

OLD BUCKWELLIANS NEWS



May 2000

Keeping the Spirit Alive

RECENT conversation in the Frankel household:

Tom (aged 10): "Dad, why are you doing this Buckhurst Hill thing?"

Graham (aged 50): "Good question, Tom. I suppose it's just a challenge. It's the same reason why people climb mountains!"

Thanks for all the letters/e-mails/phone calls following the last edition. Especially welcome to hear how much the former staff appreciate news of their ex-pupils.

Thanks also to all those who responded to my requests for information that has helped me trace so many new Old Bucks, and to others who have sent me photographs and other memorabilia. Hugh Colgate has been a tremen-

dous support in this project and has regularly supplied me with information from many ex-pupils (and their parents).

After posting the November edition I knew I would soon start getting back undelivered copies. In the end, just over 30 were returned. But the 'new' contacts soon outweighed this number, and we have now added more than 400 to the original list of 318. We are well on course to get close to 1,000 by the end of this year. I'm still unsure of the ultimate target, but have discovered that the total of pupils attending our school was just over 5,000.

I have really enjoyed talking to so many of you since taking on this job, not to men-

tion exchanging more than 1,200 e mails. My original idea was to find out what had happened to the guys in my own year. Very few have emerged from hiding, but I'm still hopeful they'll turn up in due course.

Some of you will have noticed my occasional letters to local newspapers. These have produced a steady response. I have concentrated my efforts in Essex and the adjoining home counties. Any volunteers out there to write to newspapers in other areas?

E mail and the Internet have helped enormously in the task of communicating and Nick McEwen has done a fantastic job in maintaining and developing the BHCHS web site. Please let me have your suggestions for improving this newsletter. I welcome ideas for articles and any news items you spot elsewhere featuring Old Buckwellians. Most important of all I need your continued help in finding the other 4000 or so. This will ensure we keep the spirit of BHCHS alive for many years.

Graham Frankel

OB Data

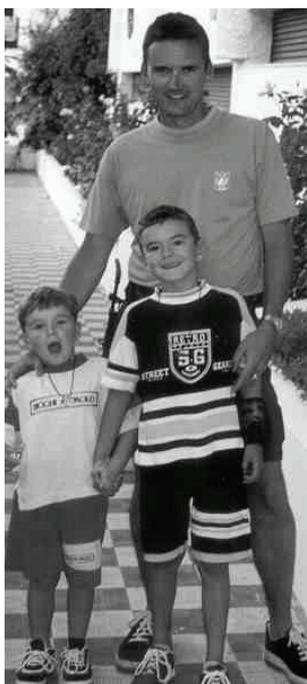
THE Old Bucks database now has:

Total	743
This includes:	
Staff	43
Living overseas	51
E mail addresses	239

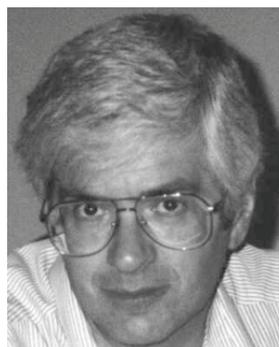
Those overseas are in sixteen different countries. We know of 13 in Australia 12 in the USA and 5 in Canada.

Many of us have stayed much closer to alma mater: 327 live in Essex, including 42 in Buckhurst Hill.

Meet the Webmaster



THE web site has made a major contribution to reviving interest in the school. Our 'webmaster' Nick McEwen (left BHCHS 1982) is seen here on holiday with sons Christopher 4 and Nicholas 8. Nick is always on the lookout for ways of enhancing the web pages and developments over the past few months have included a bulletin board and a live chat room, where you can meet other Old Bucks. You can even hear the school song. Nick has also posted several photographs taken during all eras of the school's history. Topics of discussion on the bulletin board have ranged from the sublime to the school dinners with the origins of the 6 day week thrown in for good measure. Who knows what might come



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Our Man at the Beeb

TWO Old Bucks from the same year (see school photo taken in 1967) with interesting careers.

Phil Hughes, top left, is a Producer at Radio 2. Read more about Phil on page 9. Canon Graham Kings is the founding Director of the Henry Martyn Centre for mission studies at Westminster College, Cambridge. Last summer he organised a walk from Oxford to Cambridge accompanied by a well-behaved camel called



Cleo. The aim of this six day pilgrimage was to raise money for schools in northern Kenya for camel based nomads. At the end of the walk Graham and the other



To Cambridge with Camel

pilgrims were met in Cambridge by Prince Phillip and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. We hope Graham will attend the annual dinner in October (minus Cleo) where

you may have a chance to ask him more about this adventure. Following a distinguished school career (see below left) Graham read law and theology at Oxford and Cambridge before being ordained and serving in London, Kenya and Cambridge. For further details, including a photo journey of the camel walk, see www.martynmission.cam.ac.uk

THE 'MALLINSON' CUP PRESENTED TO THE BOY WITH THE YEARS BEST RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL	
1949	S.J.GILBERT
1950	R.K.PENNY
1951	A.G.H.WRIGHT
1952	R.J.DOE
1953	G.MILBURN
1954	D.J.HAYWARD
1955	B.M.DAVIS
1956	T.E.HARDIMAN
1957	J.G.MEDDINGS
1958	D.J.MORRIS
1959	K.A.HARDY
1960	J.D.HAMSHERE
1961	G.J.RUTHERFORD
1962	M.N.FRIZELLE
1963	P.R.ASTON
1964	A.J.REYNOLDS
1965	B.WYNN
1966	J.D.SMALLBONE
1967	C.A.BAKER
1968	W.ALLAN
1969	A.WOODS
1970	R.K.PATIENT
1971	G.E.COX
1972	G.R.KINGS
1973	R.N.BUCHAN
1974	M.A.HEATHER
1975	D.J.LEE
1976	J.R.DOWDEN
1977	I.J.MACK
1978	T.PAISLEY
1979	P.M.COX
1980	C.G.J.REED
1981	C.W.GRANT
1982	S.J.BUGGEY
1983	T.P.J.HILL

Here is the second in the series of honours boards photographed by Ken Bray (1945). Of the 35 names on this board I am in contact with 19 and would like to find more!

1946 - 68 PEACETIME & PASTIMES

In February 1946, RAF Chigwell was designated a satellite station of RAF Cheddington and became the home of the Central Trade Test Board for the next 5 years.

1951 saw the departure of the C.T.T.B. and, as the Cold War developed, the arrival of a wide range of radio and radar servicing units, most of whom used the camp as a base from where they travelled all over the country to undertake their work. Life at RAF Chigwell was now far less frantic than it had been during wartime and everyone had time to enjoy the many hobby clubs, amongst which were amateur wireless, gardening, drama and a jazz circle.

The site finally ceased to be operational in 1958 although the RAF retained it on a care and maintenance basis until May 1964 when all the buildings and equipment were sold off by auction. The site was finally handed over to Chigwell Urban District Council in 1968 from whom Epping Forest District Council took over in 1974.

Postscript: In 1986, the Roding Valley Meadows were declared a Local Nature Reserve and the Essex Wildlife Trust appointed by the District Council to undertake the management of this unique and award-winning conservation site.

REMEMBER trudging wearily round the RAF Chigwell site on cross country runs? A number of you asked me what happened to it. The article above is taken from "A Brief History of RAF Chigwell" published by Epping Forest District Council and I am grateful to Hugh Colgate for sending me a copy. He also told me that during the war, while the site was used for anti-aircraft guns, the gunners used the school staff room as a mess. During the very severe winter of 1940 they prised up the wood blocks of the floor and used them as fuel. The officer in charge subsequently wrote a letter to Mr Taylor apologising. The officer was Lieutenant Quintin Hogg – later Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor.

Profile – Mike Gapes MP

This is the first in a series of interviews with Old Bucks and former members of staff. Mike Gapes (BHCHS from 1964-71) has been MP for Ilford South since 1992

If you had your time at school again what would you do differently?

In general I don't think I would want to change very much. But I do regret that I never took music seriously and gave it up as a subject as soon as I could at the end of my first year. I now live in a household dominated by the variety of musical instruments played by my wife and daughters. I am unable to play anything at all.



