

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Founded 1921

Newsletter Number 46



Published: March 2019
by the committee of the BGS Old Boys' Association



Letter from the President

All “Old Boys” were shocked to hear of the death of our President, John Ash during his year of office. His funeral was on 12th April 2018 at St. Peter’s church in Stapenhill, and a number of members of our association were present. I was asked to take on the role of President until the 2018 AGM and dinner.

At the beginning of the 2018AGM we held a minutes silence in his memory, then two of his close friends gave us a synopsis of his interesting life and career.

At this AGM the committee informed the members that it proposed to dissolve the OBA in 2020. A final meeting to celebrate this occasion and two important historical dates of the association namely the foundation of the Burton Grammar School 500years ago and the introduction of the Old Boys Association 100 years ago.

The 2020 gathering will be a more informal affair of which details will follow in the Sep/Oct newsletter. It was also agreed that because of the dissolution of our association, no Vice President would be elected, and all the officers should continue until 2020.

The 2018 AGM and dinner were again a successful gathering although the number of Old Boys does reduce each year. The invitations for the 2019 AGM and dinner to be held on Friday, 24th May 2019 are included with this Newsletter, and I hope we can have a good response this year.

If you are planning to attend and pay by cheque, the treasurer requests that you write the full title on the cheque, Burton Grammar School Old Boys Association and NOT BGSOPA as this seems to confuse the software at the bank!

Following the success of the afternoon visit to Marston’s Brewery before last Years AGM and dinner, the committee have organised a visit to The National Brewery Centre in Burton upon Trent at 2.00pm on Friday 24th May. The tour will cost £10 per head which includes a tasting.

My first official function took place on Friday 9th November 2018 at the Abbot Beyne School Remembrance Service where I was asked to read a war poem to the school assembly. The school held a very moving service which the pupils seemed to really appreciate. I was also pleased to meet many of the older pupils along with 15 Old Boys who represented our association.

During the year the committee also addressed the issue of all the BGSOPA items of interest and where to store them after 2020. Discussions with Robert Andrews who is also the archivist for the Burton Club who may be able to assist us so that they are not lost to interested people in the future.

I would like to finish this report by thanking all the committee members for their support during the past year and hope to meet many of you at the forthcoming AGM and dinner.



Remembrance Day Service – Friday 9th November 2018

Twelve Old Boys attended the Remembrance service. As usual, it was very professionally and sensitively delivered by the head teacher, Annabel Stoddart, seen here with representatives of the Association.



Old Boys in attendance were: John Taylor (president), Graham Marshment (Secretary), Bob Andrews, Peter Evanson, Richard Wain, Keith Large, Peter Appleby, Gerald Wright, Deryck Barker, Malcolm Watson, Alastair MacVicar and John Green. Andrew Gentles, Bob James, Eric Bodger, Neal Tomlinson, Roger Deacon and Steve Wilcox sent apologies.

Officers of the Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association 2018-19

President	Mr John Taylor	1950-55
Hon Secretary	Mr Graham Marshment	1957-62
Archivist	Mr RF Andrews	1952-58
Hon Treasurer	Mr S Wilcox	1963-68
Newsletter Editor and BGS Database	Mr Eric Bodger	1956-62
	email: bgs@cicsplex.co.uk	
Hon Membership Officer	Mr KB Large	1967-72

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

Prof Eric M Shooter FRS 1934-42 Died 21 March 2018, aged 93

Eric Shooter was one of a trio of high-flying nonagenarian Old Boys, with Sir Oscar DeVille and Bert Young (former chairman of SQL Systems).

Shooter was internationally acclaimed for his work on the structure and mechanisms of neurotrophins, the proteins that keep nerve cells alive. He was the first robustly to characterize the neurotrophin known as nerve growth factor, which plays a key role in regenerating lost or damaged nerve cells. The discovery could someday make it possible to regrow nerves for those who have suffered spinal cord injuries, or to reverse the nerve degeneration that leads to conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.



After BGS, Shooter attended Cambridge University, where he read chemistry, earning a bachelor's degree in 1945 and a PhD in 1949.

He went to the United States that year with his wife, Elaine, for a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "We arrived in New York with \$10 each in our pockets," the maximum amount the British government would allow its citizens to export at that time, Shooter said in a 2002 interview. "You can do these things when you're 24."

At Madison, Shooter immersed himself in protein chemistry, imbibing techniques for separating large proteins. A year later, he returned to the United Kingdom to work in a British non-profit and then as a lecturer in biochemistry at University College London. There, he made important discoveries about the biochemical genetics of haemoglobin.

In 1961, he was selected as a U.S. Public Health Service International Fellow with the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford's School of Medicine. He was appointed associate professor of genetics in 1963 and, in 1968, promoted to full professor of biochemistry and of genetics. Between 1972 and 1982, he chaired the school's doctoral program in neurosciences. In 1975, he became the founding chair of the Department of Neurobiology, a position he held through 1987. Stanford honoured him as Emeritus Professor in his retirement. See med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2018/03/eric-shooter-founding-chair-of-department-of-neurobiology-dies.html

David John Burns (1951-58) Died 11 October 2018

David died on 11th October after a long struggle with ill health. After leaving school he worked in the laboratories at Pirelli in Burton. In 1968 he moved to Fort Dunlop in Birmingham and then in 1971 to Dunlop Textiles in Rochdale where he progressed to Technical Director.

