

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Founded 1921

Newsletter Number 44



Rugby “honours cap” from 1932



Published: March 2017
by the committee of the BGS Old Boys' Association



Letter from the President: *Steve Wilcox*

It has been my privilege to serve as your President this past year.

Unlike a recent and slightly more prominent President my term of office was relatively uneventful (although my proposal to build a wall around Winshill did cause a bit of a stir for a week or two!).

I hadn't been back to the old school for many years so I was delighted to be asked to represent the OBA by reading a poem at assembly on remembrance day. Apart from myself, a number of Old Boys were also in attendance and we were all made to feel very welcome at what is clearly a well run school.

We still have over 400 members in our association who can keep in touch via our newsletter and, for those who are able, by attending the AGM/Dinner.

Last year's event was a great success with a memorable speech by OB Judge David Brunning. This year we have, again, been fortunate in securing the services of an excellent speaker so I urge you to keep a space in your diaries for what promises to be a most enjoyable evening. I thank you for your support and would like to wish all the best to John Ash, your President elect.



Remembrance Day Service – Friday 11th November 2016

President Steve Wilcox read the poem by Robert Laurence Binyon – *For The Fallen*. The service was once again was extremely professionally and sensitively delivered by the head teacher, Annabel Stoddart.



Old Boys in attendance were: Richard Wain, Malcolm Watson, Graham Marshment, Martin Cooper, John Ash, Deryck Barker ,Andrew Gentles, Peter Appleby, David Leese, Peter Evanson, Keith Large, Bob Andrews, Steve Wilcox and Alastair Macvicar.

Letter from the President Elect: John Ash

My election to the position of your President for the coming year, I see as a privilege, and I am honoured to follow Steve's example.

I look forward to being part of the Officers team of the BGSOBA. However since becoming an Old Boy, with thirty years in the Merchant Navy, and many more years with our local Rowing Clubs, may we dispense with sinking Boats and Baling out. Apologies to Steve!

I look forward to the Association events in May at Branston, meeting everyone, and to my coming year as your President.

Officers of the Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association 2016-17

President.	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Vice President	Mr John Ash	1950-56
Hon Secretary	Mr Andrew Gentles	1972-79
Archivist	Mr RF Andrews	1952-58
Hon Treasurer	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Hon Sports (Golf) Secretary	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Newsletter Editor and BGS Database	email: bgs@cicsplex.co.uk Mr Eric Bodger	1956-62
Other Records :	email: 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 19h May 2017 - at the Pavilion, Branston.

Golf Tournament - Branston Golf & Country Club - Friday 19th May 2017

Guests are welcome at the Golf and at the Dinner

News from Abbot Beyne School

We began our term celebrating another great set of GCSE & A Level examination results. 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 29th November and it was wonderful to award students in subjects and also award their GCSE certificates – the culmination of 11 years of education.

National recognition of our exam success:

Hamza Ikhlāq had his success at GCSE recognised when he became a regional finalist for the British Education Award. This award recognises the value and importance of education and learning, and champions young people who achieve educational excellence. Hamza was nominated by Abbot Beyne who see him as a unique young man who has always stood out because of his determination.

Hamza said: "It was great just to be nominated but to be shortlisted is just incredible. I was asleep when I got the email and I almost didn't open it as it said, 'I am sorry to inform you so late' and I misread it thinking that it was bad news. I was just thrilled that all my hard work is paying off."

Although Hamza admits he isn't good at every subject, he challenges himself to be 'the best he can be' and wants to build a legacy. He said: "I always aimed to be in the top set and believe that GCSEs are the ticket to the next step in my career."



"I find sciences fascinating but I have always been most nervous about English; I think I must have driven my English teacher mad as it didn't come naturally to me and I submitted heaps of essays, but she went above and beyond to help me. I don't think anything beats that feeling you get when something is challenging and it suddenly clicks in your head."

Although Hamza dedicates a lot of time to his education, he insists he has a balance and spends his spare time volunteering at St Giles charity shop in Burton and a Tutbury care home.