Any particular lessons etc. that have stuck in your mind?

A discussion with Pete Sillis in History A level about the relative merits of living in Communist China or India under Mrs Gandhi's Congress party and which of Communism or Parliamentary Democracy would by the end of the century provide the most enduring and successful model for Asia. He was right and I was wrong. I also remember an RE lesson with "Holy Joe" in which, aged 13, I persuaded the class, much to his concern and disappointment, to vote for the proposition that Pelagius was right about the concept of there being no such thing as original sin. I was a very precocious and argumentative teenager.

Any amusing or embarrassing memories in the classroom or in sport or other activities?

Captaining the Second under 15 football team to regular 5-0, 7-1 and 9-0 defeats. But we usually had to play two or three short due to the best players being in Saturday morning detention and the first team calling on our squad for replacements at the last minute. Well that's my excuse anyway! The banter of French lessons with M. d'habitude Hargreaves. Getting a Saturday morning

detention from Spud Taylor for boycotting the end of year music exam (see above). Being accused of blasphemy by Mr Robins and Miss Kraus for my George Orwell Week of Assembly Readings in which I quoted the foreword of "Keep the Aspidistra Flying" ... "Faith, Hope, Money and the greatest of these is Money". Mr Colgate was very good about this and understood the point. Running round Whitby Abbey ruins wearing sheets pretending to be ghosts during a geography field trip.....

What is your proudest memory from school?

I played an active part in many clubs and activities including Chess, Bridge, Football, Debating Society, Librarian but was also privileged to receive an excellent academic education. I believe being stretched at school and supported by my parents led to good academic results.

How did school life shape your subsequent career?

It helped me develop my passionate early interests in politics and international relations. It also got me to Cambridge University. Being at Buckhurst Hill widened my horizons and gave me the confidence to go further whilst allowing me to articulate and develop my strongly held beliefs which were by no means popular with all the staff or fellow pupils. I came

a poor third in the 1970 mock general election behind the Liberal Gregory Cox.

Any people you wish you had kept in touch with?

Loads. Especially those I played football with on those wet Saturday mornings in 1965 and 1966.

What was the best advice given to you by a BHCHS teacher?

1. Mr Downey (English) telling me not to be so dogmatic and to recognise that most issues are not black and white. It took me several years to realise the wisdom of his comment on my fifth form school report.
2. Mr Colgate persuading me to go in for the scholarship to Fitzwilliam College Cambridge based on my A level grades after I had refused to stay on to take the exam and instead decided to do Voluntary Service Overseas for a year.

Do you hope to become prime minister one day?

No. But I would hope at some stage to be a Minister. I spent five years on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee in the last Parliament. I was a Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Northern Ireland Office from 1997 to 1999. I am now a Member of the Defence Select Committee.

Class of When?

IN the table below you can see our progress in tracing Old Bucks of different generations.

	Nov 99	Apr 00
1943	2	1
1944	5	10
1945	17	21
1946	9	17
1947	10	16
1948	2	8
1949	2	8
1950	14	15
1951	11	16
1952	10	19
1953	9	12
1954	7	20
1955	6	17
1956	3	11
1957	2	4
1958	3	10
1959	4	17
1960	4	12
1961	8	21
1962	7	16
1963	10	29
1964	9	13
1965	4	19
1966	7	17
1967	0	5
1968	5	16
1969	19	38
1970	4	10
1971	6	14
1972	2	29
1973	2	16
1974	5	17
1975	2	18
1976	9	30
1977	1	13
1978	3	25
1979	2	12
1980	3	19
1981	3	16
1982	0	3
1983	2	9
1984	6	15
1985	1	9
1986	3	7
1987	1	3
1988	1	3
1989	1	5

HELP!

I NEED your help in getting our database up to date. Please let me know if any of the details on the address label are incorrect. In particular, I need to hear from you if you see either of these symbols on the label:
 ✉ indicates that I have not yet been able to confirm your address
 📧 indicates that I don't have a record of your current membership
Please contact the editor (see back page) to ensure you continue receiving Old Buckwellians News.

Bob Barnes (1964), former goalkeeper, accountant, banker and squash champion has recently bought Cambridge Lakes Golf Course. Bob invites all Old Bucks, their families, friends and everybody else they ever meet to come and play this attractive par 3 course located only one mile south of Cambridge City centre on Trumpington Road. The telephone number is 01223 324242.

Heart on his Sleeve

By Anna Woodford

IN a small corner of Durham, the impossibly beautiful sound of 19th-century church music crashes round the ears of **Jeremy Dibble**, Head of Department at the University Music School. Transfixed, he lifts one arm as the notes rise in a crescendo: "If you listen you can actually hear a gasp of ecstasy from the conductor."

It is easy to see the passion that has led Dr Dibble to his present position. A world authority on the century-old sounds of composers such as Parry and Stanford, the fact we are listening to their music at all is testimony to the strength of his determination.

In the mid 80s, while completing his PhD, Jeremy was asked to write the sleeve notes for a compilation of Parry's neglected chamber music for violin and piano. Nearly two decades later he has acted as general progenitor on numerous subsequent recordings. His involvement ranges from sourcing, editing and adapting the music, advising on harmonious couplings of composers and writing contextual sleeve notes. Much of his output is branded 'first recording' - as titillating to a classical music lover as the 'parental advisory' stickers on rap CDs. It signifies the music has never been recorded before and has often been exhumed by Jeremy in manuscript form. A xerox of an ancient-looking specimen is brought out and handled with the insouciance of a true expert:

The last 20 years has seen a resurgence of interest in late 19th-century British music. C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) is best known for composing the epic 'Jerusalem'. He is also responsible for the nation's favourite hymn 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' and the coronation anthem 'I Was Glad' which, since its composition for Edward VII, has been used to usher in every UK crowned head.

Parry enjoyed considerable fame in his own lifetime. His status in the mid 80s among Dibble's teachers and student

peers at Cambridge was somewhat in question however:

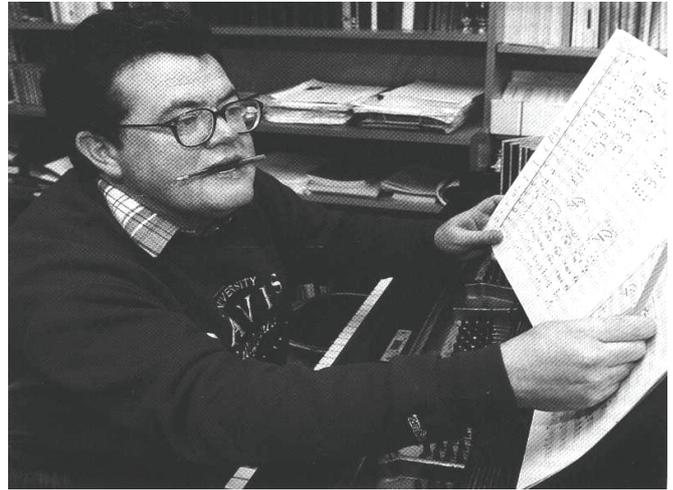
"Except among a few kindred spirits, he wasn't generally regarded as a serious area of research. I was a bit of a joke figure. 'There's old Dibble Parry-ing away'."

Author of a best-selling book on Parry for OUP (the only competitor written in 1926 and in likely deference to the finer feelings of family members), Dibble readily acknowledges the CDs' more powerful reach - with one recent title selling 10,000 copies. The uncovering of a wider spectrum of Parry's work has also helped make sense of the fact that this great composer of church music was in fact agnostic - an irony that delights Dibble. It has also separated him from his contemporary Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924): "When I was at university you couldn't mention one without the other - like M&S or pick 'n' mix. It is only when you look at more of their work that you can see how different they are."

With a book on Stanford in the pipeline (also for OUP), Jeremy is gearing up for the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2002. Parry's 150th celebrations took place last year and saw Dibble making his television debut on *Songs of Praise* alongside Harry Secombe. Although his true motivation comes from pushing others into the limelight there are other such fruits in his research: "You get the occasional free or cut-price CD and if you were self-employed you could make a reasonable living from regular commissions. You work alongside fantastic artists, conductors, chamber groups and orchestras, and you bring alive to people music they are never otherwise going to hear - I've had emails from all over the world."