He leaves a wife, 2 grown up sons and 4 grandchildren.

Chris Shepard (1944–51; teacher from 1960) died 30 Nov 2018

Chris is remembered with affection by many whom he taught English in the 1960s, and by the customers of his bookshop (Needwood Books in New Street).

Graham Marshment summed up the feelings of many in his eulogy, given at the funeral on 17 Dec 2018 at St Paul's church.

"I've been asked to speak a eulogy about Christopher Raymond Shepard. I'm humbled and happy to do just that, but I can mainly only talk about Chris the teacher and very occasionally as someone with whom I shared a mutual pint and some exchanges through the BGS Old Boys.

I think it was Bertrand Russell who said that, "The lasting value of education was what is remembered after everything else had been forgotten". Well, that works for me. Chris left me with many things and many teachings never to be forgotten.

Chris was born in 1934 and grew up in his native Barton-Under-Needwood. His father died when he was 9 years of age. From there he went to the Grammar School at the early age of 10, no doubt due to his obvious intelligence. He went on to Wolverhampton University and as a student. During that time, he often enjoyed holiday jobs delivering the post around the Yoxall and Barton area.



Before starting to write this eulogy, I circulated the Grammar School Old Boys for anecdotes and comments and received this very pertinent one from John Sharpe. "The trouble in finding a 'memorable moment' or witty epithet about Chris is that he just that he wasn't that kind of guy. He rarely if ever raised his voice. He did not try and impress us with his deep knowledge of literature. He never used his position to try and influence our political education despite his life-long dedication to the Labour Party. Chris did none of these. Chris was a teacher and that's what he did, he taught us how to understand literature, how to explore literature and use it to expand our comprehension of our own existence. He also taught us how to use language as a tool to pass on this knowledge to others. Chris did his job and no one ever did it better."

Chris was also a life-long Christian and practised here at St Pauls'. He played the organ and was loved and respected in this church community over very many years.

My memory of him is that of a truly inspirational teacher. English was one of my favourite and also one of my best subjects. Chris truly developed my joy in the use of language and he contributed much to my everlasting love of books and an understanding of the power of literature.

My memory of lessons with Chris is that I always looked forward to them. They clearly came from a very genuine man, who at the time must have been in his early 20s, newly graduated and new to teaching yet he seemed so knowledgeable and genuine.

Best of all, he had a glorious sense of humour: one example of this was when on an April Fools' day, his class opened all the windows in the classroom and sat silently in the cold as he entered the room, to see what was his reaction. He instructed them to remain silent, left the room and returned clothed with an overcoat, scarf and gloves and then proceeded to take the lesson. Apparently, the lads were much colder at the end of the lesson than he was and they all enjoyed the way he turned the joke on its head.

Another thing which always amused me was the way he could tell one of us off for some silly misdemeanour by using a long string of adjectives, many of which we didn't understand. The result was we sometimes rushed to the dictionary in order to find out what he had called us.

I well remember some advice I was given at the end of my teacher training in the 60's. It was "Every day, make every child you meet smile at least once". I've always tried to do that and Chris most certainly did that for all of us, in those days when learning in both primary and secondary schools was very authoritative and sometimes very harsh.

Another anecdote I received was from a former student Andrew Birch, who remembers Chris setting him an essay with the title "Why grammar schools should be abolished." That surely took some nerve whilst working in a Grammar School?

Such reflections and memories; A lovely guy, I was very fond of him – as was everybody else.

I've always thought that youngsters are very good at reading adults and finding empathy with them whilst at the same time discovering their integrity and weaknesses! The young truly aren't stupid, and for me, I really love that and I suspect so did Chris. He knew the young he was tasked to teach. He was truly a caring and truly compassionate teacher and he clearly gained respect from his pupils because they recognised those qualities in him.

Then there was his bookshop in New Street – anecdotally, I've been told of the many students who met him there, bought books from him and enjoyed a coffee and chat at the same time. I bought books from him personally and also for my school. What a wonderful way he chose to pass on his joy of books.

When Keith Large organised his Great Reunion a few years ago it was the last time I met Chris. As the evening drew to an end we shared a pint and the opportunity for a chat and I remember it clearly. Chris was a truly committed Christian throughout his life and having a similar commitment helped as we discussed politics and poverty in the modern world. It is my lasting memory of Chris but I cherish it, simply because I know he was a truly a good person.

Sue Radford told me this, “The last time I saw Chris was in October and he spoke fondly of the happiest times in his life when as a child he would catch the bus (most Saturdays) from Barton where he lived with his mother, and then walk through fields to Hamstall Ridware to spend the day with his friend. He would then walk back to Yoxall and catch the 5pm bus. He spoke of his love of the beauty of the countryside and the many different birds he would see in great numbers which he felt was unlike today”.

Therein lay something of the person he was.

So, today we lay to rest a remarkable, yet paradoxically, a very ordinary man.

