

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Founded 1921

Newsletter Number 43



**HJ Wain at a
World War I
exhibition in
Swadlincote**
(see p.16)



**Published: March 2016
by the committee of the BGS Old Boys' Association**



Letter from the President: *Andrew Gentles*

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the President of the Association and to represent you, the membership during my year in office.

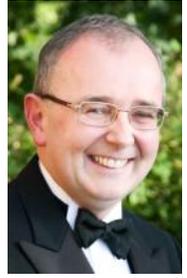
I would like to thank the Committee for their help and guidance in the past twelve months as we worked to modernise the Association and consolidate the databases of membership with those of former pupils who had expressed interest in a variety of ways – attended reunion events, subscribed to the web site and so on.

Having taken time to meet Annabel Stoddart the current headmistress, I feel we have a better understanding on how we best support her clear aims and objectives for the school today.

My personal highlight was attending the Remembrance Day Service Assembly. Nothing can prepare you for the emotion you experience when you are invited to read the final poem at what is best described as a most exceptional event – well researched and delivered with a most poignant message – informative, historic and a reminder to the pupils of the history that has shaped their future.

The year has flown by and no sooner have you come to grips with the requirements of the Association than your term of office comes to an end. I would encourage the Association to consider making the term of office for future Presidents two years – giving them the opportunity to make a difference, ensuring the long term future of such a prestigious body.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity afforded me of being your President and wish the incoming President a most enjoyable term.



Remembrance Day Service – Friday 6th November 2015



Old Boys In Attendance were: Peter Appleby, Malcolm Watson, John Ash, Richard Wain, Bob Andrews, Graham Marshment, Andrew Gentles (President), Martin Cooper (Secretary), Keith Large, David Leese, and Mike Hamilton. They are shown with Annabel Stoddart (Head) and Lauren Stomer (Head Girl).

Letter from the President Elect: Steve Wilcox

I am greatly honoured to be elected President of the BGSOBA.

We are an unusual organisation in that our numbers must, quite naturally, decline. Keeping the association going sometimes feels like trying to stay afloat in a leaking boat by bailing out with a teaspoon! But we do our best and the fact that we currently have well over 400 members is, in itself, remarkable.

The move to Branston Golf & Country Club coupled with the introduction of the fairer sex to the proceedings have done much to enliven the AGM/Annual Dinner and numbers have held up well in recent years. Switching the Lowe Cup golf tournament to Branston has also been a success although a few more competitors would be most welcome.

I look forward to meeting everyone at Branston and to my coming year as your President.

Officers of the Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association 2015-16

President.	Mr Andrew Gentles	1972-79
Vice President	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Hon Secretary	Mr Martin Cooper	1958-65
Archivist	Mr RF Andrews	1952-58
Hon Treasurer	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Hon Sports (Golf) Secretary	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Hon Editor Newsletter	Mr Eric Bodger	1956-62
Records & BGS Database	(e-mail: graham@gmarshment.f9.co.uk)	
Hon Membership Officer	Mr KB Large	1967 - 72
Executive Committee	President, Past Presidents, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Membership Officer.	
Newsletter Committee	Executive Committee and volunteers	
Web site:	www.burtongrammar.co.uk Kevin Gallagher	

Association's AGM & Dinner Friday 20th May 2016 - at the Pavilion, Branston.

Golf Tournament - Branston Golf & Country Club - Friday 20th May 2016

Guests are welcome at the Golf and at the Dinner

News from Abbot Beyne School

We began our term celebrating the best GCSE examination results in our history; 61% of our Year 11 achieved 5A*-C including English and Maths. These results were achieved through a combination of effective teaching, well targeted revision classes, well planned revision and lots of practice. Great results like this are also testament to the supportive and challenging culture that we nurture at Abbot Beyne and which parents and carers support too. Academic success comes from hard work, self belief and an understanding that the road to success is never smooth or easy, but is ultimately worth it. We celebrated the excellence of our students at our Celebration Evening on Tuesday 15th December and it was wonderful to award students in subjects and also award their GCSE certificates – the culmination of 11 years of education.

Further exam success

Hannah Bladon successfully completed her A-Level studies at Abbot Beyne, achieving A* in English Literature, B in History & B in English Language. She is now reading Theology at the University of Birmingham and has achieved further success; after a competitive interview, HSBC has awarded Hannah a scholarship for the duration of her degree course, which will pay for her tuition fees. “To have been chosen for the HSBC scholarship is absolutely a privilege and is an amazing opportunity for my future, allowing me to concentrate fully on my studies without financial & emotional pressure. I hope to inspire other students that, no matter what their circumstances, higher education is achievable by all”.