For Jeremy being a musicologist is undoubtedly a way of life.

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Jeremy Dibble (1977)

writes... I look back on my years at BHCHS with great affection and feel just how formative my experiences there were. Indeed the seeds of my specialist area were sown while at school and continued to expand during my three years at Trinity College, Cambridge. The musical life at BHCHS was a joy, and much of this was due to the sterling work of John Rippin and Michael Maxwell (the latter sadly died last year). I think back to the likes of Jonathan Bielby, Martin Koch, Stuart Hutchinson and Simon Mansfield who all went on to musical careers, and the much-lamented Christopher Giles who would certainly have gone on to be an outstanding horn player. After Cambridge I did a PhD at Southampton. Funding ceased in 1983 and I spent four years as a freelance musician, playing the organ at various churches in the Solent region, teaching flute privately and at St Swithin's School in Winchester, lecturing for Southampton University and the WEA, as well as writing up my thesis and getting married in 1984. I received my PhD in 1986 and was appointed to my first full-time lectureship in 1987 at University College, Cork. We remained in Ireland for six years, during which time my first book, on Parry, was published. In 1993 we moved again, this time to Durham where I was promoted to Reader in 1998; I am also currently Head of Department, though this yoke is lifted in July 2000 when I take a research sabbatical!

Old Buckwellians News

THIS newsletter is published by the Old Buckwellians Association. You will need to join the Association to ensure you receive future editions.

Membership rates:

UK

£3 per annum by standing order or £12 for five years' membership by cheque

Overseas

£5 per annum by standing order or £20 for five years' membership by cheque

If we do not have a record that you are currently a member you will find a form enclosed with the newsletter.

Cheques should be made payable to the Old Buckwellians Association and returned to Malcolm Beard 17 Luctons Avenue, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5SG.

The Rape of the Clots

Following the appearance of a brief extract in the last newsletter I had many requests for the complete poem, and I am grateful to **Geoff Gosford (1953)** who sent me a copy. The full saga has four cantos, and I shall include the final two in the next edition. The author of this saga was **Dennis Hale (1953)**. The cartoons are by an unknown artist from the same era. Thanks also to **Bill Chew (1954)** who sent me a sequel entitled "More about Arrius" - which I shall publish in due course.

Canto One

In books and magazines I've often read
Of prehistoric monsters now long dead.
Extinct - at least they are supposed to be
But I can prove this is a fallacy.
I know a room of staff where congregate,
The awful monsters of the present date.
Of these the cunning **ARRIUS** comes first,
A name by every wretched schoolboy cursed.
Each time some trembling boy does quake with fear,
Bet your life that **ARRIUS** is



near.
A nose around the form room door appears,
Followed by two eyes and then two ears.
With spectacles, long nose and two foot chin,
His hair all closely cropped and wolfish grin,
The monster makes a momentary pause,
Rejoicing then upon his victim falls.
"Not ready for the lesson, Rees, I see,
Please bring out your translation book to me."
He lies in wait to see boys break the rules,
And then delights in making them look fools.
At prep he loves before the form to sit,
And see the boys flinch before his biting wit.
And if boys misbehaving he should find,

He'll walk a mile to take them from behind.
And thus to catch them napping he'll rejoice,
And tell them in a sarcastic tone of voice --
"You boys think you've got next Saturday free:
That's just what you think - you'll be seeing me."
When boys throw chalk or wrestle on the floor,
It's he who always comes in through the door.
From out of the waste paper box he crawls
And comes through secret panels in the walls.
His ears all hearing, and his eyes all seeing,
Is he a devil or a human being?
(But here of course an error I have made,
For **ARRIUS** puts the devil in the shade).
Each master's envy, every schoolboy's dread;
How many wish that **ARRIUS** was dead!

Behind him stands a man of lesser fame,
He takes French and Winkle is his name.
He ought to be compelled to wear a hood,
Beside him even Frankenstein looks good.
When he appears, at such an awful sight
Boys drop dead and strong men swoon with fright,
He can't let up at end of term, no fear,
But works to the last minute of the year.
When boys are bad his words with fear fill you
"Eh Ris, just stop yer talkin' will you."
When for missing monkeys search they make,
Who do they always capture by mistake?
It's Winkle who no one could ever beat
The ugliest creature walking on two feet.

And then there comes a yet more curious sight,

A creature with a paunch of awful might.
His paunch throughout the world has ris'n to fame
Puts the hippo and the elephant to shame.
Into the doorway now his paunch does tower,
His face will follow in about an hour.
He does not need to walk but just to roll,
Can take a joke but cannot keep control.
His name by this time everyone must know,
This creature answers to the name of **JOE**.

This crooked gang another member has;
Who goes, quite clearly, by the name of **FAS**.
Generally speaking there is no need to say
This creature is a master of cliché,
For all practical purposes, precisely,
Furthermore, quite clearly and quite nicely
He cannot open his mouth without we hear,
"Quite clearly" or "now is that quite clear?"

Oh! what a scurvy crew! The next of them
Is that horrible specimen named **CLEM**.
To be interesting far beyond his powers
He'll lecture you for hours and hours and hours.
If in his lesson boys will talk and play,
He'll blaspheme, swear and shout aloud "FIVE A"
Or, in despair, he'll cry in tones so rude
"There is too much of this stoopid attitude!"
Into the form room each day this man will come,
And lecture us until the cows come home,
Till dogs are found upon the backs of fleas
And damson blossoms grow on apple trees.
But he would do much better, I am sure,

To lecture less and teach a little more.



On with this motley, of whom next we meet
A notorious character known as **PETE**.
This individual is inclined to shout
As loudly as he can, "You boy, GET OUT!"
To muck about with him you are mistook
You'll get twenty pages of the history book,
And if you try to dodge them there is trouble,
For all old **PETE** will do is give you double.

Next a singular personality,
He is one **TOMMY**, who takes geography.
He won't take any cheek from you, by heck,
Don't try to dodge his impots, laddie, for he'll check.
Though handsomer than the others in this shower;
'Neath **ARRIUS** only in his sarcastic power.

Next **EDDIE** (known to some as **DADDY**),
Inclined to be a somewhat corny laddy.
He tells good jokes at times; bad in plenty,
To every good one there are bad ones twenty.

Next Mr Harris, who's a scoundrel choice,
Around us like a foghorn booms his voice.
Went to Southampton and assures us that
He didn't go there to be tittered at.

Shouts "Shut up!" and puts boys in detention, Gives Saturdays too numerous to mention.

Thus HARRIS, EDDIE, CLEM (there's others too But I'm describing just a few). TOMMY, FAS, JOE, WINKLE, ARRIUS and PETE, Make for us this monstrous gang complete.

Canto Two

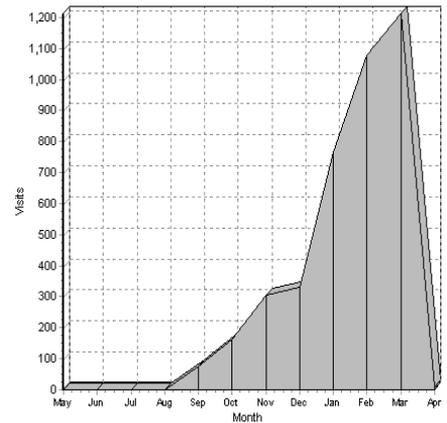
One dinner time at two or sometime then, This gang of cut-throats gathered in its den, Playing shove-halfpenny, or with other toys, Or thinking up new tortures for the boys, Who, in hot weather on the field do mope, And on them ARRIUS trains his telescope. "Ah! a boy out there doing prep, I see, He doesn't know but he'll be seeing me." And all the monsters laugh approvingly. Grin cunning grins, and rub their hands in glee. Then suddenly the door was opened wide, And a fearful creature slipped inside, The awful monster that was standing there, Suffered from a total lack of hair. 'Twas SPUD, and in a serious voice said he, "I've just been told off by the ministry. They say this school all decency does lack, And that our discipline is much too slack." Said FAS, "It is our duty quite clearly, To tighten up the school rules quite severely." "Agreed! Agreed!" the monsters shout with zest, And ARRIUS shouts louder than the rest. His cunning face betrays what's hidden behind The evil workings of a twisted mind. Said he, "I think it would improve the school, If we introduced the following rule: All boys for past misdeeds can now atone, With twelve hours work a day and twelve at home.