Making use of adjectives, as so often he said we should do, I would describe him as a caring, compassionate, intelligent, principled, warm, generous man and one who had a delightful sense of humour and one who enjoyed life and retained a sense of fun throughout his 84 years.

Thank you Chris for your influence and inspiration; you really were a good egg.”

More about Chris Shepard from David Atkin (1954-61)

Chris hailed, as far as I know, from my home village of Barton under Needwood, although I cannot confirm that he was born there. He lived there when I knew him, having been a “Bartonian” when he attended BGS and subsequently taught at the school at Winshill. I believe that his first year teaching at school was 1961 when by chance he was in charge of form 3c and I happened to be the form prefect. He was 84, there is a seven year gap in our ages.

Vic Roebuck lodged in the village at the time in his bachelor days and they used to travel to school in Chris’s Austin A35 as I recall, in the days before Vic had a licence to drive. I have a particular memory of Chris (before he had a car!) when we chaperoned 3c on a Saturday morning visit to Bass’ brewery (arranged fortuitously through one of the class pupils whose father was high up in the hierarchy at the brewery – a bonus as it turned out). We were shown around by the head brewer no less, who, as an aside, whispered, would you like to try a sample after the boys had departed.

We duly saw our charges off site and returned. Chris and I managed to reach New Street Bus station in time to catch the 815 Midland Red to Barton around 5.00pm. As I recall, we had put the world straight during the afternoon (Chris was staunch Labour in his political views) over a pint or two. My mother was not amused as I negotiated the front door step, but the hangover was worthy of the occasion even though it had a bearing on my performance in the cricket match on Sunday following.

I only found out about the funeral in the week following his demise. I understand that old Boy Mike Whitehead attended so if you have a contact, he might be able to add more to the story of a learned, knowledgeable friend who I am sorry to lose.

Stuart Alan (Toff) Neal (1950-57) died 2017

Alan passed away in hospital in Birmingham in 2017 at the age of 79.

Alan Neal was a Burtonian through and through not too sure how he got the nickname 'Toff'; I think it may have been from his Grammar School days. When I first knew him he was living with his parents on Belvedere Road almost opposite the gateway to the Ind Coope's cricket ground.

From the Grammar School he went into teaching and was at a Teachers' Training College in Cheltenham, coming home most weekends to either play cricket for Burton or football for Winhill.

He excelled at cricket, being a fine left handed batsmen who played on a number of occasions for Staffordshire in the Minor Counties Championship. I am not too sure about his prowess on the football field for Winhill, but he did in later years captain a Winhill Football side in the Burton Cricket Club's 20 over evening competition.

Alan eventually settled in the Birmingham area, teaching at Sheldon Heath; this eventually led to him playing in the Birmingham League, one of the strongest Leagues in the country. He played for West Bromwich Dartmouth for a number of years and then Aston Unity for a while before he finished up at Old Hill. During this time he used to play occasionally on Sundays for Burton, and regularly toured with the Burton Cricket Club to Skegness, where the Club used to have the Skegness ground for a week, playing a number of strong sides who would come to Skegness to play against the *Burton Gentlemen* as it was always shown on the front of the ground.

Alan continued playing cricket into his 70s when he did in fact play for the Warwickshire Over 70s side; he was also heavily involved with the Midland Club Cricket Conference, where he was Chairman from 1998 to 2012, and at a similar time he served on the Staffordshire County Cricket Club committee. In many ways he was a Mr Cricket in the Birmingham area.

Alan was also an avid Burton Albion fan and used to attend the home matches regularly and a number of away matches.

Alan will be remembered with great affection.

Mike Hamilton

Desmond A Silcox (1938-42) died aged 92

Graham Marshment writes: I knew him from long ago and that, so far as I know, he is the last remaining member of the Lloyds' cricket team of the 50s and 60s. I remember him as a batsman in that very successful team which my father also played in. I played my first match with Lloyds as a very young teenager (aged 13) in those same years!

Alastair Yates (mid 1960s) died 26 July 2018

Although not a member of the Association, Alastair will be known to many who have watched him on television, and who have been shocked by his untimely death. I knew him in childhood, when he lived down the lane from us, and was a couple of years ahead of my brother both at Manor House prep school and BGS.

After a period as a DJ, Alastair began a weekly Pop programme on Radio Derby in 1973, calling himself Al Kay. That station saw his potential with the spoken word, launching his career as a journalist. OBA Secretary Graham Marshment worked with Alastair at Radio Derby on a number of programmes in 1973. Alastair switched to television in 1978, as a news presenter on *Midlands Today*. He later moved to ITV, working on Anglia and Grampian, before joining Sky at its 1987 launch, being the first male presenter on *Sky News*.

He returned to the BBC in 1992 to help launch BBC World Service television, and was part of its transition to BBC World in 1995. He was a member of the launch team for BBC News 24 (now the BBC News Channel) in 1997, and stayed there apart from a couple of years at *Deutsche Welle* – Germany's equivalent of the BBC World Service.

In 2013, he returned to sound, joining Global Radio to present news for Classic FM and Smooth Radio.

Since retiring, he has been active in various charities, including the role of Chair and communication lead of the ADHD Richmond charity.

