

Burton Grammar School

Old Boys' Newsletter

Number 48



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by Eric Bodger



Former OBA President Malcolm Watson



**Association box donated by
Malcolm Watson**



Letter from the Editor

RIP Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association!

2020 was dominated by the committee's efforts to formulate an appropriate way of celebrating 500 years since the formation of the school and 100 years of the BGSOBA. It had been recognized that a diminishing population of Old Boys meant that the Association could not continue beyond these anniversaries.

The plan was to go out with a bang, with a celebratory final dinner and a private visit to Sinai House. Alas, this proved impossible because of the pandemic, and the committee was left with a choice between drifting into oblivion and winding up the Association cleanly.

The committee decided that the best course would be to dissolve the Association in 2020, as discussed at the last AGM we were able to hold (2019). It was felt that the membership should have the last word, so the President sent a letter and voting form to every member, asking for their consent to wind up the Association without another General Meeting. The vote in favour was overwhelming (see below).

The other question asked was whether I should be able to retain contact details to circulate future (informal) newsletters. Almost everyone who responded gave consent, but this leaves a significant number of members who did not reply, and whom I shall need to drop in order to comply with GDPR.

Because this newsletter was started under the auspices of the Association, I am sending it to every member with an email address, unless they declined consent. But in future, anyone who hasn't given explicit consent will no longer hear from me. The note you got to access this newsletter will tell you if you need to give consent to stay on the files.

Minutes of the final committee meeting are included in this newsletter.

Graham Marshment has kindly agreed to organize an unofficial celebration when life gets back to normal, so I hope to meet many of you again over food and drink before too long. Graham is also getting some printed copies of this newsletter, which you can buy at cost price.

*May the vaccine be with you
Eric Bodger (1956-62)*

Remarks from the President's final letter to members

I would like to thank the whole committee for their work and support during my time as President. I felt honoured to be asked to be your President and have enjoyed the role over the last two and a half years. I feel sure the friendships made at school will continue to be enjoyed.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy future during our later years.

John A Taylor

President: (2018 – 2020) Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association.

Remembrance Day Service

As you will understand, there was no Remembrance Service at the School in November 2020.

Since there is no Association to organize it, any future participation will be on a personal basis, those wishing to attend should make contact with the School.

“News” from 1971-72

The following extract from the 1972 OBA Newsletter could remind us of what we were doing half a century ago:

R F Andrews (1952-58) has been awarded the Resuscitation Certificate of the Royal Humane Society for rescuing an unconscious woman from the River Avon at Stratford. Robert persevered with artificial respiration for some 45 minutes, eventually resulting in a recovery. Since then, he has returned to his home in Durban, South Africa.

G. Evans (1947-55) once again featured as a speaker on BBC in a programme entitled the 'Weekly World' in September.

N.A.Tomkins (1941-45) has been appointed Head of Department of Technology at Wigston College of Further Education in Leicestershire,

C.R.Jeggo (1958-64) has been appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Applied Physics at the University of Hull. He will be studying non-linear optical materials - crystals used in conjunction with lasers.

R.H.Heape (1957-64) is now a Senior Projects Officer in the Marketing Division of British European Airways at the West London Air Terminal.

Our Congratulations go to the following: Marriages.

R.H.Heape (1957-64) to Miss J.G.Dennis.

A.Van Daesdonk (1961-68) to Miss Margaret Warner.

R,EBell (1956-63) to Miss P.M.Neal.

M.ALea (1957-65) to Miss R.Ross. A.B.Fisher (1959-66) to Miss CA.Underhill,

P.J.Copelend (1953-60) to Miss P.A.Walsh.

Officers of the Burton Grammar School Old Boys' Association 2019-20

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

Pre-Lockdown Dam-Busters Experience

Graham Marshment sent this recollection of some fun he shared in Derbyshire before the lockdown.

Not long before the lockdown in March 2020, I enjoyed a tribute flight piloted by my good friend and flying instructor Nick Barnett, in a 3½ hr flight from the Tamworth area to the Derwent and Howden Dams in the Peak District.

With cameras of all sorts on board to provide the footage, the flight was featured in the local Burton and Derbyshire press with photographs and a 12 minute video.



Our flight up and then down the Derbyshire reservoir dams was a re-run of earlier flights made by the Lancasters of 617 Squadron as they practised their low level flying skills in preparation for the famous Dambuster raids. Humming the 'Dambusters Song' together as we flew down the valley, our flight has been recorded on the local press site. <https://www.staffordshire-live.co.uk/news/watch-pilots-complete-dambusters-flight-5046430>

It was a memorable day enjoying the camaraderie and appreciation of flying along such an historic route. On the way, we enjoyed a flight over Thorpe Cloud in Dovedale and photographed lots of other places of interest.

This included flying along Birchens Edge where I first started climbing in 1970, and where Burton Venture Trust

youngsters used to climb until 2017 when the Venture Trust was dissolved after 50 years of activities.





Over Thorpe Cloud

Birchens Edge



Youngsters from the Venture Trust had the opportunity to enjoy a trial flight in a micro-light – Nick is pictured with one of them, getting her prepared for her flight and a memorable experience.



Nick is a great pilot, a man of humour and full of fun. Together we shared a thoroughly enjoyable day. Sadly, once the lockdown came, flying was ended but that eventually only added to our appreciation of a great day out!

Condolences are expressed to the families of recently deceased Old Boys

Gordon “Harry” Rothera (1942-47) Died 19 November 2019

Harry Rothera attended BGS from the ages of 11 to 17. He met High School girl Heather Marsh, and they married in 1952. They celebrated 64 years of marriage until Heather’s death in 2016.