If any boy his lessons then does shirk, He'll be rewarded with some extra work." At this masterpiece the monsters rise, And worship ARRIUS, reverence in their eyes. "For my help in this," says PETE, "you need not ask, I'll do my best to assist you in the task." "You can," says CLEM, "myself in this include, Till some improvement in their attitude. If they'd misbehaved like this when I was young, They'd have been whipped, imprisoned, even hung." And he spoke true, it sure would have been so, That's how they treated children ninety years ago. And now did ARRIUS after meditation, Produce another monstrous regulation. He stated that it was his intention, To put boys without caps on in detention. And also this same punishment would happen, If he saw any boy who'd got his cap on. He thought in the interest of the school, To introduce immediately this rule. The monsters all applaud this cruel law, And eagerly begin to think up more. No chance to hurt the wretched boys they missed, And soon had added to the awful list. Throughout the silent school now rings a bell, It sinks upon the boys' hearts like a death knell. It signals crimes too dastardly to tell,

Post script – this recent picture of Bert Samways enjoying his 29th year of retirement proves that the evil intentions of those who plotted his demise in 1950 were happily thwarted. I was delighted to receive a letter from him following the last newsletter. He passes on his best wishes to the many OBs that remember him (and he didn't even mention the Latin homework I hadn't handed in)

BHCHS on the Web

THE increasing popularity of the web site is demonstrated by this chart which shows the number of visits to the site each month since its launch. This was downloaded from the web site on 1st April.



THAT SONG!

FOLLOWING the inclusion of the School Song in the last newsletter a number of people asked me about its origins. John Rippin head of music at BHCHS from 1961 until 1978 writes....

Sidney Campbell, the composer (and BH's first music master) went on to become a most distinguished Church musician – he was sub-warden of the Royal School of Church Music (47-49), then Organist and Master of the Choristers at the cathedrals of Ely (49-53), Southwark (53-56), and Canterbury ((56-61), ending his days at St George's Chapel, Windsor, from 1961 until his death in 1974. He was Doctor of Music and was awarded the MVO by the Queen. When I went to BH, JHT asked if I could do anything about the School Song, which had been sung at end-of-term assemblies, but with less and less success, partly because of the high range of the Song towards its end; the range made it difficult to put it lower. I wrote to Sidney, asking him if he would rearrange the end or, if not, would he mind if I did. I had a jolly letter from him saying that the Song now reminded him of "second rate Arthur Banyon" and he couldn't imagine anyone wanting to set "these versified words" to music. (Arthur Banyon composed many songs for school children between the wars, often of a hearty, Empire type, pirates and so on). The re-writing never did take place and the Song was only sung once in my time, as far as I recall. I never found a written-out piano accompaniment for the School Song, so I made my own up. Donald Ray, my predecessor at BH, confirms that he never saw a written accompaniment either, and he used to make his own up too. I suppose there must have been one originally, but who knows



Where are they now?

Thanks to all who sent me information. Any I received after the beginning of March will be included in the November edition. I look forward to hearing from more of you

Ron Clements (1945) writes... On leaving school I joined the staff at Barclays Bank (1945-47) returning after doing my National Service in the RAF (1947-49). I then entered a Baptist Theological College (London) in 1951 and went on to Christ's College, Cambridge (1954-56) where I specialised in Hebrew and Biblical Studies. After a brief spell as a Baptist minister I spent an academic career in University teaching (Edinburgh 1960-67) and Cambridge (1967-83) finally ending up as Professor of Old Testament Studies at King's College, London (1983-92). I have been actively retired since then. During my teaching years in Cambridge I was, for fifteen years, a College Tutor at Fitzwilliam College where I got to know a number of Old Buckwellians and so renewed a link with the school. I particularly remember getting to know Mike Gapes and Carl Greenaway.

Dick Cass (1946) writes... After leaving BHCHS I started work (a dirty four letter word) with the old Ilford Borough Council in the Town Planning and Building Control Office. After a few years of this, broken only by National Service when I tactfully declined an offer to sign on as a regular in order to see action in Korea, I left to work for a private firm of builders. There then followed employment with several companies of Building Contractors in various capacities i.e. Estimator, Surveyor, Company Director etc. until retirement. Having for some 30 years or so been interested in politics I have recently become a County Councillor. How people who have full time jobs manage this I do not know.

Terry Killick (1949) writes... I have not had any contact with any Old Buckwellians since 1955. This was after a two year stint in the RAF. Joined Spillers, the animal feed company and worked as a sales rep in the counties of Bucks, Berks and Oxon. Stayed in agriculture, moving from Bucks to Suffolk in 1970 and now semi-retired. I would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of Pete Southgate, Derek Bateson and Roy Goswell.

Peter Dalton (1952) writes... Following 6 years of mediocrity (or worse) at BHCHS which, incidentally set the pattern for the next 50 or so, I decided to embark on a career in chemistry, since my surname seemed to demand it. However, having failed to impress the examiners at London University, but determined to get a BSc in something, I turned to economics. I was never impressed with economics as a science (something able to make meaningful and valid predictions), nor with the practical fruits of economics (show me a wealthy economist – other than one who has written an A level economics text book) and very much concurred with a leader in The Times on one occasion which proclaimed in screaming headlines "Economics is Bunk". So after one or two false starts I returned to my first love, chemistry, but this time as an economist selling laboratory equipment. This career lasted some 20 years during which time I rose to the dizzy heights of Sales Manager for the company which at the time was proclaimed world leader in the field of clinical chemistry automation. At the tender age of 49 I was declared redundant. Shortly afterwards this previously world leading company was taken over and its name all but disappeared. I would like to think there was some connection. Since then I have been running a recruitment agency finding sales people for companies engaged in selling (you've guessed it) scientific and other instrumentation to the medical world. So what were my successes? Well my failures come to mind more readily. I failed to make my first million by the time I was 28. Come to think of it I failed to make a million – but what can you expect from an economist?

Keith Self (1952) writes... After leaving school I served for three years in the RAF Police Special Duties Unit at West Ruislip. In 1956 I married Patricia – courtesy of the Eric J McCollins Matrimonial Bureau. We have three children – Guy, a botanist working in Honduras to widen their agricultural economy. He survived Hurricane Mitch together with his wife and two sons; Helen is a teacher at Ray Lodge Junior School in Woodford; William is working for the Disabled Living Foundation and shortly completing an OU computer course for his MSc. A curious co-incidence: Guy's viva at Edinburgh University was conducted by Ed. Cocking who gave me my first prefect's detention at BHCHS. In 1998 we moved from Woodford Bridge to Briston, North Norfolk (near Holt). If anyone's up here look us up! *[Editor's note – I am extremely grateful to Keith for sending me an amazing package of memorabilia from his collection, including a number of the class, sports and whole school photographs from the late 40s and early 50s as well as the 51/52 school roll]*

John Dyke (1953) writes... Now retired and living in Rangiora, South Island of New Zealand after a lengthy career in the ANZ Bank finishing as Lending Inspector and Audit Manager. I only know of one other OB, that is Peter Cave 1947/52 who is the Anglican Minister in Invercargill way down the bottom of NZ's South Island (check your atlas!!!)

Bill Chew (1954) writes... I am still working, a Director of Chew & Osborne (Epping & Saffron Walden) and plead overwork for the reason that a response to the welcome arrival of OB News of November 1999 should take until February in the new Millennium. Through C&O I have recently renewed acquaintance with Miss Vera Crook, our form mistress in 1C in 1949. I found her in good health and spirits and living in Harlow. Nice to know these are not mutually exclusive (sorry to all Harlow residents).