Learning at Abbot Beyne is so much more than exam outcomes. It also involves learning in its widest sense, that help our young people develop into confident and responsible adults who can make a positive contribution to their communities. I have shared with you just a handful of these experiences:

National Bar Mock Trial Competition



On Saturday 21st November a group of Sixth Form students travelled to Nottingham Crown Court to compete in the Regional heats of the National Bar Mock Trial Competition. Students had prepared for roles of either barristers or witnesses and although a bit nervous, had worked hard to present their cases.

They competed in 3 rounds and their performance was assessed by real judges who gave them complimentary as well as constructive feedback

which they were able to use to improve their case in subsequent rounds. The teams' scores were added up and the top two scorers competed in Round 4. Although Abbot Beyne did not reach the final round, they were the only team to achieve a 'Guilty' verdict and for one judge put the best case he had seen.

Student Learning Council

Our Student Learning Council meets on a weekly basis to discuss student life in school. So far this year they have discussed various issues such as school meals, the school environment, uniform, rewards and events they would like to see happen in school. Minutes are taken during their meetings to support their ideas and suggestions and are then passed onto The Senior Leadership Team where they are given thought and consideration and often put into action.

The Council would like more world foods to be served in the canteen with possible themed days such as Mexican, Italian or Asian days plus more vegetarian options.

They like the school uniform now but also think that blazers would look smarter. They would also like to see more bins around the site in a bid to prevent litter.

They have suggested many ideas for in-school activities and events such as themed school discos for Halloween, Christmas etc and they would like to see teachers and staff in fancy dress and have more charity fundraising days.

Charity fundraising

On Thursday 17th September, staff and students donned their jeans and casual clothes and whopping £624 was raised for Jeans for Genes.

For the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September, staff and students made or donated delicious cakes to be sold during break time. £101 was raised and many calories gained! On Friday 13th November, students raised £619 for Children in Need! And a total of £161.62 was raised for The Poppy Appeal.

Year 11 visit a food bank

On Tuesday 24th November The R.E. Department plus 12 volunteer Year 11 students spent an evening learning about a local food bank in Coalville, Leicestershire as part of their 'Religion & Morality' course.

The students learnt about why an individual might find themselves at a food bank and how the food bank helps them. They learnt about why people volunteer their time to support such a cause and how their religious beliefs might impact that.



In addition to this students organised a food donation to the charity and were able to weigh in their donation, which we were told would feed one person for 3 days.

The trip allowed students to link the classroom 'theory' to real life situations and at the same time support local charities in their missions.

Art Exhibition at Abbot Beyne



The Art Department opened its doors to students and parents to the annual art exhibition *Snapshot 2015*. The exhibition illustrated the talent that we have at Abbot Beyne, displaying work from last year's Year 11, 12 and 13. The exhibition was well attended by students and parents with some very complimentary comments being made by those who visited, "another wonderful showcase of talent and creativity, totally inspirational" and "A fantastic display of talented students".



Annabel Stoddart
Headteacher
March 2016

BURTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The school was founded about the year 1520 by Abbott William Beyne of Burton Abbey. He re-established the school, already flourishing within the Abbey walls, as a separate entity, and endowed it with lands in 1529. His action ensured that the School did not perish when the Abbey was dissolved in 1541.

It is known that boys from the School were sent up to Cambridge, and probably to Oxford, before 1530.

During the centuries, further endowments were added, and in 1869, all the revenues were amalgamated and the Burton Endowed Schools came into being. In 1877, it moved from Friars Walk to the premises in Bond Street that some of us remember. In 1957, the school moved to a new building in Winshill, where it remained until 1975, when it was absorbed into the Abbot Beyne comprehensive.

The most famous of the School's known Old Boys was John Jervis, Admiral Lord St. Vincent, under whom Nelson served.

The very beginnings of the BGS Old Boys' Association

This letter was to H.J. Wain (1907-11), who became the first Secretary O.B.A. in 1921.

Of course the process was delayed by the Great War, still five weeks away when the letter was written, but you can see how the crisis was already affecting people.