Uniform update

We started September in our updated uniform. The Student Learning Council helped us to design our new blazers and students arrived in September looking really smart and definitely ready to learn.



European Day of Languages Competition

To celebrate the European Day of Languages and the diversity at Abbot Beyne, the MFL Department ran a poetry competition to bring or write a poem in the students' mother tongue.

Year 9 Performance Day

As part of the Performance Faculty's Deep Learning Day for Year 9 students, we welcomed Tofail Ahmed into school to deliver workshop sessions on Indian Music. Year 9 students were split into 5 groups for the day, each getting a 50 minute session for the music workshop. The practical workshop gave them the opportunity to see and play a real Indian instrument as well as perform within the style under the guidance of a professional musician. In the final 50 minutes of the day, the whole year group came together in the hall to share some of the music work they had each been doing throughout the day.

The Corps of Army Music workshop

On Tuesday 4th October, Mrs Beardsley & Mr Robinson took a group of Abbot Beyne students to The Landau Forte Academy QEMS in Tamworth to take part in a workshop with the Band of the Queen's Division, part of the Corps of Army musicians. The day was a fantastic opportunity to perform within a large ensemble joining with local schools to perform with the Army musicians.

Year 8 visit to the National Memorial Arboretum

On the 11th October Year 8 students travelled along the A38 to The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. The Arboretum is a national centre where members of the public can visit numerous memorials in honour of the members of the armed forces that have died in service to their country.

The trip was organised by The English Department to supplement the students' knowledge of their current topic of 'Conflict'. Students have been reading Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful* as part of their studies and the Arboretum contains many memorials that related to the book, which is set during World War One.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year Abbot Beyne students have been offered the fantastic opportunity to participate in the DofE Awards. Young people benefit endlessly from taking part in its many activities from developing confidence and gaining new found skills to helping and inspiring others, leading to lasting friendships and taking part in such a scheme can also help in the future with college, university and job applications.

Taking part in the DofE Awards requires a special licence to ensure that we meet specific standards and students will be supported by a DofE Leader who offers advice and encouragement. Everyone involved is focused on helping the students to have great experiences that can shape their futures.

HOUSE CHARITY WEEK

This half term has seen our 6th Form House & Sports Captains extremely busy organising two House Assemblies, House Sports Week, House Literacy Week, a Bake Sale and a Christmas Disco for our KS3 students.

We are also pleased to announce that during the bake sale a staggering £172.22 was raised for The Multiple Sclerosis Society, which is the chosen charity for our Hercules House.

We are really proud of all they have achieved this half term. Well done!!



Year 13 House Captains Lauren Crew & Niamh Whetton hand over their fundraising cheque to Mr David Leese, one of our School Governors (and an Old Boy)

Charity fundraising

On Thursday 17th September, staff and students donned their jeans and casual clothes and a whopping £624 was raised for Jeans for Genes. The McMillan Coffee Morning took place 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.

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.



Annabel Stoddart
Headteacher
March 2017

The beginnings of the BGS Old Boys' Association

Following on from last year's article about the role of H.J. (Jack) Wain (1907-11) in setting up the Association, his granddaughter Gillian sent the photo below, taken 110 years ago when Jack started at Burton Grammar School.



In 1911, Jack Wain left Burton Grammar School in Bond Street and took up employment with brewers Worthington and Company Limited. Three years later in 1914 he, together with ex-pupils 'Chips' Smedley and Freddie Jefferson, went back to see the Headmaster, Mr Robinson, with the idea of forming an Old Boys Association. The ideas were met with some enthusiasm but the outbreak of World War I caused any plans to be postponed.

After the war, Mr Smedley convened a new meeting but many, including Jack, had not yet been demobilised so the response was poor.

At the end of 1920, Mr R.T. Robinson was still headmaster, and remained enthusiastic that an Old Boys Association be formed, principally to remember the large number of ex-pupils that had fallen in the war. He arranged an informal meeting, which led to the official foundation of the Association in 1921. Mr Frank Evershed was elected as its first Chairman, Mr A.H. Yeomans as President and Jack (Mr H.J. Wain) was installed as Honorary Secretary.