Alastair is survived by his long term partner Ginny, children Elspeth, James and Elyan, and two grandchildren.



Other Condolences

The Association also extends its sympathy to the relations and friends of the following, about whom we do not yet have material for obituaries. As usual, the editor will welcome any information to support a proper obituary next year.

Wilfrid J Cross (1931-39) died 5 Jan 2018. His son Peter reports that he was a proud member of the OBA, and enjoyed out newsletter.

Roger Tomlinson (1957-) died 28 July 2018.

Robert Street (1960-67) Robert worked in South Africa from 1972 to 1994, when he suffered a stroke and moved to the Glasgow area. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Richard Rackham (1953-59) died suddenly on holiday on 4 March 2019. He was devoted husband to Marian and father to Martha, Alice, Lorna and Polly.

Robert Somekh (Head Boy 1964-65) died in Cambridge on 11 March 2019.

News from Abbot Beyne School

Abbot Beyne continue to offer a varied range of opportunities for our students. The many events have helped to develop their skills of leadership and organisation and contribute their time and effort to their community. The many trips and experiences have also helped develop their knowledge of the world in which we live, and in some cases, provide an occasion for awe and wonder.

At our Celebration Evening in December we celebrated another set of excellent GCSE examination results. These results were achieved through a combination of effective teaching, well targeted revision classes, well planned revision and lots of practise. The great results 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. In addition, we are proud that our Year 11 made more progress than students in other schools .

RAF Visit School

The RAF came into school on the 17th October to show the whole of Year 7 & 8 how the roles within the armed forces have diversified over the years. This year's show was full of big bangs and entertaining robots. The students were all encouraged to get involved in the various presentations including working with numbers.



Some students were invited up to 'have a go' with the various bits of kit that the RAF had brought along. These included a Backpack Propeller, a Drone and the mimicking Robot.

The RAF show has been to us for the past three years and will return again with all new show stopping presentations next year.

Year 12 University of Birmingham Visit

On the 24th October the whole of Year 12 visited the University of Birmingham during a Deep Learning Day. We were shown around the campus in small groups by students studying similar subjects to the ones which we are aiming towards. Two different lectures were given on university life, getting into university and the pathways required (including enrichment opportunities to help get into university). We were given information surrounding how to create a successful personal statement. This trip helped to show students how important the beginning of A Levels are in order to set foundations for the continuation of education (either for a degree or an apprenticeship) and the importance of work experience, charity work and extracurricular activities that will improve a student's chance of getting into their chosen university. At the end of the day, students were informed about financial matters, including bursaries and student loans that are available, which was extremely helpful to give students a deeper insight into the truth about student finance. It seems that it is definitely worth doing a degree, despite the debt as it can be easily paid off.



Overall, it was a very informative day that gave Year 12 students a more thorough knowledge into university life, the courses available, how to gain a place at a university and how the finances are not as daunting as they seem.

By Eva Flowerdew & Matt Dowson

Annabel Stoddart, Headteacher

Update: Are any of these people familiar to you?

John Newton (1947-53) kindly donated a collection of photographs to the Association.

In the one below, he identified Capt H E Smith in the back row, and Ted Ufton at the left of the second row. Les Simpson believes the photo was taken at a CCF camp in 1950 or 1951, and has added several more names.

On the next row.. 3rd - Shorthouse, 4th - Salt, 6th - Kirk.

Next row.. 1st - Ted Ufton, 2nd - Langstone, 7th - Jordan.

Kneeling.. 2nd - Butlin, 3rd - Hall, 4th - Owen, 5th - Alliss.



If you can help, either with more names, or details of the event where this picture was taken, please let the editor know at BGS@cicsplex.co.uk.

The other photograph published last year is annotated on Kevin Gallagher's BGS site at <http://www.burtongrammar.co.uk/category/extra-curricular/cadet-force> for 1952.

Barrie Rees recognized himself on the front row of the Drake House photo, and reports that it was taken in the winter term of 1949.

Edward Wightman

Tim Hill (1956-63) alerted me to the sad story of an old boy who was that last person in England to be burned at the stake for heresy.

Wightman had a mercer's business in Burton, and was an Anabaptist minister in the 1590s. He later became more fanatical in his views, offending the Puritans, and finally coming to the attention of Richard Neile, Bishop of Lichfield. Wightman made the mistake of petitioning King James with his views, and the king called upon Neile to try him for heresy. None of the documentation survives, so we cannot know if the petition did indeed contain a claim that Wightman was the Messiah, though it does seem likely that he denied the Trinity, and probably the divinity of Christ. Neile had form in dealing harshly with heterodoxy, having been among the consistory court judges of Bartholomew Legate, burnt at Smithfield a month before Wightman's fate at Lichfield.

At least one of Edward Wightman's grandchildren emigrated to Rhode Island, and some of his descendants played a role in the American War of Independence.

Marston's Brewery Tour – 18 May 2018

Graham Marshment (1957-62) organized a visit to Marston's before our 2018 AGM (Apparently, he was born within shouting distance of the brewery in one of the still remaining cottages on Shobnall Road). The visit was enjoyed a large group of Old Boys. The guides gave an interesting description of the processes, and of the history of the site, which is the only place still using the Burton Union fermentation system (below). We also enjoyed tasting the brewery's products afterwards!