Customs and Excise
Memorandum
29.7.14

6 Brookfield Avenue
Bishopston

Dear Henry,

You really must forgive me for not replying to your previous letter. I am afraid you are not the only one to make the same grumble. Anyhow you have not missed much as there is really no news to tell you. I had a letter from Smedley the other day informing me that Dicky (*R.T.Robinson, Headmaster*) is actually contemplating the formation of an Old Boys' Club. As he (Smedley) is anxious to have some backing in his endeavours to move Dicky to action, he asked me if I could get one or two Old Boys to write to him re the formation of a club. Perhaps you would do so? And if you know of Old Boys interested, he would doubtless be pleased to hear from them. Smedley's address is –

C.B.Smedley, 1 SpencerRoad, Bournemouth.

I certainly think if sufficient interest is shown just now, there is an excellent opportunity of making a start.

I am afraid I shall not be able to get over to Burton for Bank Holiday. For one thing it is so beastly expensive. Also we have every prospect of being busy, so I may have to work then. How is work going on in Burton? Do you get any holiday? I don't suppose I shall. For one thing all leave has been cancelled in the Customs (here at any rate) owing – presumably – to the European crisis.

Well, I must close now as I have several other letters to write. Tell Freddie Toone that I have to try and find time to write to him shortly, and give my love to Algy Barton.

With kind regards

Yours, the Bristol model

Notes: *C.B. ("Chips") Smedley (1905-11) became a teacher, then a lieutenant in the N.Lancs. Regiment, died of wounds 1919, before the OBA was founded in 1921.*

(Dicky) R.T.Robinson, Headmaster 1900-30, died 1951.

The condolence and sympathy of the Association is expressed to the relatives and families of recently deceased Grammar School Old Boys & Staff.

Peter Stanley

(1934-41)

Died 3 May 2014

Peter Stanley (1934 – 41), who died at the age of 89 will surely be remembered by all who knew him. He was the outstanding sportsman of his generation, particularly in Rugby and Cricket in which he was a brilliant all-rounder, even though in the first of his three years in the first team he was only 14 – in the team photos he looks quite a cherub. (He later captained Stourbridge Rugby Club and played cricket for Lye). He also represented the school at swimming and boxing. He was a sportsman in the other sense too, generous to opponents and indulgent to teammates. He was liked and admired for his unassuming nature, so that in the sometimes waspish world of schoolboys, he was one of the very few never to attract snide comments. He was in the scouts and took part in plays. One thing he did not publicise was that his first schooling had been at the Girls' High School, though he enjoyed Old Girls' Reunions.

He left school to become an articled civil engineer, then later joined the Royal Engineers. It came as no surprise to his friends that he emerged from Sandhurst with the Sam Browne of Honour as best cadet. He spent much of his time in the Army in Egypt, where he claimed to have brought much comfort to the troops. The word 'comfort' was very deliberately chosen (a hearty laugh was never far away): much of his work was in the installation of sewers and all the appurtenances.



After demob he went back to Civil Engineering with A.H. Waters for the rest of his career.

Pete's range of activities in retirement was astonishing: history, golf, architecture, for a start. One notable activity was researching tithe records and with exquisite draughtsmanship compiling tithe maps for a number of parishes in the Lichfield diocese, donating them for sale for parish funds. Then there were all aspects of country life, especially birds, but also trees, wild flowers and insects. Arts activities with Sheila in Presteigne, including the organisation of the festival, gave pleasure to many.

It was a cruel fate that a searing medical condition drew the curtains for him on most of those memories. On top of that Sheila, Pete's wife of 66 years and his carer for the last ten, died suddenly last February and Pete himself died within a few weeks..

All who knew him will cherish the memory of an exceptional human being.

Boz (John Hathaway, 1934-41)

John M. Illingworth (1943-47)**Died 29 June 2015**

John became a pupil at Burton Grammar School in 1943 and was considered one of the brighter pupils graduating from the school Prep forms into the A stream, but his career at the school was comparatively short. In 1947 he secured a place at Denstone College together with his pal, the late Tony Hammond. At Denstone he played in the various year group teams at Rugby, Cricket and Fives.

In 1953 he was called up for National Service and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery, serving his 2 years in Germany. He went up to Keble College, Oxford in 1955 to read Maths, but a year later changed his course to Physics. At Keble he was President of the Junior Common Room 1957-58, and a member of a number of College Clubs including their Wills Club, which dined regularly and in style, inviting friends and honouring them with a gift of a clay pipe to smoke with liqueurs, post dinner. He became Honorary Secretary of the college Cricket Club and in 1958 captained the college Squash Team. He also played for Oxford Authentics CC.