Harry trained as an apprentice architect, attending Burton Art School in the evenings. He worked in Lichfield at architects John Tetlow and Partners, and then progressed to local firm Naylor Sale and Widdows.

He was later appointed as architect to Joseph Cyril Bamford (the founder of JCB), Harry worked at JCB for several years before going into private practice in Uttoxeter, Burton and Derby.

Harry was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, He lived and worked for his family.

He passed away peacefully at home on 19 November 2019, with his family by his side.

John Parker (1946-52) died 4 Jan 2021

John was a member of Burton Motorcycle and Light Car Club. He used to race vintage motorcycles with Joe Bailey (1950-56) who some years ago moved to an apartment in Rangemore Hall.

He was also a horse rider and he told me that in 1976 he rode his horse across the old ford over the Trent at Newton Solney.

For most of his life he worked for Briggs Engineering but when he retired he set up an engineering design team with his sons at Hatton.

He had a long and happy marriage with Betty, living in Church Broughton. When he became ill with Parkinson's Disease they moved to Hatton, but eventually he moved into a care home.’

Richard Wain

Roger Heape (1957-64) Died 4 May 2021

Roger Heape (1957–64) has died aged 75. Although born (on Bonfire Night, 1945) in Northants, he moved to Burton as an infant, living all his schooldays in Stapenhill. After junior school in St Peter’s Street, he entered the School, where he was always near the top of the class—the class that became the experimental 5X. This was a small class created to allow a four-year progress to the G.C.E., and hence 3 years in the Sixth. The scheme differed from prior years where a leap from Form 2 to Form 4 had been favoured. The experiment was deemed a success as Oxbridge entrant numbers were acclaimed as a record that year.

Roger studied Sciences with Geography in the Sixth, where he emphatically but steadily shook off early shyness and diffidence—a progress that was completed by a spell after school visiting Israel and the kibbutz. He was well-known and popular in the School. He was a strong debater and already espoused the liberal ideas which he kept throughout his life, breaking, politically—but not in any other way—from his parents, Eric (an Old Boy) and Joan, who were staunch conservatives.

Roger had been a Prefect and Deputy Head Boy, to life-long friend John Watson. Sport was not his strong point, but he was always willing and was cajoled into (Nelson) house rugby, where his immense height (he was already approaching 6ft 7"!) enabled domination of the line-out—provided the props did their eponymous duty!

He took his degree in Geography at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and immediately thereafter joined the travel industry, at British European Airways. Over the next thirty years he flew full circle through appointments at well-known names—at Inghams, Thomson, Intasun, to end at B.A., where he was Managing Director of British Airways Holidays. He was at the forefront of ecological concerns which he was able, through a combination of tact and presence, to carry into the thinking of his employer and of the tourist industry at large. He was a prominent advocate of responsible tourism, which to him meant respect not just for the environment, but for the economy of tourist regions and the legitimate rights of both native peoples and tourists themselves. He was instrumental in creating The Tourism Foundation, chairing it in 2008–9, by which time he had retired from full-time work. He won numerous awards and accolades from the industry, in which his large (but always lean) presence and warmly sympathetic personality gained him numerous friends.

Outside work, he was always an active Liberal-Democrat and contributed enthusiastically to the prominence of the party in Richmond and Winchester—strongholds where, by coincidence or not, Roger and family lived. He was pressed, at times, to become a parliamentary candidate but resisted this commitment.

With his two metres height, Roger could be conspicuous at leisure when striding across heaths and moorlands, especially in his beloved Dorset. After retirement he served for a while as one of the twelve members of the New Forest National Park Authority. His opportunities for travel led him to many more adventurous destinations, up Kilimanjaro, into the Himalaya, and, in his last great adventure, the Greenland Ice Cap. A very early trip, inter-railing around Scandinavia, with school friends and his twin sister, Christine, had been tremendous fun for all, and perhaps served as a template for his conception of the experience-expanding holiday. Never deterred by the weather, he revelled in extreme conditions, and relished any record-breaking statistics. Having, in retirement, studied oceanography at Southampton University, he was proud to have had an academic paper published.

Much earlier, his adventurous nature saw him successful in a vigorous pursuit of the love-of-his-life, Jenny, to whom he was married for almost fifty years, dying just days before their Golden Wedding. Together they had raised two children, Suzy and James, to whom he was devoted. They will miss him deeply, as will the grandsons, Ryan and Luther (O'Neill). He was devoted to people, to friendship, to treating all with more than simple respect, which accounts for the popularity he achieved wherever he worked and wandered.

Roger's last months saw him in-and-out of hospital with an ultimately inoperable intestinal condition. He had also begun increasingly to be affected with Alzheimer's, and certainly the family's projected enjoyment of their holiday home on the French Riviera had been curtailed. It was sad to see so outward-going and energetic a personality reduced in this way, but Jenny and his family bore it with loving patience.

The funeral took place in Winchester on May 24th and was fully attended in line with the Covid restrictions. Jenny and Suzy bravely and accomplishedly gave full and gracious tributes to their husband and father. The music chosen included an item of Rock—a gesture towards the wilder side of this son of the sixties, for Roger was an enduring fan of the Rolling Stones and other loud rock music!

Gordon Hindle**(1946-53)****died 25October 2020**

Gordon passed away peacefully at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital on Vancouver Island after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his parents James and Linda Hindle and his older sister Joan Mellor. Gordon is survived by his loving wife, Hanne, of nearly 39 years, and his two sons from his first marriage, Jeremy and Adam, as well as his sister, Norma Bonnett, and nephews, Simon Bonnett, and David Mellor in Staffordshire, Andrew Fawkes in Hampshire and Portugal. Gordon was much loved and respected on both sides of the Atlantic and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Gordon was born in Burton-on-Trent, and studied at Burton Grammar School, where he returned to work as a Laboratory Technician for four years, in the Physics and Biology departments. Much of the apparatus in Ezra Somekh's book *Practical Physics* was built by Gordon.