.. And for 2019...

There will be a tour round the [National Brewery Centre](#) (previously the Bass Museum) at 2pm on Friday 24 May. The tour lasts two hours, with a tasting session in the *Brewery Tap* bar. You can book your place on the same form as for the dinner. Details on page 17.

April 2018 to March 2019: MEMORIES FROM BGS OLD BOYS

Gordon Hindle (1952-58) relates a close shave



After a spell building experiments in the Physics Lab at BGS (1960-64), Gordon moved to Pratt and Whitney in Montreal, and then continued to go west, ending up near Victoria, on Vancouver Island.

He has long held a pilot's licence, and flew a fixed-wing plane for some years. (see photos in earlier newsletters).

Last winter, he picked up a new German autogyro in Quebec City, and flew it the 3000 miles to British Columbia. The young dealer/instructor came back with

him and they managed good weather all the way.

Alas, in February 2018, he rolled it on take-off, becoming an item on the local news, and ending up with serious lacerations to his legs, but no broken bones.



(Tongue in cheek comment from Graham Marshment:

"There are old pilots and bold pilots but no old, bold pilots!"

Stay safe, Gordon and stay enjoying whatever flying you will surely continue to do.)

Derrick Pounds (1945-51) writes about his time at Rolls-Royce...

“In 1952 I obtained hands-on experience in the Magnesium Foundry where great care was taken in the drying of the moulds because molten magnesium at 790C explodes instantly if contacted with water. I worked several days with moulder ‘Jack’ on Avon jet inlet casings. These castings each required 22 cores, many ‘chills’ and three main moulds to be carefully fitted and this was a real learning experience with a skilled tradesman. The inlet casing for the Dart turbo-prop was a masterpiece of design, requiring patternmaker’s skills that I have not seen equaled anywhere. The mould assembly took two tradesmen many hours of concentration with an inspector checking the clearances as each core, of several dozens, was fitted carefully. The moulding sand placed around the patterns contained 8% sulphur and the main body sand 6% sulphur.

During the pour of each casting powdered sulphur, from porous hand-held cotton bags, was dusted onto the molten surface continuously to prevent the magnesium burning through contact with air. Local fires broke out spontaneously all the time on the surface of the molten magnesium and dowsing these with sulphur dust put the fires out when oxygen was excluded from the molten surface. The breathing air quality during pours was absolutely foul, from sulphur burning producing a bright yellow haze of sulphur compounds after contacting the molten magnesium. There was some relief for the lungs on rain-free days. A large section of the high roof at the casting end of the foundry could be opened up to produce a welcome updraft and release of the foul air. During my training in the Magnesium Foundry the medical results from X-rays taken of workers’ lungs revealed over 60% of the moulders had large patches on their lungs.

All castings were X-rayed for signs of porosity or sand inclusions in an air-conditioned laboratory. This laboratory was located on one side of the second floor near the entrance. Before X-ray the castings were trimmed then metal shot-blasted, with the operator wearing a divers type rubber suit connected with a breathing air supply line, inside a walk-in tightly sealed steel pressure chamber. On the 19 October 1952, a few days after I was given a general tour of this facility with fellow apprentice Chris Darby, an explosion blew the large steel chamber through the high foundry roof. The chamber, weighing several tons, landed on a vacant lot the other side of an adjacent Derby Corporation bus maintenance workshop. The blast occurred during the night. Miraculously, no one was injured. On the morning after the blast, the operator’s protective suit was hanging limply from a steel truss in the open roof, over forty feet in the air. One side of the brick wall of the X-ray laboratory had caved in from the blast. The Magnesium Foundry was a good training area but clearly a rather unhealthy place to work for long periods.”

David Gyngell (1958-65)

Following his retirement from Britvic, David and Carol have moved from Maldon to Hornsea in East Yorkshire.

Graham Marshment (1957-62) writes...

October 18 was a superb day for flying and I received an early morning text to the effect 'get here early' with the chance of some extra flying.

Off we set, over the fields towards Rugeley and we then started practising changes in height and speed, various climbs and stall recovery. Comes the instruction to 'give me a full power climb to 2,000 feet' and I did the business except that that on entering the climb, the engine died away!

I watched it go from 5,000 rpm to a rapidly declining 2,000. The instructor (Dave) calls for a forced landing with "I have control" and believe me, I wasn't willing to argue with that. Quick imperative ... find the biggest field you can see, check the wind direction and then make progress towards it and set the buggered little craft down.

The result was a forced landing in a fortunately large field; no problem, no damage to the plane nor any injuries; just routine stuff.

We used Google maps to find our exact location, phoned that back to base and a rescue party soon came along, dismantled the plane and towed it home.

On arrival at base and on taking off the cylinder head, one of the 'pots' (piston) had a hole blown in it, so it is now being rapidly repaired, ready for future action.



Whilst we were waiting for the recovery team, instructor Dave took this picture. just to record yet another interesting day of flying! (or lack of ... flying).

If you look at the prop you can see some oil stains that should not have been there; and yes, it was oil and nothing else!