On graduating in 1958 John joined Rolls Royce in Derby, initially for Rolls Royce and Associates working in nuclear engineering, followed by management training for RR Civil Aero Engines. In 1972 he became a Fellow of the Institute of Personnel Management. He finished his career as Head of Field Support for Rolls Royce Home and Overseas (coordinating and managing the Service representatives and families abroad). He retired in 1993.

During his university vacations and whilst living in Bretby Lane , John played regularly for Burton CC alongside his father Ronnie and younger brother Hugh, opening the innings with style and patience.

John never abandoned his connection with BGS. He became a regular member of the Association and was elected President in 1996/7.

John married Ann (a Cambridge mathematician and rowing blue) in 1961 and thereafter lived in the Duffield/Hazelwood area. Together they enjoyed an active village life. John played for Belper Meadows CC and Duffield Squash Club, where, apart from playing for the first team, he ran the Junior team. He was an active supporter of the Premier League side.

After retiring he supported the building of Hazelwood Bowls Club and took up golf at Kedleston Golf Club (he had played a round on the morning of his last day, before doing some gardening in the afternoon). He loved his garden. He was a churchgoer all his life and had been church warden at Duffield Parish Church for a number of years.

John is survived by his wife Ann, their two sons Stephen and David, and their six grandchildren.

John was a long-standing member of Derbyshire CCC and enjoyed match days with friends. He loved going to the Trent Bridge and Lords test matches, the latter with his son Stephen. He was a huge fan of England test cricket, but not of the one day game (which he dubbed “pyjama cricket”) and definitely not 20/20.

He will be remembered as a traditionalist, a gentle man, a gentleman and a loyal friend.

John Hancock (1943-53)

David J Shrubbs**(1953-60, staff 1964-69) Died 23 February 2016**

David taught Maths for 50 years, returning to BGS after graduating from Manchester University. He moved to John Willmott School in 1969, and over the next 29 years, rose to become Head of the Lower School. He then moved across Sutton Coldfield to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, where he taught for another 14 years. The photo is of him at 71 in 2013.



Bishop Vesey's Head described David as "an amazing Mathematics teacher, who gave incredible support to so many BVGS extra-curricular activities from cricket to residentials. So many students (and staff) benefited from Dave's magical contributions. An inspirational, brilliant, talented, uniquely wonderful and generous man. We will miss him.

He had also been a cub-scout leader, and was Tower captain in Stretton, ringing bells with Paul Knight. Paul also reports that he'd take Burton pupils out cycling on games afternoons. David served as Treasurer and President of the British Schools Cycling Association.

A few of the tributes to him posted on line:

'A brilliant teacher who inspired countless young mathematicians.' (Luke Kendall, BVGS);

'RIP Dave. He did his best to make me understand applied maths' (Ron Edwards, BGS).

'He was a really great character and gentle teacher' (Dr Junaid Hussain, BVGS) ;

Bob Gould has memories of him at BGS 'trying to drill pure maths & stats into my resistant skull! Good tenor voice too....R.I.P'.

'My life would be hugely different without him. Rest in peace.' (Jack Haynes)



← David as he was in the Lower sixth in 1958

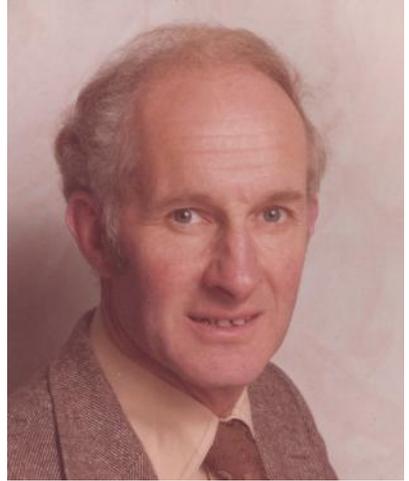
Alan Robert Thompson (1932-37) Died 18 January 2016

Alan was born in October 1921, and gained a scholarship to BGS at the age of ten. After school, he initially worked for Marley Tiles and at the Town Hall. During the war, he served in the RAF, then took advantage of a Government scheme to do a one-year Teacher Training course at Wymondham College.

He taught at Shobnall School for 13 years, becoming deputy head. He later moved to Grange Street before becoming Head at Christ Church and William Hutson primary schools.

Alan pursued his musical interests through Burton Operatic Society from 1951 onwards, and took many principal roles.