From 1964 to 1968

Gordon attended the City of Coventry College of Art, where he passed the City and Guilds of London Institute Final Examination with Credit in Technical Illustration.

In September 1968 Gordon emigrated to Canada together with his first wife, Susan. He had been hired by The United Aircraft Company of Canada Ltd. in Montreal on a two year contract, as one of ten illustrators in the Publications Department. The contract was extended, but in April 1972 Gordon resigned because of the worsening

social and political situation in Quebec, and the unpleasant climate.

Gordon, his first wife and their two infant sons, headed west to British Columbia to start a new life in the Vancouver area. In March 1973 he started working as a 'Contract Illustrator' at Lockheed Petroleum Services Ltd. in New Westminster. In the early 1980s this was taken over by the Nova Corporation in Calgary, and became CanOcean Engineering. Two months later Gordon accepted their offer of full time employment and became the sole illustrator on the staff, working for the Marketing Department.

After nine years of marriage Gordon and his first wife divorced, and in December 1981 he travelled to Denmark to get married to Hanne, his second wife, who then immigrated to Canada to be with her new husband.

In 1986 Gordon left CanOcean Engineering as the company was re-structuring and Gordon's services became redundant. He decided to do freelance work as a Technical Illustrator and Gordon Hindle & Associates was established. Gordon worked as a freelance Illustrator out of his home on Marine Drive in South Surrey until the work dried up due to competition from the computer. By then he had reached retirement age. One of Gordon's main clients was Conair Aviation Ltd. in Abbotsford.

Flying light aircraft has been Gordon's passion throughout his whole life. The fascination with aeroplanes started when he was a little lad in England trying to reach up and grab the planes flying low over his parent's house during WWII. In 1965 he made and flew under a man-lifting kite and in 1967 he learned to fly in a Tiger Moth.

In the early 1960's he attended the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Fly-in Convention in Rockford, Illinois which was later moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The first year Gordon attended he was one of three attendees from overseas. In 1970 he became the winning pilot in the first Quebec Provincial air rally.



**Gordon's Vari-Eze in the air
and on the ground**

In 1976 Gordon started the construction of his Rutan Vari-Eze (C-GRDN), a fast two-seat touring aeroplane of composite construction, which he built in the basement of his house in Tsawwassen. The plane flew for the first time in the summer of 1984 ready for the Abbotsford Airshow. Gordon had the honour of winning the award for the best homebuilt aircraft at that year's Fly-in in Arlington, Washington.



Late in life Gordon was able to realize another dream of his, namely to own an Autogyro, which he flew from Quebec to Victoria with his instructor who trained him *en route*. Unfortunately later he had an accident during take-off from Victoria Airport and the Autogyro was then transported back to Quebec, repaired and sold.



Gordon was known for being a perfectionist and extremely meticulous as well as for his vast knowledge of aviation and for his British sense of humour. Needless to say, Gordon read a lot about aviation, but he was also interested in topics such as UFO's, Aliens and Crop Circles.

Photography was also an interest of his which he found useful during his working career. In addition, Gordon loved to listen to classical music, and was very knowledgeable in that field.

Hanne writes:

In May 2016, Gordon and I moved from the Mainland of British Columbia to Sidney, on Vancouver Island, about 30 km north of Victoria, the capital of B.C. and the seat of the province's Legislature. We were now so far to the west on the continent that the next stop would be Japan!

Gordon only got his diagnosis in early March 2020 and he clearly felt that he was being robbed of at least 5 more years. The cancer was a nasty lung cancer that consumed him both physically and mentally. He became a shadow of himself. It broke my heart to witness. I had looked after him for at least four months when it was decided that he should be admitted to the Palliative Care Department at the local hospital, where he stayed for only a little over two weeks before he died.

Peter Ellis**(1937-45)****Died late 2019**

Bert Young (1940-45) sent this remembrance of his friend Peter.

Peter was a popular and apt choice as Head Boy in 1945. He was an all-round successful scholar and sportsman. In the 6th Form he chose the Modern rather than the Science side – although he was just as good in Science subjects. He was in the 1st XV at Rugby (Centre Threequarter) and in the 1st XI at Cricket. He was particularly liked by the then Headmaster, Horace Pitchford; Horace privately tutored Peter to secure a place at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. His 3 years at Cambridge did not result in the “First” that was expected but he did achieve a fine 2nd.

Peter joined the RAF after Cambridge and extended his service period to spend 3 years as an Education Officer; he thought this choice was preferable rather than doing the mandatory 2 years in a normal National Service category. After his military service Peter joined the Supply and Distribution side of Shell Petroleum.

McKinsey (the Management Consultants) carried out a major study of this side of Shell and made many changes to its activities and structure; Peter was not a victim of this investigation, but he was not contented with his job afterwards, and decided to leave and join BAT.

BAT was a very diverse organisation (as it remains) and had a National Company specialising in the manufacture of perfume products based on Lavender Oil. In a relatively short period, Peter became responsible for the liaison and purchase of lavender with the French growers. This successful role continued right up to the time Peter was in his 50s, when a new MD was appointed. Peter did not “get on” with this person and when it came to the inevitable ultimatum, he chose to take early retirement at age 56. The deal made came with a full pension and a generous lump sum.