David Woollard (1959) writes... I went the "Walthamstow Tech" on a sandwich course and eventually qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1965. Married same year to Sara, a US native. Emigrated to a suburb of Detroit in '67 and found a job working for Ford's real estate office. 1989-1995 Ford sent me back to Ford of Europe and lived back in Epping where I grew up. 1995 back to Michigan with FoMoCo. Retired last year. Make several trips to the UK each year and would look forward to attending a re-union sometime. Have stayed in touch with Simon Lowe and hear about Stuart Low of Sydney fame through mutual friends. Still have an original of the 1955 school photo. I can be found by E-mail: woolrob@aol.com

David Forbes (1960) writes... Study of chemistry led to title of Chartered Chemist. Having worked at May & Baker and Albright & Wilson, I married Prue (ex Woodford CHS) in 1965 and moved to Ashford (Kent) to a job at Unilever's perfumery company. There I specialised in odour assessments and quality assurance, occasionally lecturing at London University. At school I had learned the cello, firstly with Donald Ray, then visiting teacher Helen Clapp; playing in amateur orchestras has remained a leisure activity alongside choral singing, photography and rambling. I am now dispensary supervisor at a manufacturing pharmaceutical company in Ashford. Our two children have flown the nest: one a teacher and the other a microbiologist in technical sales.

Colin Overy (1960) writes... After leaving BHCHS I went to The National Gas Turbine Establishment at Farnborough for six years. Attended Farnborough Tech and studied Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. Emigrated to Canada in 1966 and worked at Pratt & Whitney in Montreal, initially as an experimental stress engineer and then as a project engineer. Because of political and labour strife in Quebec, left P&W in 1974 and went to Black & Decker, Canada in Brockville, Ontario, as Manager of Product Development. Left B&D in 1995 to concentrate on my own design and development engineering business that I had started as a part time activity in 1985. Am now able to spend two or three months of the year doing what I really want to do which is participating in mountaineering expeditions and exploring some of the less travelled parts of the world. Just got back from the Solomon Islands and have trips to Bolivia and Africa lined up for later this year. *[I am most grateful to Colin for sending me a fascinating selection of informal photographs taken at BHCHS in the late 50's. They will be published in future newsletters – ed]*

Richard Spall (1961) writes... I did a French degree at Birmingham University after leaving BHCHS and stayed on to work in primary education in the city. I spent the next 30 years or so teaching in various primary schools in Brum finishing up as the Head of a Junior School. I took early retirement about 4 years ago and now work in the wine trade, which is bliss by comparison! I am in touch with several of the 'class of '61' and we have had a couple of reunions. We would be delighted to hear from any others from 1961, in particular Malcolm Campbell, Robert Overy, Terry Hammond and Ian Rouse. Contact me on 0121 449 0803 or e mail the.spalls@virginnet.co.uk

Alan Tyndall (1961) writes... I attended BHCHS from 55 to 61. I was part of the very first 13+ intake, having failed the 11+, and stayed on to the upper sixth. My first class had Tommy Leek in charge. Part of this intake included Ernie Tye, a Geordie lad, who gave me the nick-name of Jack, and this stuck throughout the time at school. I left in 61, and went into newspapers, through my father in law. I worked on the old Daily Sketch and then, for 27 years, was sales manager for the Financial Times, covering a large part of the Midlands and Yorkshire. I was made redundant in 93, and have since worked for an engineering firm. I have been married now for 37 years, have two very grown up offspring. Since leaving BHCHS I have become follically challenged, and very grey in the little hair that remains. Such is life. E mail: jo@atyndall.freemove.co.uk

Peter Anderson (1962) writes... After graduating from Southampton University I worked for Shell before setting up a biotechnology company. Now operate a consultancy company alongside Venture Capital companies. Married Stella (nee Prescott) and have three children who spend most of their time travelling and enjoying themselves! In fairly regular touch with Graham Rutherford, Dick Spall, Alan Tyndall and Rich Yoell and less regularly with Dave Williams, Pete Slade and Dick Greening.

Bob Cumber (1964) I took early retirement from NatWest in 1996 after 32 years aged 50 where I was Senior Manager of Knightsbridge Branch. I now do some consultancy work as a Management and Organisation Development Consultant trading as Kingdom Management Associates. Anne and I have been married for almost 7 years and moved to Sheringham nearly 3 years ago where we greatly enjoy our life in this small coastal town. We worship at Sheringham Baptist Church and I greatly benefit from being part of a forum of Christians in Consulting based at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. We pursue a range of creative interests (including art, music and photography) and new pursuits have included puppet making at Norwich Puppet Theatre. I continue my love of choral music singing with Sheringham & Cromer Choral Society and Gresham Choral Society. I have two adult children (Alex & Jemma) from my first marriage - both are married. Alex will be ordained to serve as deacon at Vange (near Basildon) in July 2000. Jemma is a classroom assistant, her husband Simeon serves in the Royal Engineers as a paratrooper in 9 Squadron.

Brian Lawrence (1964) writes... I'm still proud of the 3 lions on my blazer and cannot believe it is beyond us to put an end to 15 years of hurt before our House actually falls into the Roding stream! After 1957 to 1964 at BHCS, I was lucky enough to go into the telecommunications industry! Who, at the time, could have predicted that it would turn into the Gold Rush of the 20th Century although, personally, it has been more like a travel business! It certainly did not seem that way when I started at Romford telephone exchange in 1965. After more than 30 years with BT, which took me to Forest Gate, Euston, Hong Kong, Bangkok, St Petersburg, Paris and Slough, I joined a European telecoms consultancy company and have just completed 10 months in Zurich, following more than a year in Arnhem and 8 months in South Africa. Hopefully, I shall not have to file my passport just yet! Perhaps all this explains why our home is still based in Loughton.

Terence Atkins (1965) wrote with some fascinating reminiscences concerning Dr Sidney Campbell (composer of the School Song)....By the time of my arrival at the school (1959) we were given just the words to paste into our hymn books. I am sure we only used it once or twice, and it would have been churned out at Speech Days, before being quietly forgotten. Sidney Campbell certainly wrote a piano accompaniment. I recall there was some correspondence with the composer about a possible revision. In the late 60's I was an organ student of Dr Campbell at St Georges' Chapel, Windsor. His eccentricities were both startling and entertaining. Knowing that I had been at BHCHS, which he had left (his only school teaching post) 25 years earlier, he asked if Mr Taylor still had his mannerism of raising and lowering his shoulders, eg in assembly when giving out notices from what appeared to be the back of a bus ticket – and proceeded to mimic him perfectly. Dr Campbell died in 1974 (aged 65) and would have been amazed at any interest being shown in his melody. In contrast to the lackadaisical hymn singing remembered from our assemblies, the School Song was clearly not for the faint-hearted: *allegro marziale, f { ff { fff*, all those accented notes and that top F beyond the range of most changing voices! Terence also provided some information on his own career and interests.....A couple of years ago I took early retirement from full time teaching. I hadn't intended to do so quite so early but when the last government changed the rules I jumped! Twenty-three years of running flourishing music departments was extremely rewarding, but now it is wonderful to have the time and energy for all my choir and organ activities, including occasional recitals, private teaching, examining, accompanying, concert-going, etc. not to mention a host of other interests, some of which are more 'anorak' than others. I sometimes wonder if any other Old Bucks belong to any of the following: Woodford Historical Society; Friends of Cathedral Music; Enfield and District Organists' Association; the Great Eastern Railway Society; the London Underground Railway Society; the Hymn Society; the Morris Minor Owners' Club; the Omnibus Society; the EF Benson Society; Archers Addicts..... That's enough to be going on with!! Any like-minded devotees are welcome to phone 020 8440 8593. Final thoughts about BHCHS prompted by references to photographs, the School Song, and so on: is there a School Archive? What happened to those whole school photos, the presentation cups, the contents of the library? Is there a complete run of Rodings? I have 1952-70 but would love to see others – they are the school's history. Was that delightful wood-cut retained to the very last one? I am trying to persuade my brother Robert (1959) to re-join. Mention of JHT makes him go misty-eyed and talk of true greatness. And like countless others, we both feel deep gratitude for having been taught by Peter Sillis.

