorable event to reward the sporting heroes in the deaf community, which would be a tangible recognition of their hard work through the years. It will bring everyone, whether it is athletes, their families and the wider audience together to celebrate the athletes' achievements and to encourage young deaf people and possible future athletes to get involved more with the sports they love.

It's good to see this event raising the profile of deaf athlete playing sports in deaf/mainstream including two Old Burwoodian winners - Phillip Gardner and James Clarke.

Lifetime Achievement Award 2012 - Phillip Gardner; This is a special award honouring someone who has made a major impact on the world of sport in his or her lifetime.



Fan of The Year Award - James Clarke; He has been a good fan supporting other Torch-bearers, both Deaf and Hearing by visiting eight other Torch-bearers events in the UK.

All the best for this year.

Answers to Photos on last BiT 31

Answer No 1: -

Q. Do you remember the Nursery/Garden Centre while you were at school? Where is it?
Michael Towler did email to the manager of The Garden Centre about the history of the Squires Centre so he did reply through email, see below: -

Hello Michael

The centre at Hersham opened as a Squires Centre in 1984, prior to that, there was a small garden centre here for, I think, about eighteen months before which it was a Dairy farm for many years. I am sure between 1961 and 1966 it would have been a farm.

I hope that this answers your question

Best regards

Tim Spearman (Manager, Squires Garden Centre, Burwood Road, Hersham)



.....

Answers No.3: -

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

Every time we were on train to Walton on Thames from Waterloo after school holidays, some of us (not sure who was with me) dashed straight away from the train carriage to the tunnel for other side of station to see if there is a WOW Rolls Royce! Five of us got in the Rolls Royce Silver Wraith Touring limousine with big headlights C1952 coachwork built by Hoopers & Co. The colour was Silver and Dark Grey (not sure). The fare was 1/- from the station to school (not sure if it was per person or per trip). Inside I was talking to the boys and did not realise our taxi was driving away from the station because the ride was so smooth! It happened to me and others 3 or 4 times on that Rolls Royce Taxi to school.

Happy Motoring Memories!

.....

Answers No.5: -

Q. Where was this for a long time? In the Front Hall at BPS.

Q. Where did it go then? To Mr Sayer's house.

Q. Where is it now? At the BDHS Centre at Warrington.

Q. Who made it? (You?) We do not know, except for Mr Barker. (Mr Sayer would like to put a plaque on it, with the names.)

Q. What was hidden in it? A "secret document".

Q. Did you find what was hidden in it? We do not know who found it.



Q. Has it changed? Yes, a group of Handicapped people completely renovated it one weekend and added the glass and shelf below, after the BDHS received it.

There is no answer from you the readers on Q2 & Q4 so I hope to have an answer from you readers for the next BiT in December.

Michael Towler

OLD BOYS NEWS

John Morris



I was at Burwood Park from **1957 to 1962**. After leaving I had two GCE 'O' level art and technical drawing. I wish I had passed more subjects but I was struggling to cope in an oral environment and the school's regimental style of routine and discipline. I had little confidence at school as my peers were apparently more successful in sport or academic pursuits.

After leaving school in 1962, there was very little technology available to help me to cope. Art was the only option for me to have anything of value for my future employment and I went to a

Local Art College, where again the environment was similar to my old school. Tutors and I resorted to pen and paper communication, sometimes some words were unfamiliar to me making it rather difficult to understand them at first. I wrote them with grammatical errors and my tutors didn't understand. Once my English tutor at another college asked me to leave because of my very low standard in English.

I realised I was too far behind to cope. I had to learn and read more to build up my English and slowly reached the level of normal English. I learnt language as being born deaf is very different to a hearing person's. It would appear, if I was learnt in sign language I might have progressed much better. Nevertheless in time I was able to progress to the level of hearing peers.

Burwood Park taught me how to cope in difficult situations and get around obstacles life put on me. As a new boy in 1957 I was the smallest boy and very thin, but I was reasonably fine with deaf boys and played sports. I was good enough to play in team sports, football and cricket, Mr Watson's coaching was invaluable. Scouting was also very helpful for my self-confidence and esteem.