He was a lifelong Methodist, and was married to Marie for 65 years. They had two children; Michael and Christine, who gave them four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



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April 15 to March 2016: MEMORIES FROM BGS OLD BOYS

B E Evans (Ted) (1947-52)

Ted continued to have swimming successes in 2015. He broke his own 100 metres long course record of the 31st. January, this time at Swansea on the 7th. March by 0.34 seconds to 2 mins 01.24 secs.

He also broke the British short course Record in the 50 metres breaststroke at Stafford on 21st. March, reducing it by 1.42 seconds from 53.93 secs. to 52.51 secs.

Ted's swimming career started in his first term at Grammar School in 1947, and recommenced in 1996 in Masters swimming. Bill Read, who taught swimming, must have had some influence on his 2015 successes!

He finished 2015 with three British Masters Records in the 80-84 years age group:

100m Breaststroke [long course]; 100m Breaststroke [short course]; 50m Breaststroke

Ted also won four British National long course age group titles and four ASA National age group short course titles during the year.

Richard Everett (1950-1955) writes

I left school at the end of the Winter Term in 1955, having successfully resat some O levels and joined the staff of National Provincial Bank. This was before the age of computers and just after the introduction of bookkeeping machines, although one was not allowed to use the recent invention of biros in the ledgers. In 1959 I was one of the last teenagers to be called up for National Service and contrary to expectations I was to serve with the Royal Army Pay Corps and was, after training, attached for the remainder of my service to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. This had quite an impact on the young Everett who to this day loves the music of Pipe Bands. I served in Cyprus and in Germany. Following demob I returned to banking at Burton Branch and two years later was moved to Watford followed by service in High Wycombe, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Caversham (Reading), Bury St Edmunds and Halstead. In 1993 the NatWest was keen to relieve itself of its most costly item of expenditure: its Management Team. I gladly accepted early retirement in 1994 at the age of 55.

Events in banking subsequently have proved that this was one of my wisest decisions! Amongst a wide range of interests are singing with the local Male Voice Choir, Philately (I was elected a member of the Royal Society in the early 1990s), collecting old postcards as well as cycling, walking and gardening.

My entire school career was spent at Bond Street and as ever there were favourite teachers as well as those who failed to inspire one in any shape at all. Among the former, and there were many, were Jack Adams, Whisky MacEwan, and Vic Roebuck, as well as Brab Smith and Ellick (Ernie) Ward. In the latter category was certainly Jake Hammond who had no patience with those who failed to grasp Latin immediately as many pupils in his classes will testify!

Mike Clements (1958-64) discovered a shield very similar to the blue and yellow crest used after the move to Winshill. It was in a half-timbered pub/restaurant in the old part of Southampton, in a building that was a court house in the 16th century. It is claimed that conspirators were tried there in front of the King.

Whilst Mike and his son were eating a meal on the gallery in the old court-room, amongst all the heraldic shields on the wall was one which struck him as almost a ringer for the Grammar school one, blue cross on yellow, etc . The Latin inscription (Jake Hammond eat your heart out) read something like “We served through adversity”.

26th Football Club (in 1974)

Howard Boss, currently living in the Netherlands, filled in his name for the Burton Mail, who printed this photo on Saturday 25 April 2015. The team at Shobnall Fields in January 1974 consisted of (back row) Walter Chadbourn (referee), Howard Boss, Mick Babb, Nigel Harlow(?), Godfrey Payne, John Staley, Phil Statham; (front row) Brian Huckerby, Jim Jenks, Neil Clarke, Geoff Vernon, Chris Dytham, Keith Olnier.

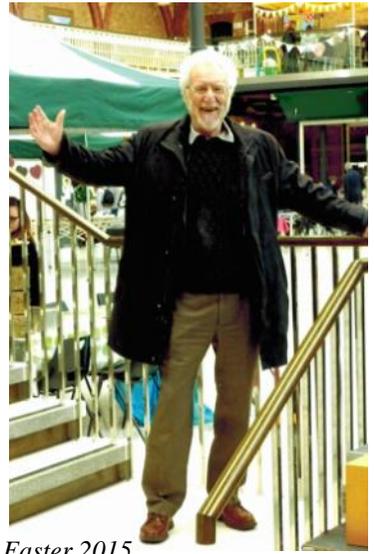


Keith Large (1961-66) reports: As a youngster I played for 26th FC Reserves, lower down the Burton League, with Ade Leese, John Stretton. Stuart McGarry and many more. As you may remember the teams were named after the 26th BGS Scout Troop, with Walter Chadbourn as manager. Walter was also a qualified referee for same leagues.