I went off afterwards for a 'bimble' (as a passenger) around the locality with a friend, just to get some further value from a lovely day of weather.

Tim Hill

(1956-63)



Merton Priory has published Tim's history of the British Lubricants Industry. This is the first ever academic history of a vital but little regarded branch of British manufacturing industry. Without lubricants not a single piece of machinery would move, and yet until now no-one has traced the history of lubricants, which remain an important downstream branch of the oil industry both in Britain and worldwide.

www.mertonpriory.co.uk/books/history_lubricants.htm

Tim also provided the sad story of Edward Wightman on p.13.

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 Winhill, 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.

Welcome to New Members

The Association is pleased to welcome Rex Francis, Barry Martin, David Peach and rediscover Simon Trowell.

In addition, the Old Boys' Facebook page has ten new subscribers who are not included in the database as members of the Association. They would all be very welcome to join — it's free, using the form on www.cicsplex.co.uk/BGS/

National Brewery Centre Tour — 2pm on 24 May 2019

Following the success of our tour of Marston's last year, we decided to visit the National Brewery Centre in the afternoon before our 2019 AGM.

This is on the site of the former Bass Museum, later the Coors Visitor Centre. After Coors announced in 2008 that the centre would close, there was a huge outcry, leading to the setting up of a group that eventually formed the National Brewery Heritage Trust, owners of the centre.



We will not be touring a hectic and noisy commercial brewery like Marston's, which should make it easier to interpret the process of brewing. The centre incorporates a small specialist brewery, so it is far more than a museum.



Our tour will last about two hours, and starts at 14:00 (2pm in old money). The £10 price includes a tasting session with three samples — possibly the first time you've drunk third-pints since school milk!

You can sign up for this tour on the Dinner booking form, and pay for both with the same cheque or bank transfer.

More details at <https://www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk/>

BGS OBA Past Presidents

1921-22	AH Yeomans	1968-69	W.T.Burman
1922-23	F.Evershed	1969-70	F.W.Fawkes
1923-24	W.Shelley	1970-71	W.H.Gillian
1924-25	A.Slator	1971-72	R.L.Knight
1925-26	R. Samble	1972-73	B.E. Warren
1926-27	W.P.Lowe	1973-74	J.H.Mander
1927-28	H.Leigh-Newton	1974-75	N.A.Binns
1928-29	J.H.Moir	1975-76	D.G.Hardwick
1929-30	C.F.Gothard	1976-77	R.A.Clark
1930-31	F.J.Manners	1977-78	A.Fallon
1931-32	F.Newton-Husbands	1978-79	G.M.Hamilton
1932-33	J.H.Birch	1979-80	A.T.Cole
1933-34	W.E.Briggs	1980-81	P.Minns
1934-35	J.D.Robertson	1981-82	J.A.Woolley
1935-36	B.F.Sadle	1982-83	R.Outhwaite
1936-37	F.J.Hodges	1983-89	G.T.Milnes
1937-38	Col.D.H.Mason	1989-90	H.E.Smith
1938-39	R.T.Robinson	1990-91	E.A.Bailey
1939-40	B.C.Newbold	1991-92	D.A.Sharatt
1940-41	R.C.Sims	1992-93	B.Clements
1941-42	J.B.Smith	1993-94	G.Starback
1942-43	F.T.Shelley	1994-95	N.A.Tomkins
1943-44	T.W.Parkin	1995-96	T.A.Trigg
1944-45	P.J.Williams	1996-97	J.M.Illingworth
1945-46	E.J.Dallard	1997-98	J.P.Hartley
1946-47	H.J.Wain	1998-99	R.Deacon
1947-48	G.W.Britton	1999-00	L.S.Dunkerly
1948-49	F.E.James	2000-01	P.G.Booth
1949-50	B.L.Hubbard	2001-02	G.K.Rushton
1950-51	L.A.Haywood	2002-03	S.A.Neal
1951-52	R.P.Stevenson	2003-04	J.S.Pickering
1952-53	G.H.Cooper	2004-05	R.J.Wain
1953-54	L.E.Churchill	2005-06	F.Toon
1954-55	J.D.Rowland	2006-07	Rev. R.Gilbert
1955-56	D.P.Haywood	2007-08	M. E. Watson
1956-57	J.F.Rose	2008-09	G. P. Evans.
1957-58	W.R.Souster	2009-10	R.F.Andrews
1958-59	F.C.Jenks	2010-11	D.J.Grimley
1959-60	H.H.Pitchford	2011-12	K.B. Large
1960-61	D.J.Grimley	2012-13	R.F. Kerry
1961-62	A.E.G.Hardwick	2013-14	M. Brown
1962-63	A.C.Bowden	2014-15	G.S. Marshment
1963-64	R.H.Eggington	2015-16	A. Gentles
1964-65	K.A.Stanyon	2016-17	S Wilcox
1965-66	D.M.Davies	2017-18	J. Ash
1966-67	H.E.C.Weston	2018-19	J. A. Taylor
1967-68	W.F.Howarth		

Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association Annual General Meeting to be held at 19:00 on 24th May 2019

AGENDA

- Introduction and Apologies
- Names of Old Boys who have passed away during the last twelve months.