It is 50 years since 1962, now I have been married for 45 years with a deaf wife Sandra, I have grown-up hearing children, Jane 39 and Clive 37 and have 3 hearing grandchildren which we often give childcare to when the parents are working. Both our children are graduates, Jane now MA working as a hospital executive. She was a student nurse and worked up to the top. My son is an Insurance genetic assessor. Both are hearing and look now at how they progressed compared to a deaf people's employment prospects.

Disenchanted with Art College studies, I managed to gain employment as a trainee signwriter in a local department store's display department. They were very good to me and allowed my artistic talents to develop and I made Father Christmas Grottoes. But I was unable to progress further so I

entered self-employment which has given me more challenges, new skills and self-discipline.

My parents and I set up a shop at which they lived upstairs, and were able to achieve a reasonable standard of living from silk screen printing and graphics. Our social life was revolved around deaf clubs and playing sports with them. I am still involved and now I play bowls for a deaf team for England as well as a local hearing club (which I won a

tournament in Pairs with club's president in summer 2012.) I used to play football, cricket, badminton and bowls both outdoors and indoors. I was chairman of Eastbourne Deaf club and Deaf Bowls England for many years.



When my parents were no longer able to carry on and sold the shop, I got a job with an exhibition company who manufacture exhibitions all over the world as a graphic designer and sign maker. Then a credit crunch in 2007 caused a big drop of exhibitions worldwide. I was made then part time for 2 years until 2009, but now I am still teaching BSL sign language one or two days a week with a local deaf Charity and go on bus tours to rural towns to teach students in the converted bus! Teaching is something I really love. I regretted ever since I wished to be a teacher to teach deaf students as a role model for them. I am qualified tutor which means I can teach Adults and be allowed to do so by law.

Art still plays a big part of my life and I was involved with the 'Salon' art group for a few years in 2000's and participated in their art courses I was very inspired. But 'Salon' ceased because of funding problems. So I turned back to my lifelong hobby – model making. Do you remember the model aeroplanes we made at BPS? I was utterly hooked. Stamp collecting was another hobby I also had at school.



I made several model railway layouts of 'N' or 'OO' gauge. You can see one on YouTube (south balham n gauge layout) I made models which are not available from the shops. I also made model trams and London Underground tube trains. A small portable layout project is



planned for our new extension.

Subtitles, Textphones, faxes, mobile smartphones, computer tablets and technology coming leaps and bounds with broadband internet, greatly enchanted my learning abilities to the full. Digital cameras enabled to record events in sport, on holidays and anything worth filming for future reference. Nowadays the deaf never had it so good, if not more equal to their hearing peers. I believe deaf people today are much better educated than I was.

Mind, you never stop learning. I thought after leaving school that was enough. But never stop learning. Every day there is something new to learn. My Russian deaf tutor at City lit once told us at a tutor training course (which I passed there) that we are like cars travelling to a destination. Fast cars will reach first but slower cars will arrive whatever however long it takes to get there eventually. She said that a teacher never stops learning or stop working.

I have been involved with Jehovah's Witnesses for 20 years because we have a sign language group in the local Kingdom Hall. I regularly give short talks in Sign Language to congregations, both hearing and deaf. BSL DVD teaching aids are given away to those interested.

.....
Martin Bogard

A True Story that happened at Burwood Park School.

During my time at the school it was common for the boys to go to the library to watch TV secretly in the night after the light went out.

When I was, I think, in Form 3, one night two boys went to the toilet at the top floor, Mr Wood heard the noises so he went to investigate it and saw them returning to their bedrooms. Mr Wood spotted some beds were vacated due to them watching TV downstairs so he asked the boys where they were. The boys were obviously scared and told him that the others had gone to watch TV in the Library. Mr Wood, I believe, made a note of the vacant beds before he went downstairs but one of the boys saw the light in the classroom next to the library come on so all boys ran through the hobby room to make their way back to their different bedrooms.

Unfortunately some of them were ordered to his office and Mr Wood noticed that I was missing and asked the boys about me. They told him that I was not involved so Mr Wood went up to my bedroom to double check and he confirmed that I was not there and then returned to his office and demanded them to tell him the truth. They were given an additional punishment for not revealing my whereabouts!