David East (1965) writes... After leaving in 1965 I joined a firm of retail furnishers and interior designers at Chigwell, one of the directors of which was also at BHCHS, leaving (I think) in 1951: Ron Jones. Stayed with his firm until 1981, having become a director, and then left to set up my own interior design company at Colchester, where I am to this day! Married Amanda in 1977, and we have three daughters: Gemma, 17 is studying for A Levels at the Colchester 6th Form College; Jessica, 15, is at the Colchester Girls High School; and Claudia, 8, is growing up fast! Running a business and family life keeps me pretty well occupied, but my passion is a classic wooden Chris Craft motor cruiser that I keep at Tollesbury marina on the Blackwater. Found myself in the 1963 school photo on the BHCHS web site and I was surprised that after 35 years I could put names to so many faces.

Trevor Reynolds (1968) writes...After leaving BHCHS I went to Southampton University (LL.B 2.1). I was converted to Christian faith in my first term through ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. After attending College of Law at Lancaster Gate I was admitted as a Solicitor in 1974 and worked in Gray's Inn until 1977. In 1976 I was called to the Christian ministry, and confirmed by my local church (Broadmead Baptist, Woodford Green). From 1977-1980 I took theological training at Trinity College, Bristol. I then became Assistant Pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Swansea. Since 1985 I have been Pastor at Putson Baptist Church, Hereford. It is a family church in a housing estate on the south side of the city. In 1998 I obtained a M.Th. in modern evangelical theory from Evangelical Theological College of Wales after two years' part time study. I enjoy playing violin in the Hereford String Orchestra in my spare (!) time. I am married to Margaret who is a Dental Surgeon

Ken Castle (1969) writes... Leaving school, rather than going to the poor University my A-levels justified, I decided to go into Accountancy with London Borough of Waltham Forest. I then spent 12 years in Local Authorities, finishing as Loans Officer with Camden. I was gently critical of the service I got from my brokers, so one of them challenged me to stop game keeping and become poacher, which took me down the Circle Line from Kings Cross to the City. After a 3-4 yr. period broking Local Authorities, I moved into Inter-bank derivative products, which is where I specialised until I decided to leave in 1995, looking for a new challenge. I then obtained my MBA, but was hijacked back into the City to look at more exotic derivatives for a short time. I have since effectively retired. I am married with two sons aged 17 and 13, and live in Bishop's Stortford, literally across the road from Malcolm Jessop (also 1969). Anyone wishing to contact me is

Mike Dean (1969) writes... Be assured that in your endeavours to track down the whereabouts of Old Bucks, at least one more scalp can be claimed by adding my name to the list. Even though I didn't take part in any Old Bucks activities after leaving school, I still kept in touch with a few school mates in particular Dick Nichols who shares the same morbid interest as myself in following the trials and tribulations of Leyton Orient Football Club! In fact, after leaving BHCS I worked only for a year and half in the UK, having spent the past quarter century entirely overseas mostly in East and Central Africa. Now I am working for a German Civil Engineering firm as Project Manager on a railway bridge reconstruction contract in Tanzania. I and my family (wife Harriet and children Terry and Audrey) live here in Dar es Salaam. Our mailing address is P.O.Box 1636 Dar es Salaam Tanzania. E mail jridsm@raha.com

Christopher Kay (1969) studied Mechanical Engineering at University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Commenced a career in IT with the Post Office Data Processing Service in London in 1973. Returned to Newcastle in 1975 to work for Allen Bradley Electronics followed by Common Brothers Shipping and Hadrian Computer Services. Moved to New York City in 1980 to work in IT for Manufacturers Hanover Trust and its successor Banks. Currently working on the road for iDLX Technology Partners as an IT Consultant while maintaining his own IT Consulting company, C I Kay Ltd. Considers New York City a habit which he would find difficult to quit (although an assignment to a major ski area might help accomplish it). Ready to provide expert advice on the Bars & Restaurants of New York City should anyone be planning a visit! Chris's family still lives in Woodford Green and he returns to visit at least once a year. E mail: cikay@usa.net

Clive Reay (1969) writes... After leaving BHCHS I attended a course at the City Business School before entering articles with a small firm of accountants. I qualified as an accountant in 1974. Following a number of mergers and more recently two take-overs the firm I was with is now absorbed into Arthur Andersen, where I am a partner in what is one of the largest firms of accountants and professional advisers in the world. I am sure that Bob Sears, my maths teacher, when I took maths O level in 1967 would not have forecast my being a successful accountant bearing in mind he was convinced I would not even pass O level maths! (And he was nearly right). I am married with 3 children aged 17, 15 and 8 and live in Haslemere in Surrey. E mail: clive.reay@uk.arthurandersen.com

Nigel Grizzard (1970) writes... As I hurtle down the M11, I think of the old school, the cross country runs and a world long since gone. I run a Legal Training Company selling courses all over the UK and organise major conferences on regenerating and rebuilding Britain's cities. I was at Buckhurst Hill from 1963-1970 and would like to hear from anyone who entered in 1963 with me.

Tony Skuse (1970) writes... After leaving Buckhurst Hill I went to flying college and joined BEA in 1972 flying the Trident. I am now a captain on the Boeing 747-400 for British Airways flying long haul routes.

Peter Lovelock (1971) writes... After completing an engineering apprenticeship at the Bank of England printing works I travelled overland solo to India, Nepal and Sri Lanka until the money ran out. Worked as service engineer for ten years all over UK and Ireland in mechanical handling. Now working for Thames Water as mechanical/electrical technician. I am married for the second time and have two girls and two boys. I play golf poorly if time permits and drive a 1948 Riley which I restored myself. Have met Keith Dower (was in Hong Kong but back now?) and Steve Laird briefly (working in electronic store?) but don't know their whereabouts now.

Phil Hughes (1972) writes... Left BHCHS with 11 O levels and A levels in English, French and Latin (just) - thanks to Harry Samways, John Whaler, Pete Downey and Taffy Griffiths. There were just two stalwarts in the classics group: myself and Graham Kings. Spent a year bumming around in various jobs as the BBC had put a curfew on recruitment at that time and then in 1973 finally got under the portcullis. Been there ever since having worked in the Engineering Dept. as a technical operator (the only one with an A level Latin), in tv for a while as a vision mixer and then in 1980 joined Radio 2 as a producer. Worked with the likes of Jimmy Young (RIP), Pete Murray (remember him?) Dave Lee Travis, Noel Edmunds, Rosko, Peter Powell, David Hamilton, Terry Wogan, Simon Bates and John Dunn (did live shows from Berlin, Australia, Portugal, China and Ascension Island). Currently working on the Drivetime show (5-7pm Johnnie Walker)... 27 years on and still counting. Currently living in Theydon Bois, Essex. Married, 3 children - 18,16 and 8 years. Eldest at Bristol University doing law (he's cleverer than me). In my spare time I run a Hospital Radio station at Whipps Cross.

Peter Bennetts (1973) writes... I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1978 and have been a partner in a City practice since 1981. Married with two children aged 6 and 2.

Michael Canby (1973) read law at Cambridge University (Jesus College) 1973 - 1977; after College of Law and qualifying as a solicitor, joined Linklaters in 1978 (and still with Linklaters). 1982 - 1984 worked in Linklaters New York Office; elected a partner in 1986; worked in Linklaters Paris Office 1989 - 1995. International capital markets lawyer. Married; two children. Now lives in Wimbledon.

Robert Gorzynski (1974) writes... I am currently a strategy specialist in retail and entertainment, working with companies such as Virgin, Our Price and Hamleys. Mostly I am helping my clients look at the future of the entertainment industry but I also work with senior teams in facilitating strategic change. I hate the word 'consultant' but prefer to think of myself as a 'midwife' giving birth to new ideas and possibilities. Slightly pretentious I know since all this has grown out of a love for music (not to mention redundancy to help me on the way!). I have two wonderful kids (Scott, 8 and Jamie, 5) and a very supportive Canadian wife (Tracy) who is a Saint for putting up with me! In terms of old school colleagues I keep in touch with Ed Austin and John Simpson on a fairly regular basis and correspond - at Christmas - with some others including Mike Vernon, and Nigel Clark. Nigel is currently living in Buckhurst Hill so I really ought to look him up and go for a beer! E mail: rgorzynski@aol.com

Mike Walker (1974) - After leaving BHCHS, I again followed my brother, this time to the University of Exeter where I gained a degree in Mathematics and met my wife Sue. We have now been married for over 20 years and have three children - Andrew 17 (also studying Maths/Physics at A Level!), Eleanor 15 and Katie 10. My career to date has been entirely in computing, firstly with ESSO Petroleum for 9 years and subsequently with BT. I work in Reigate and live in Horsham, West Sussex. I was in touch with many of my peers for some years after leaving BHCHS, attending weddings, 30th Birthday parties and the like but now just exchange Christmas cards with a handful. Maybe the new life in the O.B.s will get us back in touch.