John Curtis (1945-50) lives in Ramsgate, so does not come to Burton very often. At Easter 2015, he returned for a family reunion, and to celebrate his 81st birthday and 51st wedding anniversary. He had dinner with two school friends — John Fellows and Tony Morris, who both looked well. They also got in touch with Alan Carter, who had recently moved from Torquay to Tutbury.



John provided a photo (left) of his 80th birthday and Golden Wedding celebrations, which took the form of a week-long party and exhibition of his paintings and prints in Ramsgate.



In Burton Market Hall, Easter 2015

Roger Newman (1957-64) provided this photo last year of a school trip to Jodrell Bank. Andrew Fawkes (1959-67) wishes he's had the opportunity to go, but has added some names for the BGS boys.



From the left: Robert Somekh, Paul Andrews, Paul Farnsworth, Martin G Smith. The tall guy is called Robinson, and came to the school in the 5th form. Alas, none of these people appears on the list of OBA members, so if you know them, please let them know we'd like to hear from them.

Welcome to New Members

Keith Reynolds (1970-75) is Currently working in Dubai as a Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management at Middlesex University Dubai Campus.

Bernard Johnson (1943-48) writes: “I was evacuated to Barton under Needwood when war was declared (from the married quarters in Aldershot). I then settled in Burton and was called up for National Service in 1950. After that, I joined the Marks and Spencer Training Scheme and managed stores across the country until I retired in 1988. I am married to Rita and we are both reasonably fit, considering!”

Richard Everett (1950-55) provided the news on p.12,

Lowe Golf Tournament – Friday 20th May 2016

The tournament will again be held at Branston Golf & Country Club, which is convenient for those attending the dinner in the evening.

Depending on numbers we will book an appropriate number of tee times commencing 11:00am.

As well as the main prize for Old Boys, there will be a separate award for guests. It is hoped that members' wives and High School Old Girls will wish to enter.

It has been suggested that members or member's guests who are not regular golfers but would like to try their hand, could (for a nominal fee) avail themselves of the driving range facilities and take part in a group lesson with one of Branston's excellent professionals (all equipment provided).

Those wishing to take part in the competition: contact Mr. Steve Wilcox on 01283 - 704373 to arrange Tee times and playing partners

We thank Steve and Branston Golf and Country Club for their help in organizing this event.

H J Wain writing to the Headmaster from the Front in 1917

This letter is from H.J.(Jack) Wain, (1907-11) who was serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in France in August 1917. It was sent R.T.Robinson, headmaster of Burton

Hoping to be on the SPREE at an early date

Thursday 30 Aug '17

My dear Mr. Robinson,

I was extremely pleased to receive your interesting & welcome letter. I had already accounted for your silence, as I know how extremely busy you must be, especially in the rush connected with the Cambridge Locals & the Term Exams. In addition you have had, practically single-handed, the formation and organization of the Cadet Corps to undertake, and from what I hear & from what I read in the local papers, it has been a remarkable success. No doubt the holiday was very opportune and I trust proved beneficial. As a matter of fact I'm doing the thing in style, "touring on the Continent," (at the Government's expense too!), and it's one perpetual holiday out here! Still a little rest in a peaceful country village would be acceptable, for one wouldn't have to rush out and remonstrate with a "Jack Johnson" for blowing in the side of one's shelter. It would be nice too, to have a long sleep in a comfortable bed, instead of gazing over No mans land all night, breakfasting about 6-0 am, and trying to "doss" for three hours or so, on the firestep, sometime during the morning. Still one gets accustomed to these things, and really misses them when they are unnecessary.

A propos of the calling up of various persons etc, I can give you one peculiar case. My cousin had his leg amputated at the hip, through a train accident, a few years ago. He has been called up three times, notwithstanding he is on Government work, and he was called up for Medical re-examination a few weeks ago. After the examination they kept his papers and said he would be notified in due course. Three weeks later he was "finally rejected". The ways of the army are many and intricate! Another year of war! Personally, when asked I give it about eighteen years yet (1935). As you know the Scots are reputed to be more or less gloomy, but when I start to talk about eighteen years, even the most pessimistic of them is beaten.



Well now for my own experiences. When I wrote you last I was on a Musketry course at a picturesque French village. I had a very good time there. Close by was a large town to which I procured frequent half-day passes. Unfortunately while there I developed a poisoned finger, caused by trench dirt, I fancy. I was walking down – one day a French lady stopped me, looking at my bandaged hand. “Pardon! M’sieur, blessé?” When I replied “Oui Madame” she said “Pauvre enfant, la guerre, c’est terrible, n’est-ce-pas?” !!