Jack served as President in 1946. His son Richard (1944-50) remains active in the Association, and was President in 2004.

[the editor is indebted to Kevin Gallagher's BGS web-site for some of the above information].

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

John Benjamin Rabbets (1939-47) Died 19 November 2014

John was at Burton Grammar during the Second World War, and was a prefect in the sixth form and an active member of the Air Scouts. Following national service in the Royal Navy, he pursued a career in art education, retiring as a principal lecturer in graphic art and design from Manchester Polytechnic (now Manchester Metropolitan University) in 1982.

He was married to Pat, a fellow artist, from 1957 to her death in 2005. They had two children: Isabel, who pre-deceased him in 2007, and Tim, who survives him.

Pat and John retired to Goodmanham, East Yorkshire in 1982, where John was able to pursue his passion for art and aviation. Throughout his career he illustrated or authored several aviation books on topics including US Second World War military aircraft and Barnes Wallis. He died in November 2014 following a period of ill health.

Tim Rabbets

Bob Garnham (1946 – 52) Died 16 September 2016

Pauline Garnham (nee Kennard) wrote from Cape Town to with the sad news that Bob had been ill for some time, and died surrounded by family and friends in South Africa. Bob was well known in the swimming and Water Polo fraternity.

His contemporary Derrick Pounds commented that Bob was a champion swimmer, whose speciality was the breast stroke. Bob's aunt taught Derrick at Newton Solney primary school, and lived to be 103.

Philip Bond (1945-52) Died 17th January 2017

Philip was an actor best known for his portrayal of Albert Frazer in The Onedin Line on TV in the 70's. He was also in Dr Who in the early 60's. He died suddenly while on holiday in Madeira aged 82.

Full obituaries have been published in most newspapers, in more detail than can be provided here.

The OBA extends its sympathies to Philip's children, Samantha, Abigail and Matthew.



We are seeking further information about John Waters, (1931-36) whose death was reported in June 2016.

Information would also be appreciated on K F Crocker (1951-57)

Chris Twigg (1968-73) Died 16 January 2017

It was with shock that we learnt of the untimely death of Chris Twigg, who suffered a fatal heart attack at just 59. He leaves wife Lynne and daughter Vanessa, who described him as a kind, compassionate and absolutely hilarious' dad, who has 'left a huge hole in our lives'.

The day before he died, Chris had been planning a trip with his family on Route 66 to celebrate his 60th birthday .

Chris could turn his hand to a wide range of skills. He had been a motorcycle racer, a bouncer, an engineer, a poet, a garage owner, a lorry driver, a radio DJ and a musician, to name just a few. He had recently turned his hand to plastering.



He was an active supporter of the Burton Hospital League of Friends, including organising discos and motorcycle ride-outs, raising thousands for the hospital and cancer charities. This was despite concerns about the death of his father Francis in 2002. The coroner returned a verdict of accidental death, noting that Queens hospital had not been monitoring Francis's white blood cell count during a course of chemotherapy.

Twigg in the studio of Phoenix Hospital radio.
His 20 years there included ten as manager.

He retired from racing with the British Superbikes championship after crushing both feet in a major accident in 1999, but still remained a big figure on the biking scene, as a mentor, lorry driver and expert general helper.

Over 500 mourners turned up for his funeral on February 3rd, reflecting his wide circle of friends and colleagues. Dozens of bikes turned up to give Twigg a ride-out, as his coffin was brought in, with his daughter riding pillion on a Suzuki Hayabusa. The procession also included a truck from the Yamaha TAG Racing team, with whom Twigg had most recently worked. The bikers rode in convoy to the crematorium from Twigg's home, in Stanton Road.

The Biology Laboratory

This was probably taken around 1957, when Joey (Ray Crowther, far left) would have been in his mid-30s. Graham Marshment is next to him.



How did the pupils keep their hair so amazingly neat?

Joey was active in curriculum development (with the Joint Matriculation Board and Birmingham University), and delivered a 2-year O-level course as well as A-level. He was keen to bring the newest thinking to what he taught, so those of us studying had early intimations of the emerging work on genetics and molecular biology. It didn't make for top marks in O-level, but taught skills in testing speculative thoughts that inspired some of us.