Simon Bartlett (1975) writes... I was divorced last year and have 2 sons Tom (16) and Jack (13). I work for London Borough of Waltham Forest Social Justice Unit, I'm a non-exec director of Waltham Forest Housing Action Trust and a trustee of Orient Regeneration a Development Trust. Funnily enough I've actually had a few dealings with Barry Hearn through my work and I never realised he went to Buckhurst Hill. I live with my partner Jacky, who's a Dublin girl and keeps me laughing, and her 3 children and my eldest in Chingford. After I dropped out of school I dropped out of everything had a few jobs here and there and partied for about 15 years. I met a few people from the old school along the way. I had contact with Martin Harvey and Alan Silverstone up until about 1980. I'm sure I bumped into Tony Kay in the bar on Stratford station at one point and I remember drinking with Gary Pease in the Horse & Well at Woodford about 1981 also a guy called Keith who went BHCHS. I worked in the same office at Wren computers with Keith Silver for a while around 1983. In about 1988 I met up with Mick Davidson (who was living in Amsterdam), Mark Forrest (a teacher then) and Alan Silverstone again and someone else but I was too drunk to remember who. I eventually got my degree in 1990 with the Open University. E mail: dogs@iname.com phone 020 8531 6217.

Robert Lane (1976) writes... Went to UCL to read law and now a partner in a City firm of solicitors advising on Company/Commercial matters, particularly in relation to Utilities. Married with 3 children, and living in Central London. People I recall include Adrian Iles, Simon Hicks and Steve Adby, who I still remain in contact with, and others include Nick Bell, Martin Koch, Nick Rufford (who left in the second form but who I notice is a Sunday Times journalist), Andrew Jackson, Ashley Morgan, Bob Wright and Neil Selby. Adrian Iles is a barrister and lives in Essex, Simon teaches and lives in Yorkshire and Steve manages an historical dance company with his wife and lives in Nottingham. I do not recall any incredibly amusing/memorable incidents, other than the usual schoolboy stuff, but I do remember doing O or A Levels with the M11 being built in the field behind the playground, with a lot of noise and so shut windows in the Main Hall despite record hot weather. I also remember Chris Giles dying during the Summer holidays around our fourth form, his being the first contemporary's death I had experienced. He drowned in a canoeing accident. His parents donated his geological collection, which was placed in glass cases in the Crush Hall outside the Head's office - something to contemplate while waiting outside his room. Of the staff, I remember particularly the Head, Mr Moore of Games and Geography fame, Hoss Cartwright, Mr Sillis, Mr Cunningham, and Stancer - who I recall once was remarkably relaxed about me ruining a wood file on some metalwork (I had used the wrong file) - I received only one kick rather than the usual three.... I also remember Mr Franklin who although having a reputation of being pretty severe, once we were in the 6th Form treated everyone more like an equal than almost anyone else, which I particularly appreciated at the time. It is a pity that the school building is now under used - could the council buy it back? - it was certainly a fine site.

Peter Ruddock (1976) writes... I joined in 1968 to 1Z in 'Jack' Buchanan's class. So precise and military were his ways that he put screws in the floor to mark the exact position you had to line your desk to. We had to number the pages of our physics exercise books so that everyone did the same work on the same page. Never before had I seen a schoolmaster's gown with its cloud of chalk dust trailing behind. I can easily remember the names of all my class mates, although no-one used a first name. It was either a surname or a nickname - Solly, Dolly, Jolly, Olly, Molly to name but a few. Keith Mahoney was either Olly or Molly? I wasn't involved in the Café incident but was instrumental in writing/painting names on the outside end wall which faced the 'new' 6th form common room, signing the 'door' into the tower (who remembers how to get up there?). I was there when 'Stan the Man' ended up in the horse trough at Maes-y-Laed, where Ollie got caught taking pot shots at the ponies with his air pistol by Stan - and lots more. I could write a book about BH adventures [*yes please - ed.*] My main involvement in school activities was football and athletics. I played in the 1st XI that won the Pratt Cup in 1976 (I think). I have kept most copies of the 'Blue Book' - I don't know why!

Ashley Stearn (1976) writes... After I left school I worked as insurance broker until I was 24 when I joined the Essex Police.

Simon Tatnall (1977) writes... After leaving BHCHS I drifted into a bank and after 5 years I left to look after my first child full time. My master plan was to study music. This will come as a surprise to one J. Rippin who can probably not remember me! Looking after 2 children if done properly is time consuming and after 10 years I had attained 2 grade 8 distinctions in voice and theory and went to Trinity College London to study composition. I am now a professional baritone singing regularly in the south east of England and composition is on the back burner for a while. My speciality is writing music for children's shows and adult musicals so if there is anyone out there with words that need music I am open for commissions!

Simon Leefe (1978) writes... On leaving BHCHS I studied Engineering Science at Hertford College, Oxford (thanks to Mr Franklin for bringing this course to my attention – I might have ended up a pure mathematician in academia. Thanks also for the never-forgotten tongue-in-cheek advice, “If you go out with a girl at university make sure she wears glasses and works hard, and remember that LSD means pounds shillings and pence”). After graduating I did a year’s private tuition with several of Oxford’s “crammer courses” teaching maths and physics, then hit the real world with GEC Turbine Generators. Deciding I preferred R&D I took a PhD in blood flow in artificial heart valves, then worked for TI Research near Cambridge on heat transfer and fluid flow projects. In 1988 I moved to British Hydromechanics Research Group in Cranfield, where I am Manager of Engineering Analysis dealing with consultancy and R&D projects across all industrial sectors. Meanwhile married, had a daughter, Jessica (now 13) and divorced. Live in Cambridge with partner Karen.

Steve Marchant (1978) has given up his stage career and now runs a successful wine bar called *The Alpabet* in Beak Street, London W1.

Michael Moran (1978) writes... I went from BHCHS to Ealing College, where I spent four years doing a sandwich BA (Hons) in Business Studies alongside the Market Research Society Diploma all paid for by my sponsor Metal Box Ltd, the packaging conglomerate. Showed my gratitude by leaving them, on graduation(!) and joined Ford in 1982 where I stayed for 13 highly enjoyable and rewarding years working across various sales and marketing functions and spending some of the time on overseas assignments. My last job was Director of Sales and Marketing, Ford Spain which I did from '93 to '96. When doing my 5 week intensive language course in the Madrid Linguarama school I was introduced one day to their European Sales Director - none other than one Peter Johnson who had somehow got me through German A level (along with Dave Clapton) some 15 years earlier! I must say that my Spanish is now much, much better than either my German or my French (apologies to Mavis Leach too!) I returned to the UK in '96 as Marketing Director of Toyota (GB) PLC and am currently Commercial Director and having a ball. I have somehow got embroiled in all sorts of extra curricular 'industry related activities' although as ex Secretary of the BHCHS sixth form council (a foil to the excellent Tom Paisley - are you out there Tom?) it is hardly surprising as I cannot help myself! I am a Director of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers serving on their Council and Executive Committee and I am the current Chairman of the Exhibitions Committee of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders so if you come to the Birmingham International Motor Show in October 2000 and don't enjoy it then blame me! I am also a member of The Solus Club and a Fellow of the RSA. I have one divorce behind me but three fantastic kids to show for it and a second marriage ahead. I live in Outwood, Surrey. Sadly I have lost touch with all the 'X' boys and in fact everyone on the class of '78 and I would love to hear from any pupil or member of staff who will admit to knowing me! Email mike.moran@btinternet.com

David Long (1980) Freelance Writer & Journalist. BSc (Hons) Psychology, University of Birmingham 1983. Editor of sex magazine Forum (1983-85), Acting Editor of Custom Car (1986). Quit before acquiring half-share in Covent Garden-based public relations consultancy with international motor and marine industry clientele. Later columnist for Sunday People newspaper (1990-93), Publisher of Euromotor Reports (1993-95), Motoring Editor of Penthouse (1984-97), also of Mayfair, Men Only, Club International, International Club etc. Syndicated columns in France, Russia, South Africa and USA. Features and weekly cartoon strip in The Times, other stuff in Sunday Times, etc. Lives in Suffolk, loathes all sport.