Mr Wood then informed Mr Brook and Mr Cox to search for me all over the school whilst he himself drove to Walton Station to find out if anyone has seen me but to no vain. He had to report me as a missing person to Walton Police Station and they sent a telegram to Ilford Police of my description who went to my parents' home in Ilford, Essex to see if I was there. My parents were shocked by this as it was not sort of character to act like that! During that time Mr Wood had been driving around Burwood Park to search for me all night! The following morning I got up and went downstairs to join the others for breakfast, these poor boys that got punished told me what had happened and I was puzzled why Mr Wood did not find me in my bed in spite I slept peacefully like a log. After breakfast Mr Wood spotted me in the corridor and asked me where had I been last night. I told him that I was in bed so he asked me to show him my bed which I did and he was shocked to discover that there was a spare bed next to me which he thought was my bed! One of the boys took a pillow from that bed and put it in his bed to make it look like he was there! After Mr Wood realised that he had made an awful error, he immediately informed the police that everything was OK. My parents were very worried for nothing! Mr Wood went sick for a week afterwards!

.....

Robert Young



He retired early due to being made redundant at Remploy last November 2012 due to the Government's cutting policy. He had been working there for twenty years helping with disabled people working there. He also feels sad about these disabled people leaving their job. He is happy to retire to have more time with his wife and exercise more, walking.

.....

Leslie Banks

Last May 12th 2013, I had joined to challenge again for ETAPE Caledonia for 81 miles at Pitlochry. Therefore I had done to end the race and my best time is 4 hours and 51 min which I was very pleased myself because I took 16 min faster than last year (5 hours and 7 min). The weather was not bad but after 50 miles it began raining and was windy until I reached different routes to the less windy area.

My next challenge is at ETAPE Mercia in the Chester area on 18th August then again from Inverness to Aberdeen on 29th August.



Well Done, Leslie

Interview with Mr Dobbs

(Part 3)

This is NOT word perfect, as the recording is not very clear and gets very quiet. Words in brackets () are ones I have made up as they seem to fit and some short passages I have had to leave out.

D. = Mr Dobbs S. = Mr Sayer

It starts with us discussing the visit to Battersea Fun Fair.

- D. I said, "Before we do anything else we'll go and have a cup of tea and something to drink." They thought it was a good idea. So somebody took a photo of all of us and I was sitting ... I've got a photo.
- S. I have that photo. That's how I knew about it, but I had thought that was one of your end of year parties.
- S. And one of the boys, possibly Clive Boswell, I am not sure, told me that it was at Battersea and I was absolutely astonished.
- D. Yes, it was at Battersea.
- S. The end of year ones - where did you have the parties ?
- D. Oh, in the Prefects Room.
- S. Right - and each year for a number of years.
- D. What I did was I went down Friday to the shops. I got crisps and all this that they liked and a bit to drink that night, but we didn't have beer.
- S. Ah.
- D. You see we didn't want them to get drunk. We didn't have anything else and coke and all that but I got drinks.
- S. Did you say (before) that you did have lager?
- D. We did have a bit of that - not much but we had other drinks like.. there was Coke. What were the other ones? I made sure we didn't have anything to get drunk on.
- S. Yes.
- D. There was no smoking. I didn't like smoking. Then they had biscuits, all sorts. It was all laid on.
- S. You provided it?
- D. I provided it. They didn't have to buy anything. I said, "I'll pay for everything." which I did. All they needed.
- S. You say you have some other photographs.
- D. Yes.
- S. Then I can scan them and then you can have them back. Oh yes, excellent. (They will be in the Archive. C.S.)
- D. You've got the Battersea one?
- S. Yes.
- D. You didn't know about that then?
- S. No, I assumed it was one of your end of year parties in the Prefects Room, until, I think it was Clive Boswell told me it was Battersea....
- D. There was this boy.. I can't remember his name. He lives in North London. Everybody said, "Can you come to see my garden, George?" I said, "Oh, I wouldn't mind doing that, you know, seeing someone's garden as I love gardens." (But they said) "Oh no, we'll go out for the day." So I said, "Yes." (They said,) "We'll go to Battersea Fun Fair." "Oh," I said, "Do you want me to come? I'll come." And this is the house. This photo, I'm trying to remember who took it. I can't remember his name. He lived at Wembley. I'm trying to think. (Maybe Paul Floyd? C.S.)