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.

A cap from the past

Last May, our then president, Andrew Gentles, got a call out of the blue from the manager of a hospice charity shop in Halifax. She had been given this wonderful 'rugby honors' cap with the Burton crest and a metal tassel, dated 1930-32. She took the trouble to hunt down its provenance, eventually doing so with the help the Burton Grammar web-site.



She sent us photographs of it to share at our next AGM, but Andrew was able to go one better, getting the agreement of the AGM to make a £100 donation to the Hospice so we can add it to our archives.

The motto is “Doctrina vim promovet insitam” — instruction increases the innate power [of the mind] a quotation from Horace. The crest was changed for a genuine coat of arms when Herbert Pitchford was headmaster, late in the School’s time in Bond Street. Ironically, Pitchford was always known as Horace.

April 16 to March 2017: MEMORIES FROM BGS OLD BOYS

Graham Marshment (1957-62) writes

I've taken a back seat now with the OBA, but am happy to continue my contribution as minder of the records and am remaining a member of the Committee. Eric Bodger is taking over the membership database: updates please to bgs@cicsplex.co.uk

Our family are currently enjoying our first grandson, Toby Seth (18 months old) and he is a joy to us all.



I also enjoyed going solo in my microlight on St Patrick's day last March (2016) and I'm currently working for my GFT (General Flying Exam) to finally qualify for my wings.

After 50 years of youth work, the charity I started years ago has now reached its 50th year (Burton Venture Trust) and the Trustees have decided that at my age (71) it might be better to wind it down, as it appears that nobody wants to take it on. See: burtonventuretrust.co.uk

We live in changed times and I suspect we had the better days when you look at the way things are going!

Sadly, I will not be at the AGM in May because I will be abroad but I hope it is yet another successful evening at Branston.

David Ingham` (1958-1962) writes

My wife and I are still living in the Surrey Hills where we have lived for nearly 40 years. However, we are increasingly aware of the need to downsize.

After leaving school I became articled in a local firm of solicitors in Burton. Most of my career as a solicitor was spent working in London as a Government lawyer. In my retirement I am still drafting secondary legislation for the Department for Transport. I am also secretary to my local Probus Club (for retired professional & business folk), so the two keep me very busy.

My brother-in-law the Revd. Raymond Gilbert, a Past President of the OBA, still lives near Dover in Kent. Although no longer able to travel to Burton to attend BGSOBA events, he maintains a close interest in the Association ,and I report back to him after attending each annual reunion dinner.

John Fellows `(1943-1948) wrote to Graham Marshment

Many thanks for your E mail. It would be a pleasure to come to the annual reunion and dinner [in 2016] but unfortunately I cannot make it, please accept my apologies. I did look at the list of those attending with great interest, including four names even older than me who I remember, in particular Ken Winson my old Drake Rugby captain and Cliff Rose the 1948 Athletics *Victor Ludorum*. I still have the sports day programme, I didn't do too badly in Class 2. That was the year Drake, largely because of the efforts of captain Spike Finch, cleaned up the points and won by a huge margin with over 700 points.

I enjoy very much news from the association and manage to get back to visit relatives and friends about once a year. I also keep in touch with John Curtis, Ramsgate, Tony Morris , .Stanton and Alan Carter now back at Tutbury. I also had the pleasure of looking up Roger Winfield at Easter at his home at Castle Donington on my way to Ashby after some twenty years. All of us were at school in the 1940's and all of us are grateful for it.

I live near the sea near Redcar, am ex Round Table and a past president of the Rotary Club of Redcar, and was very happily married to Sylvia for almost 59 years until 2014, with children in Spain, Newcastle and Yorkshire. It's always a pleasure to come back to Burton.

Derrick Pounds (1945-51)

Derrick has developed an interest in cattle-breeding, as usually comes over from Quebec in April to work on the Allowdale Herefords farm in Ireland — not bad for an 81½ year old retired mechanical engineer!