Peter's older sister (there were 5 siblings) was Pamela. Pamela married Oscar De Ville, and became Lady Pamela when Oscar received his knighthood. Pamela was a talented artist noted for her work in sculpture; she became a Fellow of the Royal Miniature Society and a member of its committee. She and Oscar are a devoted couple and are now in a care home together near their home in Sonning on Thames.

In retirement Peter became a very successful investor and a wealthy man. He eventually donated a scholarship to the Abbot Beyne school to encourage a pupil to go to university. How long this lasted for I've no idea – or whether it still exists today. He also donated a large sum to his old College at Cambridge to assist a bright undergraduate in his or her studies. Peter remained a single man until – in his early 60s, he met Carole whom he married. The marriage transformed his life into one of contentment and lively social activity. Peter and Carole were a very happy couple right up to the time Carole's health declined and then Peter's. Peter eventually moved into a care home in Bath where he later died of heart failure.

Clifford Rose**1941-48****Died 28 December 2020**

Cliff and his elder brother Leslie, were born at The Crown Inn in Stapenhill. Cliff was born in 1930, and lived at The Crown until he was 2½ years old. The family then moved to Drakelow, where aunts and uncles also lived. His mother's family – the Morrisises – had various houses there.

Both Cliff and Leslie were initially educated at Short Street Primary School in Stapenhill, and they both then went to Burton-upon-Trent Grammar School – and from those days Cliff has remained friends with a number of Old Boys – John Clubb,

Doddy (Hubert) Dodsworth, Don Payne and David Woodcock and – between 1995 and 2019, Cliff and Audrey attended the annual Old Boys' Dinner each year in May.

From late 1948, Cliff did his National Service training at RAF Cranwell, rising to the dizzy height of Corporal. Then, as an older student, he went to Loughborough College of Technology as it was then, where he was awarded a First Class Honours Diploma in Civil Engineering. When Loughborough was later granted University status, it held Degree Ceremonies in 2009, when Cliff was presented with his Degree on the 18 July, at the age of 79! He also remained friendly with Peter Davenport from Loughborough days, and Cliff and Audrey attended many Alumni reunions at the University, staying with Peter and his wife Eileen. Peter wrote "I have so many lovely memories of the friendship Cliff and I formed from our first day in 1951, finding ourselves sitting next to each other on our first lecture at Loughborough. I saw this slightly older student beaming at me and introducing himself. That lovely smile stayed with him throughout his life."

Another Loughborough colleague wrote "I was at College with Cliff in the 1950s and knew him well, as we both played rugby, but he to a much higher standard. Having done his National Service first, he was a good source of wisdom to us kids straight from school."

Cliff was a keen sportsman, playing Rugby and Cricket whilst at school, and taking part in athletics. He also played Rugby, Badminton and Tennis whilst at Loughborough, and he was a keen rower, table tennis player and javelin thrower, and he received the Victor Ludorum, which is awarded for sporting prowess. He continued to play both tennis and badminton for many years, and was still playing tennis whilst living in the UAE and Malaysia.

Cliff joined John Laing Construction as a Junior Engineer in 1955 and the family moved around the country every couple of years as new Civil Engineering Contracts started up, so Sally was born in 1958 in Burton-on-Trent Infirmary, Susan was born in 1960 in Syston, near Leicester, and Elizabeth was born in 1963 in the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

In 1964, Cliff had an offer of work in Spain, still with John Laing, so the family moved to Vitoria for 15 months and Jonathan was born in 1965 at the British American Hospital in Madrid.



Cliff was involved in the building of many motorways in England. In 1967, John Laing Construction was awarded a 2-year Contract to build a section of the M6 motorway in the Lune Gorge at Tebay in Westmorland, on the edge of the Lake District, where Cliff was appointed Assistant Project Manager. After that Contract, he then became the Project Manager for 2 years on a section of the M5 motorway at Banwell in Somerset, followed by various senior positions with Bovis Civil Engineering and Bovis International.

In 1980, Cliff started a new life with Audrey, but because of a lack of work in the UK, that meant living overseas for ten years – living in Kenya, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia – so friends and family took advantage of holidays in Kenya and Malaysia. Not surprisingly, nobody wanted a holiday in Saudi Arabia, presumably owing to the very tight Muslim restrictions, but in 1982 single females weren't allowed to visit the Kingdom anyway! Cliff was a keen photographer, so there were many photographic opportunities during their overseas life, particularly whilst safari-ing in Kenya, and it was difficult for Audrey to choose a small selection of photos to reflect on today.



Cliff and Audrey came back to live in the UK in 1990, and Cliff worked in Westbury, Wiltshire until his retirement in 1997. They enjoyed a very social life, particularly in the UAE and Malaysia, and have remained friends with a number of people from their days overseas – a lot of whom would have attended his funeral but for Covid-19. Since 1990, they have had many house guests and visitors – as a lot of their friends' holidays seemed to pass through Somerset!

Cliff liked to travel, so he and Audrey had many exotic holidays. Whilst in the UAE, they went to Western Australia, Thailand and Hong Kong. After returning to UK, they visited the Sydney side of Australia many times to stay with Sally, with stopovers in Singapore & Malaysia to see friends and colleagues; on one of their trips to Australia, they went over to New Zealand with Sally and her husband, to stay with friends from UAE days. They went to Zimbabwe and to Norway to stay with friends there. They went back to the UAE and to Oman – again to stay with friends. They also stayed with friends in Germany, Spain & Portugal. They also went to Florida with Sally and her partner to meet up with Canadian friends from UAE days; and as Cliff had a P&O pension, they enjoyed a number of cruises. Sadly, travelling came to an end because of Cliff's health problems – he was diagnosed with cancer in July '18 and given only three weeks to 12 months to live. He survived much longer than that, with Audrey as his full-time carer, but he had four bouts of sepsis needing hospitalisations between July '18 and July '20, then the final sepsis attack on the 27th December 2020.