S. Oh well, they certainly remember you, George.

←(Mr Dobbs cycled to the house to meet them.)

D. Anyway we had a lovely time there - a lovely day.. We got everything free, which was lovely, wasn't it!. We didn't have the food or drinks free. We had to pay for that. They thought I was one of the masters, which I didn't say to them.

S. That's fair enough. You are one of the staff.

D. I didn't say I was the gardener.

S. Laughs.

.....

D. One thing, can I say?

S. Oh, yes.

D. One afternoon there was a lady coming in through the gate at the back, from the lake and she had a crash helmet on and she said, "I'm lost." I said, "Yes, but Madam I'm sorry, this is private property, school grounds, but while you are here I'll show you around."

Both laugh.

S. She was well lost if she was there!

D. Yes, she was well lost.

Another afternoon I was upstairs and I could hear someone screaming and I went out there and a dog was barking. This man had caught a pike on the bank and he was hitting it and the dog was barking and he was screaming. I said, "You are making a lot of noise." He said, "I want to eat it."

I said, "You can't eat it here." He said, "I want to take it home with me." I said, "Yes, but it's not dead yet." He got the hook out: a big mouth, it had, the pike. The dog was trying to bite its tail. It was half dead then.

S. It was lucky he didn't get bitten.

D. Yes. I said, "That's a pike. Did you know?" He said, "Yes, I know it is a pike." I said, "It's a good job the dog didn't jump into the lake - it might have had its leg off. They do bite."

S. They can take an arm off (?!?! C.S.): I don't know about a leg.

D. He was screaming. I said, "Don't scream." I don't know how far - he lived in the Park, because he said, "I'm going to take it home." I said, "What are you going to do with it?" "I'm going to eat it. "Oh," I said, "I wouldn't want to do that!"

S. Laughs

.....

S. I've just remembered the Model Aircraft.

D. Yes, I made a bench, didn't I, for their ...

S. Yes, for them to test the engines.

D. One of the boys asked me to do it.

S. Christopher Saunders?

D. Christopher Saunders, yes, that's right. One or two of the boys (made models). They used to take off and land.

S. Oh, yes.

D. I made this bench down by Hayward House.

S. Yes.

D. Down the bottom there. They had a lovely bench, didn't they.

S. Yes, they used it a lot. By the way, do you know why it was called Hayward House? I don't.

D. No. At the back (there was a tree and people said it made the rooms dark.) Especially the Art Master, Mr Pope, is that right?





S. Yes.

D. So I said we'd better ask the Headmaster about having the sycamore down. A lot of boys wanted to help. This is when Jonathan Abbs helped me: he did sometimes help me.

S. That's on the DVD. You and the boys cutting down the tree. Do you remember, I had to take it out of the film.

D. Did you?

S. You'll see on the DVD "A Day in the Life of the School" and Michael Chawner made a commentary which you will hear. You'll have to have the sound on

D. Yes.

S. Mr Wood was sat down in the Physics Lab, watched the whole film all the way through and when he came out all he said about this 20 minutes film made by the boys was, "That must come out!". The tree. So I cut it out - and kept it of course.

D. Well, he didn't like me doing anything on my own, you know.

S. He was livid, absolutely livid. That was all he ever said about the film.

D. So you put it back in?

S. No, it never went back in but I didn't throw it away: it's only a piece of tape (8 mm film) about that long. So that was put onto the video by the Surrey History Centre (at SEFRA) and from the video it has gone on the DVD but it is only a very short section, all by itself and it is called 'Mr Dobbs and the Tree', or something.