He grew up, with parents and sisters, on the Ratcliff estate in Newton Solney where his Dad was gamekeeper.

After Burton Grammar School, he served a six-year Engineering Apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce, Derby; studying on day and evening courses at Derby Technical College.

He emigrated to Canada in 1957, working for Rolls-Royce in Canada and the USA, as their technical representative during the overhaul of aircraft engines.

In 1965 he joined the Pulp and Paper Industry, spending 25 years as projects engineer, manager and director of several large projects, before 7 years working for Environment Canada during the implementation of effluent regulations at 110 pulp and paper mills.

His interest in environmental matters has continued, with a leading role in the Beaconsfield Citizens' Sound Wall committee, which aims to limit noise pollution from Highway 20 through the town – it will be interesting to see if his experience could benefit some of us in the UK.

Derrick writes: We are again harvesting an abundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, peppers etc. from our garden where we have lived over 53 years. I still ride my bicycle to the shops. I maintain two Austin-Healeys (1955, 1961) and drive them on dry days. I've been sailing in the same 16' dingy several miles out from Beaconsfield Yacht Club for over 40 years, and in April again spent 2 weeks on a working 'stint' at farms
www.allowdale.com

I have recently compiled a book about my Dad, Walter Pounds M.M, a WW 1 & 2 veteran, including transcripts of his letters home. *Doing our Bit for the Country* is published by Amazon ISBN 978-1490312194.

Welcome to New Members

This section is sadly empty this year, as the editor had not been notified of any new members at the time of going to press.

The youngest BGS alumni are only in their early fifties, so there should be scope to recruit them to the Association. Please invite any Old Boys you know to join you at the dinner on 19 May, and there might be a good collection of names to insert here next year.

Lowe Golf Tournament – Friday 19th May 2017

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.

Those wishing to take part in the competition: contact Mr. Steve Wilcox on (01283) 704 373 to arrange Tee times and playing partners



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

Rolleston Old Boy honoured at Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

In September 2016 Tony Topliss organized a ceremony in Laventie for a his great uncle, Corporal Arthur Topliss, who had been killed on patrol during the battle of the Somme. Arthur's friend, Sgt James Cowie, was killed in the same attack on September 5th.

Tony writes: My son Duncan and I first visited the grave in May 2006 whilst en route to a classic car show at Cerny south of Paris, and we have been back quite a few times since. I believe that Arthur's younger brother visited the grave during the first war and provided a photo of the first cross. Other family members have visited since.

I wanted to commemorate the centenary of Arthur's death and whilst on a classic car meet with a French friend, Dominick Goemaere, arranged with the mayor of Laventie to meet at the cemetery on the 5th September.

I had produced a service sheet which I sent to the mayor via Dominick. We provided CDs of the Last Post, Reveille and the British and French national Anthems. After lunch with Dominick, we arrived at the cemetery just after 2pm and were surprised to be met with many dignitaries and two standard bearers. The mayor of Laventie presented me with a medallion of the town and the deputy mayor of La Gorgue (pronounced gorga) also gave us some gifts. The President and Vice-President of Des Anciens Combatants Association of both townships were also in attendance – both Laventie and La Gorgue were there because the cemetery lies alongside the narrow road between the two townships. The mayor of Laventie said they had their own CDs with an amplifier, but in the end we had to use mine. The short service was quite moving and my wife Margaret laid some red roses on both graves and Dominick placed a remembrance cross on each also. My son Duncan wore replacement WW1 medals for Arthur and I wore my own father's WW2 medals. Duncan and I then placed a small amount of English soil on each grave – with the permission of the mayor. Another remembrance cross was on Arthur's grave, inscribed 'from your sister Mary's family and grandson'.



On our return to UK I thought about the inscription on the other cross, and realised that 'Mary' was Arthur's eldest sister Mary Ellen, known by everyone as 'Polly', the name I remember her by. Polly had a daughter Mary who is still alive today at 102, and lives with one of her sons. She still does her own cooking and has recently returned from a holiday in Pembrokeshire with some family members. Mary can remember as a two-year old being picked up by this man in khaki and thinking what a strange suit. I will be visiting her soon together with her nephew Ralph who placed the cross at the grave.