Audrey has received over a hundred sympathy cards and messages with words to describe Cliff as gracious, charming, a wonderful host, witty, humorous, a warm and friendly man with a lovely smile, and one colleague wrote "Cliff was a great guy and the best boss I have ever had, and he became a valued friend". Another colleague wrote "He was truly a gentleman in the world of work; reliable, honest, calm and professional. I count him amongst the small number of those I most respected. His is a funeral I would have surely wished to attend." And a third colleague wrote "Cliff was a real gentleman and one of my mentors during my early career. I will always remember him with real affection."

John Curtis**(1945-50)****Died 5 Sept 2020**

John Curtis, who has died aged 86, was an architect and artist. He lived and exhibited his paintings and prints in Ramsgate.

Born in High Bank Road, Winshill, he retained three friends from those days and from school – John Fellows (see below), Alan Carter, and Tony Morris,

At Easter 2015, John and Tony joined him and his family in Burton, to celebrate his fifty-first Wedding Anniversary and 81st birthday. The picture shows him enjoying life at Burton Market Hall.

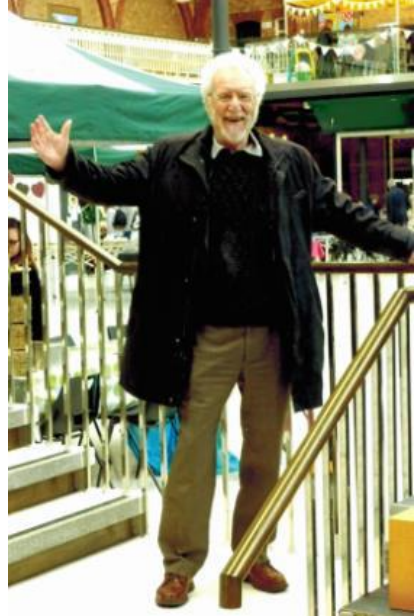
Qualifying in Architecture at Birmingham University, he worked for the London County Council and in Private Practice, and for much of his career at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (later the Department of the Environment).

There he promoted Industrialised building, supervised Expanded Towns and the National Building Agency, and contributed to the Building Regulations.

In his spare time, he worked with a Housing Association, became school Governor, and organised exhibitions of friends' art work at his local Library.

Always a keen sportsman, he played most sports and was an exceptionally strong swimmer.

He was married to his wife, Alison, who survives him, for 56 years. He has a son and daughter, and three half-Danish grandchildren.

**John Fellows****(1943-48)****Died 13 May 2020**

After years of friendship, it is sad that these two Johns are sharing an obituary page.

Back in 2012, John sent us a very detailed recollection of his days BGS in which he recalls following Dennis Grimsley home for fifth place in the school cross-country and breaking the long jump record shortly afterwards. After time in the RAF, he had a career as an insurance broker and estate agent.. He was a past president of Rotary and a member of Redcar 41 Club.

He remembered running out onto Peel Croft in 1948 at the age of 16 to play for Burton and he recalled the influence and commitment of both Bill Reid and Taffy Davies in helping him to develop his high jump skills.

He married Sylvia in 1955 and has grandchildren in Yorkshire in the Lake District.

He comments, as many old boys do, that life has given many blessings and is still feels a lasting gratitude to Burton Grammar School for the part it played in shaping him as a person.

Brigadier W.E. (Bill) Strong**1954-61****Died March 2020**

Bill said of himself in 2011: “I tried everything from chartered accountancy through to jazz drumming without any discernible success, so in desperation I joined the Army in 1963. Initially I wanted to be in the Intelligence Corps but failed entry twice (actually one could argue that was my first success, as you’re normally only allowed to fail once). Realising the infantry could be hazardous and particularly wearing on the feet I found the regiment furthest away from the front line, becoming a gunner, which some describe as sappers with humour (but I can’t understand why). My career was more noteworthy for its longevity. I avoided the three deadly sins: don’t run off with the CO’s wife, lose a secret document or fiddle a travel claim and I soldiered on until medical discharge in 1999.”

“My first posting was to BAOR then to the UK. I avoided Kuching in Sarawak as the confrontation would be over before getting there, persuading Denis Healey (yes, really, although he did make it clear via my CO and many extra orderly officer’s duties you could only get away with writing direct to the Defence Minister as a 2/Lt once) to let me go on secondment to Aden. Spending much of my time in Beihan, East Aden Protectorate, with the South Arabian Army until Independence in 1967. I then joined 3/RHA in BAOR, which included a fascinating three months in Libya. Then three years in the UK learning to be an Instructor in Gunnery and testing various potential weapon systems in turn then found me in Catterick before starting tours of Northern Ireland, such a feature of my generation. I also went to Dhofar in 1972 as part of Cracker Battery and was lucky enough to be on duty when the action of Mirbat took place – one could reasonably argue if it had been lost, so would Oman. Back to Catterick and the M62 coach bomb came just as I was adjutant, organising the arms plot move to Munsterlager – it was difficult to know who were casualties and who had only missed the planes or ships.”