Silence to be observed for one minute.

- Minutes of the last AGM held 18h May 2018
- Treasurer's report
- Welcome to new members
- President's remarks from John Taylor
- Endorsement of decision that existing committee will remain in place:
President, John Taylor; Secretary, Graham Marshment ;
Treasurer, Steve Wilcox; Database and Newsletter Editor, Eric Bodger.
For co-option: Keith Large, Andrew Gentles
- Report from OBA representative on the Beyne Foundation
- Report from Bob Andrews on preservation of BGS memorabilia
- Dates of 2020 AGM and of School Remembrance Service
- AOB

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 31 December 2018

Income	2017	2018	Expenditure	2017	2018
Dining receipts/donations	£1743	£1177	Newsletter/postages	£401	£380
Golf entry	£0	£0	Dining costs	£1534	£1000
			Engraving	£22	£22
			Miscellaneous	£67	£124
			Charity	£50	£0
Total	£1743	£1177		£2074	£1526

Excess income over expenditure for year ending 31 December (£331) (£349)

Balance at bank as at 31 December £1970 £1621

Cash in hand £98 £98

Total reserves at 31 December £2068 £1719

Minutes of the AGM 18th May 2018

held at the Branston Golf & Country Club

1. Acting President John Taylor welcomed Old Boys.
2. The President then asked the Secretary to note the apologies, which included David Atkin, Colin Battell, Andrew Bauer, Duncan Bradley, Phil Cheesewright, Mike Clements, Alan Cloves, John Clubb, Lionel Cooper, Martin Cooper, Steve Cort, Michael Crumpton, Sir Oscar DeVill, Andrew Fawkes, John Fellows, Tony Fisher, Charles Freebury, Brian Gee, David Gooderick, Mike Hamilton, David Hardwick, David Hough, Richard Inwood, Chris Jeggo, Roger Kerry, Paul Knight, Keith Large, John Mail, Mike Newbury, Roger Newman, Barrie Rees, Cliff Rose, Keith Rushton, Keith Shaw, David Somekh, Robert Somekh, Ian Stirton, Bill Strong, Keith Stuart-Smith, Tony Thornley, Geoffrey Thursfield, Frank Toon, John Toon, Johnny van der Merwe, Richard Wain, Malcolm Watson, Steve Wilcox, Mike Wilson, Ken Winson, Mick Yates, Bert Young. The President commented on the number of apologies for the A.G.M & Dinner, which demonstrates members' engagement with the Association, despite their being unable to attend this year.
3. A minute's silence was observed after a roll-call of old boys who had sadly passed away during the past twelve months and others not previously recorded. These included: John Ash, Roy Bentley, Stephen Calderbank, Colin Copestake, Ken Crocker, Wilfrid Cross, Don Ewers, Peter Farmer, George Goolldall, Peter Huckerby, Philip Hutchinson, John Mayger, Alan (Toff) Neal, David Oakden, Edwin Say, Graham Shaw, Eric Shooter, John Waters and Howard Wilson.
4. The President asked for approval of the minutes of the AGM held 18th May 2017. Proposed by Rob Andrews, Seconded by: David Brunning, and passed unanimously.
5. In the absence of the Treasurer, Steve Wilcox, Andrew Gentles presented the Annual Income & Expenditure Statement for the year to 31st December 2017, and Published in the newsletter. A motion to adopt the accounts was proposed by: Terry Hickman, seconded by: Rod Purbick, and carried unanimously.
6. **Beyne Foundation Report** was presented by John Taylor. Having previously reported on the history of the Foundation, John outlined how the charity functions. The trustees control investments of circa £500,000 plus 4 tenanted properties. Four secondary schools in the old borough are invited to bid for up to £3,000 per term, a total of £36,000 was distributed in the previous year. John was asked to clarify the composition of the trustees. They are selected from county councillors, local politicians and school representatives. He was pleased to report that the Foundation operated on a sound financial basis and that the distribution of income would be sustainable for years to come.



7. Election of President. Following the sad death of previous president John Ash, Andrew Gentles presented John Taylor with his Chain of office.
8. Incoming President's Remarks: John presented a tribute to John Ash which included his time at the school, his engineering apprenticeship and 30 year career in the merchant navy. He was actively involved in rowing in Burton for many years, officiating at numerous competitions and regattas. He worked tirelessly for many charitable organisations in the area. The highlight of his presidential year, as with many of his predecessors, was attending the Abbot Beyne School Remembrance Service where he was invited to read a poem.
The President thanked the Association for giving him the opportunity to be their President in what may be the final years of the Association. He reminded the AGM of the committee recommendation that the Association be wound up in 2020 which will coincide with the 500th Anniversary of the founding of the school and 100th Anniversary of the Association itself.
Consideration will need to be given to the format of the AGM and Dinner in 2019 given the dwindling number attending. If necessary, we could move into the Clubhouse at Branston, returning to the Pavilion in 2020 for the grand finale in celebration of the school.
The tour of Marston's Brewery in the afternoon had been well supported.
9. Election of Officers: the following were elected *en bloc*:

President	John Taylor
Secretary	Graham Marshment
Treasurer	Steve Wilcox
Editor	Eric Bodger
Co-opted Members	Andrew Gentles, Keith Large, and Kevin Gallagher