On Sunday 11 September, Margaret and I were invited Rolleston to visit Anthea, the widow of Arthur's nephew Duncan, to hear a single church rung 100 times for the centenary followed by a muffled peal of bells. During the evening service conducted by the Reverend Ian Whitehead, I presented the church with one of the ceramic poppies bought from those on display at the Tower of London. This presentation was not only for Arthur, but also for those other village members that fell in the first war. Incidentally there is in the church a frame containing photos of all those lost in the Great War which I believe is something of a rarity – unfortunately this is away for refurbishment at the moment.



The 'death penny' as it is sometimes referred to is in the custody of one of Polly's granddaughters and Arthur's medals and bible are in the custody of another of his great nephews.

I would like to thank Anthea and her late husband Duncan for supplying a lot of this information and also David Baynham of the Warwick museum for his help with access to the Royal Warwickshire War Diaries.

Arthur Topliss was born in Rolleston-on-Dove 28th April 1896 and was educated at the school in Rolleston and then went on to Burton grammar school where he was said to have quite a good musical talent. After Burton he went on to Saltley (Teacher training) College in Birmingham, where he enlisted in the local branch of the Territorial Army – Royal Warwickshire – rising to the rank of sergeant.

On the decimation of the regiment in France, Arthur joined the regular army as a corporal, and was sent to the front arriving at Battalion HQ at Laventie with another NCO, Sergeant James Duncan Cowie on 14th August 1916. On the evening of 5th September 1916 'A' Company 2/8th Warwick's went on evening patrol under the command of 2nd Lieutenant Chepple between 10 - 11pm. The patrol came under machine gun fire and the two NCOs were killed and the 2nd Lieutenant was injured. Corporal Arthur Topliss and Sergeant James D Cowie are buried side by side in the Military Cemetery at Laventie.

BGS OBA Past Presidents

1921-22	AH Yeomans	1967-68	W.F.Howarth
1922-23	F.Evershed	1968-69	W.T.Burman
1923-24	W.Shelley	1969-70	F.W.Fawkes
1924-25	A.Slator	1970-71	W.H.Gillian
1925-26	R. Samble	1971-72	R.L.Knight
1926-27	W.P.Lowe	1972-73	B.E.Warren
1927-28	H.Leigh-Newton	1973-74	J.H.Mander
1928-29	J.H.Moir	1974-75	N.A.Binns
1929-30	C.F.Gothard	1975-76	D.G.Hardwick
1930-31	F.J.Manners	1976-77	R.A.Clark
1931-32	F.Newton-Husbands	1977-78	A.Fallon
1932-33	J.H.Birch	1978-79	G.M.Hamilton
1933-34	W.E.Briggs	1979-80	A.T.Cole
1934-35	J.D.Robertson	1980-81	P.Minns
1935-36	B.F.Sadle	1981-82	J.A.Woolley
1936-37	F.J.Hodges	1982-83	R.Outhwaite
1937-38	Col.D.H.Mason	1983-89	G.T.Milnes
1938-39	R.T.Robinson	1989-90	H.E.Smith
1939-40	B.C.Newbold	1990-91	E.A.Bailey
1940-41	R.C.Sims	1991-92	D.A.Sharatt
1941-42	J.B.Smith	1992-93	B.Clements
1942-43	F.T.Shelley	1993-94	G.Starbuck
1943-44	T.W.Parkin	1994-95	N.A.Tomkins
1944-45	P.J.Williams	1995-96	T.A.Trigg
1945-46	E.J.Dallard	1996-97	J.M.Illingworth
1946-47	H.J.Wain	1997-98	J.P.Hartley
1947-48	G.W.Britton	1998-99	R.Deacon
1948-49	F.E.James	1999-00	L.S.Dunkerly
1949-50	B.L.Hubbard	2000-01	P.G.Booth
1950-51	L.A.Haywood	2001-02	G.K.Rushton
1951-52	R.P.Stevenson	2002-03	S.A.Neal
1952-53	G.H.Cooper	2003-04	J.S.Pickering
1953-54	L.E.Churchill	2004-05	R.J.Wain
1954-55	J.D.Rowland	2005-06	F.Toon
1955-56	D.P.Haywood	2006-07	Rev. R.Gilbert
1956-57	J.F.Rose	2007-08	M. E. Watson
1957-58	W.R.Souster	2008-09	G. P. Evans.
1958-59	F.C.Jenks	2009-10	R.F.Andrews
1959-60	H.H.Pitchford	2010-11	D.J.Grimsley
1960-61	D.J.Grimsley	2011-12	K.B. Large
1961-62	A.E.G.Hardwick	2012-13	R.F. Kerry
1962-63	A.C.Bowden	2013-14	M. Brown
1963-64	R.H.Eggington	2014-15	G.S. Marshment
1964-65	K.A.Stanyon	2015-16	A. Gentles
1965-66	D.M.Davies	2016-17	S Wilcox
1966-67	H.E.C.Weston		