S. Did your job change? You were there a long time. Did it change, do you think from beginning to end?



D. Yes, it did change because I did more jobs

indoors, which I didn't like. I'd sooner be outside gardening and that, as I know what to do, but I had to keep the place spick and span, you know, especially lawns and that and all round the borders. Another thing I used to do is every Monday when I went to the school I used to go round the borders and cut flowers for the Dining Room, the tables, the Staff table, the boys' tables and the Hall and the secretary's office.

S. Oh, yes.

D. So she said when I left, "George we won't have those flowers", and I said, "No, you won't." because I used to cut flowers every Monday, you know. Put them in the room in little pots just to make it.

S. Very nice. Yes.

D. They were the things I used to do.

D. And another thing. They took a photo of me and the boys: I was showing them how to put bulbs in, and show them what type of bulb it was, like hyacinth. I used to say, "Now, you do not put that too deep: this is a hyacinth. This one is a daff - a daffodil, the other one's a tulip and the little ones, like the snowdrops and crocuses, mustn't be in too deep." And I used to show them. They had a class with the lady and I showed it to them all.

They took a photo of me with the boys.

S. And you've got that photo.

D. It was one of the lady teachers: I can't remember her name. I knew Mrs Evans and Mrs Collett. She had a class out there, where I moved all the camellias. They used to be in (the courtyard) before they put the office there.



- S. You dug the camellias up ! They were huge!
 D. Yes. I dug them up and put them where they are now.
 S. Where were they before ?
 D. Where the office was.
 S. Oh yes. I do not remember that.
 D. It was a long time ago.

.....
 S. It's funny, you know - I've tried to remember what was there before Hayward House and I cannot remember.

D. Before Hayward House there was nothing there at all. It was just rough ground.
 S. Really?

D. Yes. There was no building there because Norfolk House wasn't there.

S. There must have been grass.

D. Yes, before, there was grass. There was nothing there.

S. It seems so strange that I have no picture at all of anything. Not even nothing.



.....
 D. Well, what about the Gym, this is where the kitchen started. They used to have a big crack down the wall. They used to put glass (tape, I think. C.S.) to see if it was coming apart, but they underpinned it on the corner.

S. Yes.

D. To stop it from sinking.

S. Yes, I remember that tipping over. It was falling off the wall.

.....
 D. Yes, they had all the boys' bikes in the shelter. The big shelter near the computer and Air Raid Shelter as well.

S. Yes, there was an air raid shelter. Yes, do you remember when they came to knock it down ? They achieved absolutely nothing. Because they had the drills on top (but nothing happened).

.....
 D. And another thing. There was this washing machine from Norfolk House. It was out in the lean-to. I do not know why or how it got there. At the weekend the students (or possibly the boys) took it to pieces, stripped it all down. It was a brand new machine.

S. Brand new !!

D. Yes. Mr Wood was away for the weekend. Anyway they stripped it all down. The Headmaster was livid. I said, "I wouldn't attempt to strip it all to pieces!" I had to laugh.

(If I can hear the last part of the recording, there will be a final part. C.S.)

Wembley

Some of us are going to Wembley to watch Rugby League Challenge Cup Final on August 24th so hope to have Boars gathering in the evening somewhere in London - Information from M Flower email m.r.flower@usa.net or M Towler email matowler@live.co.uk

Anyone interesting for the next one on Saturday 23rd November 2013 - Rugby League World Cup semi-final double header will see the best four nations in the world go head to head at Wembley. The first game will kick off at 1.00pm and the second will start at 3.30pm. Tickets £20 behind Goalpost - £30 Four corners. Closing date: - June 30th 2013. Hope to have Boars gathering in the evening somewhere in London. Interesting email matowler@live.co.uk

Personal Profile - Mr Richard Willson, BPS 1956-61



What are you doing now? Married to Valerie since 1965, three sons – Stephen (46), Trevor (41) and Paul (37), Seven Grandchildren – Stephen’s three boys, Trevor’s two girls and first Great Grandchild – within next three years!!, Paul’s one boy and one girl

Any plans for the future? May move to smaller place in 2015

Any family news? Holidays recently? Went to Turkey with 3 OBA Boys and 2 MHGS Boys (Mary Hare). Great time and a lot of mock each other!