The officer in charge of our party was a rare specimen, a Scot with a sense of humour! The day we left, we started at 4-0 am to march six miles to the platoon in the early morning. The previous day has asked any man who was unable to march so far, to fall out and give his name to the N.C.O. After that he remarked “You fellow will start at 2.0 am and we will overtake you on the road.” Collapse of “peevers” (a Scots term for malingerers!) when we first arrived he came round to us and remarked “The Commandant here is an old soldier with a bad temper & a wooden leg here is a penny tin of button polish and a penny tin of Dubbin for your boots. Clean yourselves but don’t waste these things. In fact you had better return what is left.” As there were exactly forty of us, his remarks will be appreciated! Anyway we created a record for the school in scoring points & did very well. I was considerably handicapped, but I managed to come out second, so I did well.

On my return I had to “go sick”. For two months off & on I was kept busy with this finger. From a “gathering”, it developed into a septic finger, then it was I.C.T. (inflammation of the cellular tissues) & finally the doctor labelled it “Onychia” & sent me to hospital.



HJW in hospital dress at Stockport, 1917

BGS OBA Past Presidents

1921-22	AH Yeomans	1966-67	H.E.C.Weston
1922-23	F.Evershed	1967-68	W.F.Howarth
1923-24	W.Shelley	1968-69	W.T.Burman
1924-25	A.Slator	1969-70	F.W.Fawkes
1925-26	R. Samble	1970-71	W.H.Gillian
1926-27	W.P.Lowe	1971-72	R.L.Knight
1927-28	H.Leigh-Newton	1972-73	B.E.Warren
1928-29	J.H.Moir	1973-74	J.H.Mander
1929-30	C.F.Gothard	1974-75	N.A.Binns
1930-31	F.J.Manners	1975-76	D.G.Hardwick
1931-32	F.Newton-Husbands	1976-77	R.A.Clark
1932-33	J.H.Birch	1977-78	A.Fallon
1933-34	W.E.Briggs	1978-79	G.M.Hamilton
1934-35	J.D.Robertson	1979-80	A.T.Cole
1935-36	B.F.Sadle	1980-81	P.Minns
1936-37	F.J.Hodges	1981-82	J.A.Woolley
1937-38	Col.D.H.Mason	1982-83	R.Outhwaite
1938-39	R.T.Robinson	1983-89	G.T.Milnes
1939-40	B.C.Newbold	1989-90	H.E.Smith
1940-41	R.C.Sims	1990-91	E.A.Bailey
1941-42	J.B.Smith	1991-92	D.A.Sharatt
1942-43	F.T.Shelley	1992-93	B.Clements
1943-44	T.W.Parkin	1993-94	G.Starback
1944-45	P.J.Williams	1994-95	N.A.Tomkins
1945-46	E.J.Dallard	1995-96	T.A.Trigg
1946-47	H.J.Wain	1996-97	J.M.Illingworth
1947-48	G.W.Britton	1997-98	J.P.Hartley
1948-49	F.E.James	1998-99	R.Deacon
1949-50	B.L.Hubbard	1999-00	L.S.Dunkerly
1950-51	L.A.Haywood	2000-01	P.G.Booth
1951-52	R.P.Stevenson	2001-02	G.K.Rushton
1952-53	G.H.Cooper	2002-03	S.A.Neal
1953-54	L.E.Churchill	2003-04	J.S.Pickering
1954-55	J.D.Rowland	2004-05	R.J.Wain
1955-56	D.P.Haywood	2005-06	F.Toon
1956-57	J.F.Rose	2006-07	Rev. R.Gilbert
1957-58	W.R.Souster	2007-08	M. E. Watson
1958-59	F.C.Jenks	2008-09	G. P. Evans.
1959-60	H.H.Pitchford	2009-10	R.F.Andrews
1960-61	D.J.Grimsley	2010-11	D.J.Grimsley
1961-62	A.E.G.Hardwick	2011-12	K.B. Large
1962-63	A.C.Bowden	2012-13	R.F. Kerry
1963-64	R.H.Eggington	2013-14	M. Brown
1964-65	K.A.Stanyon	2014-15	G.S.Marshment
1965-66	D.M.Davies	2015-16	A.Gentles

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Annual General Meeting to be held on 20th May 2016