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Annual General Meeting to be held on 19th May 2017

AGENDA

- Introduction and Apologies
- Names of Old Boys who have passed away during the last twelve months.
Silence for one minute.
- Minutes of the last AGM held 20h May 2016
- Treasurer's report
- Welcome to new members and thanks for donations
- Outgoing President's remarks
 - Future of Old Boys' Association: Committee recommendations
 - President's term of office
- John Ash to be inducted as President
- Election of Vice-president and Officers. Nominees are:
Secretary, Andrew Gentles; Treasurer, Steve Wilcox; Newsletter Editor, Eric Bodger. For co-option: Keith Large, Graham Marshment
- Report from OBA representative on the Beyne Foundation, David Leese.
- AOB

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2016

Income	2015	2016	Expenditure	2015	2016
Dining receipts/donations	£2285	£1968	Newsletter/postages	£458	£407
Golf entry	£40	£0	Dining costs	£1740	£1534
			Engraving	£60	£47
			Miscellaneous	£147	£200
Total	£2325	£1968		£2405	£2188
Total Reserves as at 31st December 2015				£2619	
Excess income over expenditure for year ending 31 December				£80	(£220)
Balance at bank as at 31 December 2016				£2301	
Cash in hand				£98	
Total reserves at 31 December 2016				£2399	

Minutes of the AGM 20th May 2016 held at the Branston Golf & Country Club

1. President Andrew Gentles welcomed Old Boys.
2. The President then asked the Secretary to read the apologies, including from David Mortlock and the Head of Abbot Beyne, Annabel Stoddart.
3. A minute's silence was observed after a roll-call of old boys who had sadly passed away during the past twelve months.
4. The President asked approval of the minutes of the AGM held 15th May 2015. Proposed and seconded, and passed unanimously.
5. The Treasurer, Steve Wilcox, circulated the Annual Income & Expenditure Statement for the year to 31st December 2015. He reported that the Association was in a strong financial position and the reserves often topped up as a result of generous donations received from former Old Boys. He asked that the accounts be adopted – proposed, seconded and carried *nem con*.
6. Beyne Foundation Report, presented by David Leese, Old Boys representative. Funds have continued to be distributed to participating schools and current assets were being maintained satisfactorily. He passed on his thanks and appreciation to the President who had served on his Charity Committee during his year as Mayor, when collectively they raised over £20,000 for his nominated charities.