“Much to my surprise I was selected for Staff College and then I was sent to our Embassy in Washington in 1977. ‘Twas there I fell under the benign influence of Harry Bendorf and his US medal collecting friends, friendships which survive to this day. Indeed I started collecting in 1963 when invited to a drink (along with other cadets) with the then Deputy Commandant of Mons Officer Cadet School, Col. Bowen, and he showed me drawers of what I came to realise were MGS and Waterloo medals – my first purchase was a Waterloo at £16, when pay as a cadet was just under £5 a week. But I digress... to BAOR to command 170 Imjin Battery supporting the Glosters, commanded by the then CO Robin Grist (son of Col. Carne’s 2IC). After a spell as 2IC I went to my only London posting, Stanmore in the Military Secretary’s Department, before becoming an instructor at Shrivenham and then a TA command in Wales. Then, avoiding three years in Belize (Belmopan) mainly because the guy I was to succeed sent me a photo of himself with a boa constrictor round his neck, I managed to go to Canada (to where most of my family had previously emigrated). Happy times here in two locations – one was in the High Commission and the other in the Canadian National Defence HQ as SO1 Standardisation Australia, Britain, Canada, America (ABCA, known by us all as All Blooming Changed Again or words to that effect), so one could always be unobtainable in ‘the other office’ should real work appear over the horizon.”

Back in England, I commanded a Weapons Establishment in Shoeburyness, Essex, where you could indulge yourself as a pyromaniac to your heart's content. Interestingly enough, this now being 1989, we still used Kitchener's railway coach from the Sudan to get around the various locations on Foulness Island and also a V1 rocket ramp (horizontally) for small arms tests. A copy of the Atlantic Wall, which we had to defeat for the Normandy landings, was built there in 1943/4 so we could work out how to attack it and it remains there still. My tour was interrupted by a summons to General Sir Peter de la Billière's new HQ in Saudi Arabia (I had served under him before), as ACOS Support, responsible for logistics and personnel matters.

Of many memories two in particular stick in my mind; one, trying to protect our missing Army and RAF personnel without giving away too much of what and/or who they were, negotiating their release, identifying them and delivering both the survivors and the deceased back to the UK; and trying to get some particularly sensitive stores into the Kingdom, wine for Communion, which eventually came out addressed to me as heavenly lubricant.

My penultimate tour was in the Outer Hebrides, a well-kept secret if ever there was one, and it was always a pleasure to take visitors to St Kilda, a fascinating block of islands still with the gun placed there to protect the Bay from attack following the U-boat shelling which took place in 1917. After brushing up my Arabic I finished my service based in Saudi Arabia, with various duties including Bahrain and the Yemen. The Yemen, or more accurately the Aden part of it, was where I met my wife Angela in 1966 when she visited her father who was stationed out there and 'house sitting' for the then Col. John Slim, so it was nice to go back to places we had known some 30 years previously. She is the sixth generation to Follow the Drum when her family, Irish chieftains of old, decided to join the British Army.

Rev Michael Crumpton

(1944-50)

died 16 March 2021

Michael was a Burton boy born in and spending his early years in Dallow Street.

He attended the Grammar School of which he had fond memories, and was a member of the Old Boys' Association.

After doing his national service in the RAF based in the Shetlands, he worked for a couple of years as a policeman based in Lichfield, before joining IBM in Birmingham. He enjoyed this very much but felt a calling to the priesthood, training for, and becoming an Anglican vicar. He met and married his wife Dorothy whilst in Longton, Stoke on Trent. He also had parishes in Rugeley and Kingswinford.

They took early retirement and moved back to Stoke living in Trentham. Sadly, shortly afterwards his wife died suddenly. Michael then returned to Burton to live with his father.

He had long discerned a calling to the Catholic faith and was invited by the then Archbishop to convert and become a Catholic priest. He undertook the training and was ordained a Catholic priest on February 26th 2000, being based at Ss Mary and Modwen's, Burton on Trent.

His funeral was held there on Thursday April 8th following his sudden death passing peacefully in his sleep on March 16th 2021 aged 87 years. Rest in peace.

A few years ago, Graham Marshment took him to his flight school and he had a flight in one of the fixed wing microlights — he loved every minute of it.



John Michael Storer Keen**1939-47****Died 5 April 2020**

Mike was born in Burton on February 17, 1929 to Clifford and Millicent Keen. He attended Burton Grammar School and graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in engineering. He then joined Rolls-Royce Aero Engines at the company's Derby manufacturing base. In Derby, Mike met his future wife Valerie Murfin (Val), who was to become his loyal and constant companion until her death in November 2015.

Mike's first U.S. move was to Lockheed's base in Palmdale, California, to lead Rolls-Royce's on-site engineering effort. As the RB211 engine program developed, Mike moved to Kansas City to support key customer TWA, briefly to Los Angeles and then on to Rolls-Royce's U.S. Headquarters in New York. During this period, Mike and Val found a home close to the beach in Westport, Connecticut. In 1978, Mike returned to Rolls-Royce's Derby base as Director of Product Support. He went back to the U.S. in 1984 to co-lead a joint venture with Pratt and Whitney. Mike retired in 1992, when he and Val again took up residence in their favourite U.S. town. In Westport, Mike developed his interest in sailing, joining the Power Squadron and honing his skills aboard the Muffin II. He also enjoyed photography and wintering at his home in St Petersburg, Florida. He travelled extensively with Val, taking cruises to Iceland and the Caribbean. He and Val made many strong friendships in Connecticut. Throughout the years, the couple remained close to Mike's brother Chris and his wife Judy, enjoying travel adventures together and transatlantic visits to each other's homes. Mike is survived by son Nicholas and his wife Joyce of Rose Valley, PA; son Mark and his wife Toni of The Villages, FL; three granddaughters, Lindsey Picano, Stephanie Krukar and Jackie Keen; and three great grandchildren. Mike both loved and was very much loved by his family, and is greatly missed.

(Based on funeral-notices.co.uk/east%20midlands-derbyshire/death-notices/notice/keen/4836846 }

Dennis Payne**1943-1945****Died 5 May 2020**

Don Payne (1942-45) reported the sad death of his younger brother from Covid-19:

“He and I were evacuated to Newhall in 1941 from London after having previously been in Essex, then back to London where we were bombed out.