Do you have any questions you would like to ask? I was thinking of something like, a coach trip to Europe for a week. All OBA Boys/Girls and their partners.

Do you have particular memories of the school and life there? Always happy there, in fact, I felt like as if all Boys in BPS were my brothers!

Any interesting stories to relate?

Mr Wood’s famous slipper! I had 6 times and gated most of the time!

Are you coming to the Grand reunion in 2015? Is this a silly question? I can’t say “No thank you!”



Do you have any old photographs that were taken at BPS/NH? Yes, I can attached the copies in email – load of them!



Are there any Old Burwoodians that you have missed seeing since the school days? Yes – Alan Blackham, John Hayes and John Jones, all 1956

Who are the Old Burwoodians that you are seeing regularly?

Colyn Walden, Martin Bogard, Ian Cooke, Richard Eminowicz, Michael Payne, Tony Wilson, John Pearson, Ken Wheatley, Howard Woolfe. There are more but I cannot think of, such as I

use few SMS especially to Alex Cranwell, David Lusher, Alan Cook, Peter Handy.

John Clark's CV compiled by Jill Clark

With typical modesty John did not leave a CV for us. This has been compiled from diaries and memory. Neither did he tell us why he won the Military Cross. This was explained by a news cutting, treasured for years by an old friend and passed to me after John's death.

1923 Born in Folkestone, Kent
1929 - 1931 Primary School Cheriton
1931 - 1939 Harvey Grammar School Folkestone
1939 - 1941 Harvey Grammar School evacuated to Merthyr Tydfil
1941 - 1942 Exeter University: Modern Languages: French and



- German, Fire watched on Exeter Cathedral
- 1942 - 1946 Military Service with Middlesex Regiment and 5 'V' Highland Division (from D. Day +5) to the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945. He was awarded the Military Cross for bravery, having had a narrow escape when his carrier was blown up by a mine and being wounded by machine gun fire. He was the first officer to cross the Rhine. During this period he edited two battalion magazines "The Mortarboard" and "The Chad".
- 1946 - 1951 King's College University of London: Honours Degree Modern languages and A.X.C. (Theology)
- 1949 Cours de Vacances en français et en Allemande à l'université de Strasbourg
- 1951 - 1952 Lycée Gascondi, Digne, Basses Alpes: Assistant teacher of English to secondary French boys.
- 1952 - 1953 Westminster College teacher's certificate
- 1953 - 1954 Margate School for Deaf Children Kent
- 1954 - 1955 Manchester University Department of Audiology and Education of the Deaf : Manchester Certificate for Teachers of the Deaf
- 1955 - 1957 Burwood Park School
- 1957 - 1972 Nutfield Priory School for Deaf Children
- 1964 October Marriage to Jill
- 1965 August Birth of daughter Sarah
- 1967 May Birth of son Tim
- 1969 Move to Sussex for sea air (children's health).
- 1970 Fordwater School for children with sensory impairment other than or including deafness.
- 1973 Mill Hall School for Deaf Children Sussex - 2 terms, a possibility of taking over the Headship. Not appropriate for John's experience.
- 1973 - 1983 Senior Advisory Teacher of deaf children for Portsmouth Area. Lay Canon Portsmouth Cathedral. Move to Portsmouth. Co. founder Portsmouth Refugee Support Group. Long period of ill health began.
- 1983 Move to Whitford, North Wales: Retirement: School Governor, Vicar's Warden, Riding for the Disabled Publicity Officer. Clwyd Deaf Society Committee: Treasurer. Co-founded Deaf Church Support Group. (pioneered deaf drama as aid to understanding church services) Close involvement with Pennant Group recreating footpaths used by famous naturalist Thomas Pennant. Voluntary work at Bryn Glas School for deaf children, helping with computer technology. Much walking when possible. Attended Chester College and passed Sign Language Stage 2 (Signing not allowed when we trained. Our pupils learned to speak and to lipread. Unfashionable these days. The adult deaf people we worked with in Mold depended on sign language and fingerspelling.)
- 1990 Marriage of Sarah to Dr David Elcock
- 1993 Birth of first Grandson: Tom
- 1995 Birth of second Grandson: Edward
- 1997 Birth of first Granddaughter: Katie
- 1999 Birth of second Granddaughter: Emily
- 1999 Move to Mold. Co. founder Friday Group. Editor "Ever Wondered"
- 2002 Marriage of Tim to Dr Marta Klabisz in Tomaszow Mazowiecki Poland
- 2006 Birth of third grandson: Ben
- 2008 Birth of fourth grandson Dan
- 2011 Unable to continue sole editing and production of Ever Wondered.
- 2012 Died peacefully at home with close family by.