Crispin Reed (1980) writes... After leaving BHCHS I went to Dundee University to study Business Studies and French. After 4 fantastic years there I joined an advertising agency in Glasgow. I worked there for a year before returning to London. I spent a further 7 years in the London ad scene working with a range of clients including McDonalds – through them I got a Bachelor of Marketing Hamburgerology from their Hamburger University in the US (no kidding). The agency I worked for, Leo Burnett, then asked me to work in Singapore. I spent just over 2 years there – a great, once in a lifetime opportunity to travel round Asia. I came back in 1995, spent a further 4 years with Leo B in London, and in June last year joined CDP, one of the great names behind a lot of famous British advertising. I finally also made the bold move of living south of the River in Wimbledon. I'm still in touch with a few Old Buckwellians and some Old Bancroftians.

Greg Southwell (1981) writes... I studied Town and Country Planning at Manchester University, leaving with 2:1, but decided that Tower Blocks were not for me. Joined Unilever, trained as an Accountant, and after working through Manufacturing, International Banking, Computer Software businesses, came to the current resting place, PricewaterhouseCoopers Management Consultancy in 1990. For the past 9 years I have worked solely with Petroleum clients, been posted to Houston and around Latin America, and now head up Business Process Outsourcing for Global Oil and Gas clients. Still spending too much time in airports and either too hot or too cold climates, but managed to remain married to Karen (pharmacist at Holly House hospital in B'Hill), raise two great kids (2 and 6), continue supporting Arsenal, playing golf and painting.

Peter Taylor (1981) writes... I have lived in Manhattan for the past 3 years. Married to Shelly a native New Yorker, we have no children yet, but are enjoying trying! We have homes in New York City and in Chigwell, but spend about 9 months a year in NYC. I am the owner of a security company called Sovereign Protection Services, we supply bodyguards and security personnel to corporate and high profile clientele. I have been in this industry for 14 years now. I started as a nightclub bouncer, graduated through the ranks to bodyguard work. Recently we joined forces with an American company and now run training schools for bodyguards, with our first UK school at The Metropolitan Police Club at Chigwell this spring.

Neil Conniff (1984) writes... I now work at IT Manager at the Chartered Insurance Institute. I am actually employed by a company called Science Systems who are contracted to support the CII's IT infrastructure. I am still living locally in Loughton with my partner Kelly Sweetman (ex-Loughton girl) and our two boys of 1 and 4. I got in touch after stumbling across the BHCHS website. I had great fun picking myself out of the school photo of 1982 (I look like a girl!!) I can see the web site is going to be a great success – congrats to Nick.

Philip Mingay (1984) writes... Since leaving worked locally in various Estate Agents and now owns and runs Kingsbridge Property Services in Woodford Green with ex-Buckwellian David Ward. Both can be contacted on 020 8505 1110 and would be willing to offer special discounted commission rates to other ex-Bucks wishing to sell!!!

Simon Rose (1984) writes... I went to City University to study optometry. Whilst at City joined the University of London Air Squadron and Sub Aqua Club and ended up as a qualified RAF Pilot and diving instructor. After graduation worked in Harlow for one year in order to take my professional exams. I qualified in 1988 and went to be a ski bum in Val d'Isere for one season. Now work in the family business within which I have founded Mobile Optical Services Ltd. I am married with one on the way.

Obituary

Don Bettis

DON BETTIS was born on 18 April 1930 and died on 22 May 1999. After his funeral at St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church, Grays on 4 June he was buried at West Thurrock Cemetery. I first met him in September 1941 when, after the initial year in the same form, we were streamed into different classes. These were the days of the blitz - of sleepless nights and sudden death of friends and family. On the lane opposite BHCHS was an anti-aircraft battery where quantities of coffins had been stored in 1939. These were carefully hidden under cover but my father was a postman and you can't keep secrets from a postie - especially one who had served as an RSM! During our years at the school Don and I hardly came into

contact with each other but we surprised each other in 1946 when we realised that we had both become articled to firms of Incorporated Accountants - Don's was in Stratford Broadway and mine in Leadenhall Street. Accountancy was a common interest which kept us close for many years. I used to call at his parents' home on Loughton when we had musical evenings. Don played guitar - his brother drums and I hammered piano until the gas meter needed feeding and none of us had any money. Don's father was one of the 1914-1918 servicemen who volunteered to remain behind in France to clear the battlefields and re-bury the dead - they formed the "Silent Cities" which is another subject! The point of this is that Don's father

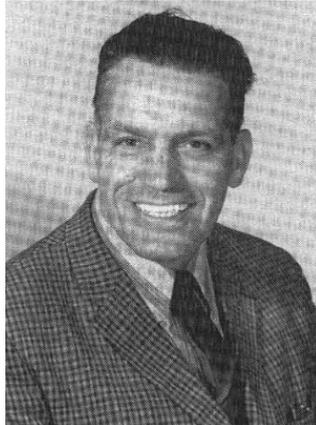
used to recount his horror of the work and this strengthened Don's commitment to pacifism. We both served our articles and then had to face National Service. Don registered as a CO and asked me to give evidence at his tribunal. I appeared in RAF uniform and when it became evident to the tribunal that I shared Don's views I was asked why I too had not registered. I simply replied that I did not have Don's courage. Don worked for the Family Service Units in the East End as he, unlike Stan Newens who was of a like mind but who had agreed to serve in the mines as a Bevin Boy, felt that to take other "national" work effectively released another man to serve in the forces. When I finished my National Service Don and I met very regularly sharing mutual interests in the East Ham steam baths, Chinese food, South Place Ethical Society and Lord Soper's preaching at Kingsway Hall. Don was a very good accountant but hopeless with money. For a brief moment

we were in partnership - I earned the fees and Don found many devious ways to spend them. This cavalier attitude to other people's money lasted all his life and he died broke. He had a typical "East End" funeral - a string of posh cars all smothered in flowers. He had a charming - even magnetic personality and it was difficult to be angry with him. He charmed clients "out of the trees" - women too. He married three times - Barbara, Pat and Mary. All three attended his funeral. Mary, the last of the line, was pregnant by him when he died. When I moved to Wiltshire some twenty years ago I saw much less of him but I remember him with respect and affection - and I was so sorry that he died before I could say "good-bye"

Peter Sheppard

Bob Sears

BOB Sears, who taught mathematics at BHCHS from 1966 until 1978, died aged 85 on 17 March 2000 following a short illness. He was a very popular teacher whose hallmarks were his consistent cheerfulness and enthusiasm. Bob grew up and trained as a teacher in Walthamstow. He served in the Royal Artillery during the war. On completing his training he taught at schools in Walthamstow and Harlow. He will be especially remembered for introducing the bridge club at school in the 60's. The club rapidly



Photograph: Epping Guardian

became one of the most popular activities at school. As well as being no mean

bridge player himself (he represented Essex), Bob was also a qualified soccer referee. Bob's nephew, Peter Sears (1975) and his grandson Jonathan Jaques (1985) both attended BHCHS.

Corrections

In the last edition I had stated that **John Davis** was a good long distance runner. My informant was confusing him with his brother Brian Davis. Dr John Davis was, in fact an academic who taught at Birkbeck College, London University for many years.

Stephen Murray is not the MP for Epping Forest - he was the Labour candidate but the seat went to a Conservative.

Mark Dickins

WE were sorry to learn of Mark's sudden death in March at the age of 32 following a heart attack. Mark attended BHCHS from 1979-1986. A report in the Loughton Guardian stated that Mark had been planning to get married in the autumn of this year. He worked at Chingford Police station where he was an administration officer. After leaving school Mark was with the Air Training Corps for three years before joining the police. Mark was also a Special Constable at Loughton police station. He was a keen member of the Vineyard Church based in Loughton.

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