AGENDA

- Names of Old Boys who have passed away during the last twelve months.
Silence for one minute.
- Apologies and Minutes of the last AGM held 15th May 2015
- Finance Statement
- Welcome to new members & thanks for donations
- Steve Wilcox to be inducted as President
- Election of Officers:
(Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Membership Officer)
- Report from OBA representative on the Beyne Foundation, David Leese.
- Outgoing President Andrew Gentles talks of his year as President
- AOB

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2015

Income	2014	2015	Expenditure	2014	2015
Dining receipts/donations	£2663	£2285	Newsletter/postages	£453	£458
Golf entry	-	£40	Dining costs	£2006	£1740
			Engraving	£34	£60
			Miscellaneous	£51	£147
Total	£2663	£2325		£2544	£2405
Excess income over expenditure for year ending 31st December (£119) £80					
Balance at bank as at 31st December 2015				£2521	
Cash in hand				£98	
Total reserves				£2619	



2015 Lowe Golf Tournament



Handover from Graham Marshment to Andrew Gentles

Minutes of the AGM 15th May 2015

held at the Branston Golf & Country Club

1. President Graham Marshment welcomed Old Boys.
2. The President asked Secretary Bob Andrews to read the names of old boys who had passed away during the past twelve months.
3. The Secretary asked old boys to stand for a minutes silence.
4. The President then asked the Secretary to read the apologies, including from the newsletter editor and the Head of Abbot Beyne, Annabel Stoddart.
5. The President asked approval of the minutes of the AGM held 16th May 2014. Proposed and seconded, and passed unanimously.
6. The President asked for approval of the accounts. Proposed and seconded, and passed unanimously.
7. The President asked for votes on members of the committee. Martin Cooper agreed to serve as Secretary, and Steve Wilcox to continue as Treasurer. Eric Bodger will take over as Editor of the Newsletter.
8. These appointments were confirmed by the meeting.
9. Graham Marshment then gave a short speech on his time in office and thanked the committee for their support
10. Graham Marshment handed the chain of office of President to Andrew Gentles
11. The new President thanked Graham for his work and announced that Steve Wilcox will be his Vice President.
12. The President thanks Kevin Gallagher for his work on maintaining the Web Site
13. The President asked if there is any other business.
14. The President closed the meeting.



From the Editor:

This is the first time I've had to create the newsletter, having received a largely complete draft from Graham Marshment last year.

The greatest source of news is you, our fellow old-boys, so please keep it coming in. Anything you send to bgs@cicsplex.co.uk will be considered for next year's newsletter, space permitting.

Thank you to all who have made contributions and supplied photographs for this issue.

Many of the photos in this newsletter are in colour, and if you provide me with your email address, I can send you the colour PDF. You can have this in addition to the printed copy you get as a member of the Old Boys' Association, though it will save the Association money if you notify us that can do without a printed copy.

Our current President, Andrew Gentles, is the first to have been at the school through the transition from BGS to Abbot Beyne. This is an excellent precedent, and we all hope to see more members coming from his generation. This will keep our Association active for many decades to come, so please encourage your younger contemporaries to join.

John Hancock (1943-53) made me aware of the BGS Preparatory department, which he attended with John Illingworth. Do we have any other alumni of that establishment? It would be good to have your reminiscences.

As a brewer's son I was pleased to see that the former Bass Museum has been saved, and Burton now hosts the National Brewery Centre. I had experienced a certain *Schadenfreude* at the takeover of Coors by Molson, and delight at the spread of Marston's influence through my favourite breweries here in the south, such as Ringwood and Brakspear (even though all my local Marston's pubs were sold to Greene King).

Eric Bodger (1956-62)
e-mail: bgs@cicsplex.co.uk

BGS OBA Chronicle of Members;

The Association has a Chronicle of Members
 which is available by email or can be provided in printed format.

The AGM & Dinner to be held on the 20th May 2016

BRANSTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB – PAVILION

The schedule will be: **18:30 - 19:00 hrs** – Guests arrive .

19:00 hrs - AGM **19:45 hrs** – Guests called to Dinner

20:00 hrs – Grace, followed by Dinner

Menu:

Starter:

Oak Smoked salmon and asparagus tartlet
served with a sweet onion preserve

Main:

English sirloin of beef with homemade Yorkshire pudding
and a rich red wine gravy

Or: Vegetable Wellington (V)

Dessert:

Assiette of desserts to include:

Mini chocolate torte, Burnt lemon tart, Vanilla crème brûlée

Coffee and Dinner mints

21:30 hrs – Speeches

Toast to the OBA

with response from the President, Steve Wilcox





Prefects' blazers from Bond Street and Winhill