 It was proposed that these members should remain in place for two years.
10. Abbot Beyne School Report, presented by Annabel Stoddart: The school had recently received an excellent Ofsted accreditation and continued to flourish under Annabel's guidance.
She made her commitment to supporting the Association in whatever way possible. The President thanked her for the hospitality extended to the Old Boys at the Remembrance Service and complimented her on the quality and professional approach to this symbolic occasion.
Graham Marshment added that many of the students who attended the venture trust were extremely complimentary of the school – a true barometer of the strides being made.
11. Editors Report, presented by Eric Bodger:
Eric encouraged the members to provide him with content for the newsletter as he doesn't want it to become a collection of obituaries. It is his intention to continue to publish the newsletter annually and distribute it electronically, working closely with Kevin Gallagher to provide content for the website once the Association is dissolved.
12. There being no further business, the President closed the meeting and the members convened for Dinner.

Dates for your diary

National Brewery Centre tour:	Friday 24 th May 2019 2pm
AGM & Dinner 2019:	Friday 24 th May 2019 7pm
Remembrance Service:	Friday 8 th November 2019
Celebration Dinner 2020:	Friday 15 th May 2020

From the Editor:

I should like to thank all who have contributed material to this newsletter, including all the Committee members and others who have provided updates and photographs.

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; they will be welcome guests. It will also give me a chance to encourage them to join the Association. It's now free to join.

The membership database is now in my hands, so please send any updates to me at bgs@cicsplex.co.uk. If you don't wish the Association to retain your personal data, please notify me and I will remove your entry. But bear in mind that the database is the only way we can send you newsletters and invitations to our events. Data protection laws mean that we cannot supply details, but I am happy to forward emails on request, providing the person you want to reach has an email address on record.

There are two anniversaries coming up: 2020 is 500 years after the school was spun off from Burton Abbey by Abbot Beyne; is also the 100th year of our Association, which was established in 1921. I had hoped, perhaps forlornly, that these events could be used to recruit new members to assure the future of the Association — more likely, it just means we'll go out on a high! I will maintain www.cicsplex.co.uk/BGS/ for as long as there seems to be an interest, and while newsletter input continues to arrive.

There are several web-sites members may find informative:

- The Association site at www.cicsplex.co.uk/BGS/ with an archive of newsletters, notices of events, and anything else that comes to me, including a fuller account of activities at Abbot Beyne.
- Kevin Gallagher's general BGS site at www.burtongrammar.co.uk/
- Keith Large's Facebook group for BGS alumni and friends

Eric Bodger (1956-62)

e-mail: bgs@cicsplex.co.uk

The AGM & Dinner to be held on the 24th May 2019

BRANSTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (DE14 3DP)

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

19:00 hours – AGM **19:45 hours** – Guests called to Dinner

20:00 hours – Grace, followed by Dinner

Menu

Starter:

Marbled salmon terrine served with shallot and caper dressing and crisp toasts

Main:

Rosemary roast lamb rump with colcannon and bacon wrapped green beans

OR Sun blushed tomato and spinach frittata with napolitana sauce **(V)**

Dessert:

Raspberry Bakewell tart with clotted cream ice cream

Coffee or Tea and Dinner mints

21:30 – Toast to the OBA

with response from the President, John Taylor

Please book for the Dinner using the form sent with this Newsletter.
(Bookings requested by Friday 26th April, please).

Guests of either sex are welcome at the dinner



Burton Grammar School Memorabilia

When The Burton Grammar School was converted into the Abbot Beyne, many of its historical artefacts were destroyed or thrown away. It is hard to understand this vandalism, even if it doesn't match the Taliban destroying temples in Afghanistan. Fortunately some were preserved in a meeting room at the Abbot Beyne School, and for forty years could be seen there. However the school wanted to reflect its own history and I was asked if we wanted the items. With the help of some other old boys we moved the items to old boy, Roger Kerry's house.



As the The Grammar School was endowed by Abbot William Beyne of Burton Abbey, there is a case for housing the memorabilia at the Abbey.

As I am the Archivist of The Burton Club, whose members own the Abbey building, I was able to arrange a suitable permanent home for the memorabilia at the Club.

The Burton Club was founded by an old boy of the school, namely Michael Bass, Lord Burton.

The BGSOBA donated £50 to floor an area in the loft at The Abbey and over time there will be references available that show the connection between The Burton Grammar School, The Burton Club and The Abbey.

If any Old boy has items from the school which he feels would be worth saving for posterity, please do not hesitate to contact me on (01283) 820 357 to arrange collection. I can arrange access to the archive for Old Boys who are not members of the Club.

All the items that were collected from Abbot Beyne School are now stored in The Abbey, and gradually they will be put on display, allowing future generations of Club members and their guests to understand the history of our Town. Hopefully this will continue long after the last 'old boy' has gone.

An interesting historical note, the shield of Wulfric Spot, the Saxon Lord who commissioned the rebuilding of Burton Abbey, is the same as the blue and gold badge of the Burton Grammar School.

R.F.Andrews (1952-1958)
Archivist, The Burton Club