OBA MINI REUNION AT YORK APRIL 26th-28th 2013

The OBA Mini Reunion was held at the Park Inn Hotel, York over the 26th/28th April weekend. Michael Towler was the main organiser of the Reunion with assistant, Stuart Healy with Ronald Gibbins arranged a small display – photos of each Mini reunion; photos of each Grand Reunion; DVD and Books Sale; information and planning to go on Tour in September 2014 and information of next Grand Reunion 2015. A total of 89 members and their partners gathered for the Mini Reunion for the first time in between the Grand Reunions.



There was a social gathering at Park Inn Hotel on Friday where about 30 members and their partners spent the evening exchanging conversations about the old days with drinks till late.

At about 6.00pm on Saturday we all went to a room where there was a small display. Then at 7.00 pm we sat down for the evening dinner with 11 tables. Food was served but the desserts caused problems with a mix up but a few moments later everything was sorted out. The Secretary apologised to the guests about the mix-up but they seemed to enjoy the mix-

up desserts!!!!!!! Stuart Healy made a great speech – See report on Chairman's Speech

After dinner we stayed and spent the evening exchanging conversations about the old days with drinks till 2.30am.

The next reunion will be held in Bristol in September 2015 and hope to have a very good crowd, hopefully about 200.

All credit must go to our OBA Committee members for their magnificent workout over the weekend and to Michael Towler for his effort.

See you all in Bristol 2015.



Photos – Names from left to right



K.Burton, M.Burton, S.Holliday, J.Paul,
I.Paul, I.Freund, D.Holliday, M.Freund



F.Cooke, I.Cooke, A.Walden, C.Walden,
V.Wilson, M.Bogard, R.Wilson, I.Bogard



K.Culver, M.Heaton, F.Culver, J.Heaton,
M.Jameson, I.Townsley, K.Healy, S.Healy



M.Haywood, P.Wheatley, S.Haywood, K.Wheatley,
J.Pearson, D.Northey, John Pearson, M.Northey



D.Flower, A.Plaster, N.Clarke, J.Daly,
E.Bullock, D.Bullock, C.Young, R Young



A.McKee, A.Taylor, L.McKee, G.Sinclair,
J.Cameron, L.Rayment, C.Rayment, J.Ewen



M.Payne, P.Mowat, S.Hetherington, H.Mowat,
D.Lusher, R.Taylor, Stewart Hetherington, J.Taylor



J.Sweeney, A.Sharp, R.Gibbins, A.Towler,
M.Towler, C.Williams, P.Gibbins, J.Williams



M.Bentley, G.Peddie, E.Bojas, D.Pritchard,
A.Pritchard, C.Sayer, C.Bojas



K.McCormick, B.McGrath, A.Thomas, G.Gibson, N.Sturley
L.Banks, R.King, S.Wherry. M.Fowler, D.Jones (Behind)



A.Krishna, N.Krishna, L.Culver, B.Culver, C.Davies, S.Lee, D.Schofield, J.Schofield



D.Jones, B.McGrath M Flower, L.Banks



A photo of Colin Sayer in his Blazer as donated by the OBA



Chairman's Speech - President, Vice President, Ladies and Gentleman - Good to see all, Welcome to York!

This is first time we have organised a reunion between two Grand reunions, several members expressed wishes for us to organise another event mid-term - 2010 and 2015.

I will explain briefly what we have done since the last time we met. We have committee meetings regularly, we meet mostly in London. The committee worked hard to make events successful. We had events in Wembley for the Rugby Cup final, Staff Reunion in Walton-on-Thames and the British Deaf History Society in Warrington.