We attended the Newhall primary school but had to take the London entrance exam to get a grammar school place and the appropriate transfer from the London school to Burton Grammar school. He was a member of Nelson House, and on our return to London in 1945 attended Coopers Company School in East London, where he excelled at swimming and swam for the school.

He was first named after Denis Boyd RN, an old friend of the family who became Admiral Sir Denis William Boyd 5th Sea Lord KCOB,OBE,DSCO

On leaving school Dennis worked for Bethnal Green Borough Council London then became a London black cab driver eventually retiring to Thornton Le Dale near Scarborough with his wife Lily who predeceased him. He leaves children his David, JoAnne and Judy.”

Malcolm Watson**(1953-56)****Died 25 Aug 2020**

Malcolm was President of the Old Boys' Association in 2007-08, and always supported the Association at the Abbot Beyne School Memorial Service each November and at the AGM and Dinner. He also very kindly presented the hardwood case for the OBA's Chain of Office and Gavel (see cover photo).

Malcolm Watson's son Gary writes:

Malcolm died in August 2020, shortly after his 80th birthday. He had a sudden, but thankfully short illness. Malcolm leaves behind his wife Eunice and two sons, Gary and Neville who live in Worcestershire and Hampshire, with his four grandchildren.

Malcolm and Eunice met at a dance at the Burton Hospital Social Club when she was a student nurse. Quite why he was there is less clear, but they went on to live happily ever after.

Malcolm attended the Grammar School when it was still at Bond Street, and was one of those due to sit his O-Levels at Winhill, until the roof blew off!

After school he went into agriculture and attended the Rodbaston Agricultural College. His career took him to jobs around the country, and via a Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to New Zealand and the USA.

After returning to the Burton area, Malcolm and Eunice lived at Tutbury for many years. In later years he recorded his autobiography in a book for his grandchildren entitled 'Lucky Old Grandpa' which he had printed into hardback books for them. You will not find it in Waterstones or on Amazon though.

Other than agriculture he was a part of a number of local choirs, and the Treasurer of his local Methodist Chapel.

**William (Bill) Souster****(1936-44)****Died 2019**

Bill's son Chris (1961-69) writes:

William (Bill) was born and grew up in Burton on Trent. He was an accomplished sportsman, representing BGS at both rugby and cricket before going to Sheffield University where he graduated with a B.Sc. in Engineering. Whilst there he continued with his rugby and had a final Trial for England Students.

After university he joined the family firm of E E Baguley in Shobnall Street. They manufactured a variety of railcars and railway locomotives. Customers included Bass, Dartford Dockyard and National Coal Board.

While playing hockey in a charity match on the meadows, Bill met his future wife Norma (a PE teacher at the High School). They were married in 1949 and went on to have four children, Christopher, Anne, Mary and Kathryn.

He continued his association with rugby, playing a very active role for Burton RFC over a number of years, achieving 329 1st XV appearances between 1945 and 1957. He also held a number of positions at Peel Croft, Club Captain, then Hon. Secretary and then Club President. He went on to be President of Staffordshire Rugby Union from 1979 -1981.

He was also involved with BGS, served as a Governor at the new school in Winshill and was President of BGS OBA in 1957-58. He rose to Managing Director of the family firm and became the MD of the amalgamation of the Drewry Car Co Ltd into a new company Baguley-Drewry in 1967.

He sold the company in 1986 and in retirement, bought a camper van. He and Norma spent many happy times in it, travelling around the UK and the continent, especially to visit their children and grandchildren. Some now living in Spain and Italy. When at home, he enjoyed gardening and playing golf at Bretby and snooker at the Burton Club. He bought a holiday apartment in Exmouth in 1998 and they spent a lot of time there before eventually moving there permanently in 2010. Whilst there, he and Norma joined the Budleigh Salterton Croquet and Bridge Club and enjoyed an active social life. In 2015, he celebrated his 90th birthday with a big family party including his 4 children and 8 grandchildren, other family members and many new found friends. He and Norma celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in August 2019 but his health had been deteriorating for the last couple of years and he passed away in Exeter hospital in October 2019 aged 94.

Other Condolences

I should welcome further information on the people below, to include more details in a future newsletter.

Our sympathies go to Alan Jefford (1944-49) on the loss of Frances, his wife for 60 years.

Graham Barnes	(1940-48)	Died 28 May 2020
Francis Bates	(1940-1948)	Died 2020
Prof Henry Anthony Ellis	(195?-1965)	Died November 2020
David Green	(1940-46)	Died 12 May 2020
Denis King	(1960-67)	Died 2012
Richard Knight	(1952-58)	Died February 2020
Nigel Melen	(1966-73)	21 March 2020

Bob James (BGS staff 1970-75) wrote: I am sad to report the death of another old boy, Nigel Melen, who left in 1973. Nigel went on to study Modern Languages at Liverpool University, following which he taught in Liverpool and London before taking up posts abroad. At the time of his death he was the principal of an international school in Sharjah, having previously held a similar position on Oman.

Bryn Meyer	(1952-57)	Died June 2020
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Bryn had a career in the Merchant Navy and in Marine Consultancy.

Gerald Prince	(1942-45)	Died 18 Apr 2018
Dr Robert Throssell	(1932-41)	Died 3 Nov 2019
Bernard J Welsh	(1941-47)	Died 11 Feb 2021
George Wigley	(1940-46)	Died 1 Apr 2020
Roger Winfield	(1941-48)	Died 4 December 2020

Passed away peacefully at home on 4th December 2020 aged 89. Beloved father, grandfather, cousin, partner and friend. A private family service was held on 17 December.