Handover from Andrew Gentles to Steve Wilcox

**Andrew Gentles, Steve Wilcox
and David Brunning raise their
caps to the Association**



7. The outgoing President extended his personal thanks to his Committee for their support during his term of office along with the co-opted members, Eric Bodger for publishing the newsletter and Kevin Gallagher for maintaining the website. During his Presidency, he had met with Annabel Stoddart, Headmistress of The Abbot Beyne School, to better understand the role the Association could play in assisting the school to achieve its objectives. He attended the Annual Remembrance Service at the school along with a number of fellow members. This, for him, was probably the highlight of the year – a very moving experience. The meeting agreed to his proposal to acquire a school cap dated 1930-1932 which had been donated to Overgate Hospice based in Halifax. The Association will make a donation to them of £100 to purchase the cap and add it to the archive which is stored at Burton Abbey. The President concluded his report by thanking the Old Boys for the honour of being their President and handed over the chair of office to Steve Wilcox.
8. Incoming President Steve Wilcox extended his thanks to Andrew for the work he had done during the year and in representing the Association. He expressed his personal concerns as to the immediate future of the Association given the advancing years of the membership. He noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the interest of the members and to recruit new members. Attendance at the AGM & Dinner was now, in fact, under-pinned by guests and visitors as was the annual golf competition. After discussion, it was agreed that the AGM & Dinner would be repeated again in 2017 and the Committee was asked to report back and submit recommendations, to the membership, as to the future of the Association at that meeting.
9. Election of Officers: the following were elected *en bloc*:

Vice President	John Ash
Secretary	Andrew Gentles
Treasurer	Steve Wilcox
Co-opted Members	Keith Large; Graham Marshment, and Eric Bodger
10. There being no further business, the President closed the meeting and the members convened for Dinner where they were entertained by their guest speaker, Burtonian and former pupil, His Honour Judge David Brunning, with a truly inspirational and humorous speech.

From the Editor:

I should like to thank all who have contributed material to this newsletter, and in particular to Graham Marshment, who has provided his wisdom and experience as former editor. Graham has now handed over the membership database to me, so please send any address changes or other updates to me at bgs@cicsplex.co.uk

It's good that we have over 400 members, but this represents only a small proportion of the alumni of the school. Our membership is about 10% among the 1600 pupils who started the school between 1958 and the change to Abbot Beyne, so there are plenty of potential new members if we could get to them. The committee has tried very hard to bring in more members, but so far with little success. This causes real concern about the long-term future of the Association.

Those who come to the annual dinner know what a delightful event that is, with excellent food as well as the opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen for years. So please try to persuade your friends to join you at the dinner. I'll be happy to email this package to anyone you nominate, and to encourage them to join the Association before it is too late.

There are two anniversaries coming up: 2020 is 500 years after the school was spun off from Burton Abbey by Abbot Beyne; and is also the 100th year of our Association, which was established in 1921. I hope these events can be used to recruit new members to assure the future of the Association.

Our after-dinner speaker this year will be Admiral Sir Trevor Soar KCB OBE, former Commander-in-Chief Fleet in the Royal Navy. Sir Trevor attended Loughborough Grammar School, joining the Navy in 1975 and attending Dartmouth (Britannia Royal Naval College). He commanded submarines from 1987-94, the frigate *HMS Chatham* from 1997 to 1998, and the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible* from 2002-04. He received a knighthood in the 2009 New Years honours, and later that year was promoted to Admiral, and made Commander-in-Chief Fleet and Allied Maritime Component Commander, Northwood.

Since retiring from the Royal Navy, Sir Trevor has worked in private industry, and has given talks on leadership, including to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Eric Bodger (1956-62)

BGS OBA Chronicle of Members;

The Association has a Chronicle of Members

which is available by email or can be provided in printed format.

Please ask for a copy if you wish to try and contact fellow Old Boys.

The AGM & Dinner to be held on the 19th May 2017

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:

Smoked salmon and crayfish timbale, cucumber galette
and beetroot salad

Main:

Slow braised Staffordshire beef in Burton Ale,
champ mash, glazed root vegetables

Or: Covent Garden Charlotte (medley of mixed, ribboned vegetables) (V)

Dessert:

Assiette of desserts to include:

Chocolate torte, Brandy snap basket with strawberries and cream,
Vanilla crème brûlée

Coffee and Dinner mints

21:30 hrs – Speeches

Toast to the OBA
with response from the President, John Ash





First-years ready for Games in 1959

Posted by Ian Haynes on the Burton Grammar School Facebook Group

Note that the pupils behind are wearing their caps



The first cross on Arthur Topliss's grave, probably at a temporary interment in Epehy Wood Cemetery (see p.16)