We are excited about the Grand Reunion in Bristol 2015.

We are pleased that Ron, on behalf of OBA, successfully applied for a grant from The Burwood Park Foundation to cover the costs of the BiTs until September 2015 and recently developed a new website. A big thanks to Ron.

I am aware times have been changed, we would like if possible, to think about attracting young Old Boars to attend future events and keep up with the OBA. Finally big thanks to Michael Towler for organising the Reunion Dinner today also to Ron who created an excellent design for the tickets and the menu cards. Thanks to Ian Townsley for training to the staff here about Deaf Awareness and also to Karen Healy for arranging the beautiful Yorkshire white roses on the tables.

Lastly I would like to thank ALL committee members for their support and in the past two and half years, and may OBA continue to be strong!

And thank you all for coming to beautiful historic York. Thanks





Fundraising for Gerry Hughes by OBA Reunion at York

Kay Hughes, Gerry’s wife would like to say a big thank to Leslie Banks who arrange a fund for Gerry Hughes at Old Burwoodian Association Reunion in York. OBA raised £171.



She said sorry that she forgot two other names to help the fund and she sent an email to Gerry about your Old Burwoodian Association to support and fundraising and Garry was very emotional to hear that and said thanks to the three men and all of you.

Leslie – I let you know that the fundraising was exactly £172.00 not £171.00 from the bank said – oops I had counted wrong!

Also we must say a special thank you very much to Andrew Thomas who had donated the bottle of whisky to help to make the fundraising. Very lucky man is Ronald Gibbins who won the bottle but thanks to him for working hard through the weekend therefore he needs that. Also thanks to Stuart and others too.

Leslie Banks



Round the World!

Gerry Hughes (007N), former Norfolk House student (1977-78) at Burwood Park, Quest III set sail from Troon Marina at 12.00 pm on Saturday 1st September 2012 in a bid to become the first deaf man to sail single handed around the world. After a gruelling eight months at sea Gerry arrived at Troon Marina on Wednesday May 8th 2013 at 12.15 pm. Well Done Gerry from OBA.

Leslie Banks will ask him to write a report for the next BiT.

And I am trying to get him and his wife to attend our 2015 Bristol Reunion.

Ron Gibbins

Gerry Hughes Quest III Ball



On Friday 24th May, there were about 100 deaf people that went to the Crystal Palace Pub in Glasgow for drinks and chats in the evening. They had a good time, it was also a special day as it was Gerry's birthday! (I didn't go, just heard from people that told me about it.)

On Saturday 25th May, before the event started in the ballroom, there were 500 deaf people that were too excited and looking forward to, of course, too much chats which never stop! There were lots of smart clothes, ladies had nice long dresses and most men had worn kilts or smart suit. When we ready to move into the ballroom, we had welcome drinks either orange juice or champagne then sat down to our tables to

wait for special guest Gerry and his wife Kay to come to the ballroom while all the people stood up to clap or wave, to say congratulations to him. There were some speeches made about him and wee comedy. We all had a fantastic three course meal. The programme was as follows: - Dinner, Raffle, Poetry, Gerry Hughes' speech, Clanadonia Drummers, Auction and Best Dressed Prize and DJ. Garry Quinn (from BPS 1976-81) showed some poetry about his sailing around the world. He was brilliant. Also the Clanadonia Drummers group (see photo) were brilliant making us feel the vibrations from them.



Gerry and Kay were very busy all night because lots of people wanted to have photos with them as well as asking Gerry for his autograph! Yes definitely, Gerry had a feeling Of shock seeing those who supported him but a bigger shock for him was that on the night we all had fundraised a total of £15,695 as well as another £11,000 from website sales of mugs, jumpers and T-shirts etc.

Everyone I saw had a brilliant night, it was good to see them and catching up with the news etc. Some of them stayed until 5 or 6am before going to bed! But I heard that

Gerry was last person to go bed at 7am after all his friends went to bed first!

I have asked Gerry to write his story about his round the world trip for the Boar in Touch magazine this Christmas. He will be doing this but hopefully he has a time because he is still busy going to other places and, visiting the deaf schools etc.



Leslie Banks