News from Abbot Beyne School



I am Jamie Tickle and I am delighted to be the new Headteacher of Abbot Beyne School. Having had previous experience of leading two successful schools, one in Nottingham and one in Leicester, I am certain we have the building blocks to continue the success and traditions of this wonderful school.

It has certainly been a very strange time to start at a new school. Unable to shake any member of staff by the hand, unable to meet them all together in one room at a time, students spread out with fewer than normal interactions with one another and, at the time of writing, not even all in school, it does not feel like a 'normal school'. However, what we have done is go back to basics. We have reviewed everything that happens at the school and asked, why do we do that? As a result, a significant number of changes have either been made or will be made by the end of the year. These include:

- A review of the school values
- A review of marketing and branding at the school
- A new school logo
- A new school website
- Renaming the houses in the school – any suggestions for names welcome
- The setting up on an alumni organisation (please see below)
- A new Behaviour Policy
- A new curriculum
- Ensuring all students have their own iPad

- A new Pastoral structure
- A return to the important role of the Form Tutor
- A new communication system with students and parents

All of this is without the extra safety measures we have put in place, including five extra sets of sinks, year group bubbles, staggered starts and end of the day, face masks and lateral flow testing. Then, finding a new way to assess students without using GCSE or A Level examinations. Abbot Beyne School certainly has kept me busy.

Despite all of this I feel we have made a really positive start to my headship at the school. Feedback from staff, governors, parents and students shows that the school is moving in the right direction. Much of this has come about by returning to the traditions of the school and trying to keep things simple. Clear, consistent communication in times of uncertainty enables all stakeholders to feel safe and secure at school.

One of the most disappointing elements of the year is that much of the enrichment programme and the extra things that makes Abbot Beyne special have had to be removed this year. Whilst we have carried on with the Duke of Edinburgh qualification for our young people, we have had to stop many of the sporting fixtures with other schools or clubs. I hope next year to be able to reinstate these things as students should have these experiences to look back on from their time at secondary school.

Stay safe and if at any point you would like to come and have a look around the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Jamie Tickle, Headteacher
headteacher@abbotbeyne.staffs.sch.uk

Proposed Alumni Association

Ian Livingston, Abbot Beyne's Chair of Governors, is proposing to set up an association for alumni and alumnae of Abbot Beyne and its predecessor schools (BGS, Burton Girls' High School, and Ada Chadwick).

The goal is to help former pupils keep in touch and reminisce, and those leaving the school will automatically qualify as life members of the new association. It is hoped that activities will be organized in the future.

Ian says: "We hope to organise activities which enable us to stay in touch with our students once they move on to pastures new, but also help us get in touch with long lost friends. We look forward to offering plenty of opportunities for Old Boys and Old Girls to connect with each other, as well as with the School and with current students."

He extends an invitation to all our Old Boys (and BGHS Old Girls) to join. He can be reached at chairofgovernors@abbotbeyne.staffs.sch.uk

April 2020 to May 2021: Memories from BGS Old Boys

Derrick Pounds (1946-51) remembers life Between BGS and Canada

On 3 September 1951 at age 16½ I started an Engineering Apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce, Derby along with 23 other teenagers. Rolls-Royce supplied each apprentice with two pairs of white coveralls with 'Rolls-Royce Engineering Apprentice' embossed in red 1-inch-high letters on the breast pocket. One set of coveralls was washed 'Persil' white and pressed at the company's expense every week, so we had a washed set to wear on Monday mornings. My wages were 14½ shillings/week (about 25cents/day) starting work at 7.55 a.m. and finishing at 5.43 p.m. I was happy with my meager wages since I knew that Premium Apprentices in earlier years had to pay for the training we were being offered. I continued my education by taking courses at Derby Technical College one day and at least two evenings each week for the next 5 ¾ years that led to a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Mechanical Engineering with endorsement subjects taken in 1957.

After one year at workshop training school, we were assigned for periods in factory departments that, in my case, included the foundries, tool room, forge, heat treatment, laboratories, drafting office, sheet metal fabrication, engine assembly and test, engine dispatch, engine research and development.

On September 1, 1952, I started factory work spending six weeks in the Aluminum foundry first preparing sand cores, using wood patterns, for casting crankcases fitted to Merlin and Griffon 12-cylinder piston aero engines. Working under the close supervision of senior tradesmen, to whom I am greatly indebted, I learnt quickly the basic requirements for quality teamwork. Special care was required, after removing the sea-sand cores, bonded with a special resin, from their wooden patterns. They were carefully inspected using slip gauges to obtain the proper fits before the cores were oven baked. There were 52 different shaped sand cores inserted into the mould for the Merlin and 47 for the Griffon crankcases. These included the five main bearing cores and several more for the respective super-charger and wheel case ends of the crankcases that were about six feet apart. I worked on the preparation of several crankcase mould skeletons, which included the insertion of metal "chills" supported by wires at critical locations. After the patterns were removed from the sand mould a mixture called "plumbago," consisting of French chalk and black lead, was sprayed on and dried with a gas flame to "mummify" the surface. Oil was then sprayed on the surface to protect the mould from molten aluminum and any excess was dried off also using a gas flame. The assembly of the cores into the skeleton mould was a delicate time-consuming task. The greatest care was taken not to allow any sand to fall anywhere in the mould or among the cores. It was essential that, before pouring, the aluminum in the ladles was at a uniform 740C to allow the temperature to fall 5C during the process of pouring; for the exact temperature required was 735C.

Laboratory personnel witnessed each pour recording temperatures and taking cast samples for structure analysis and strength tests on the RR50 Aluminum alloy. After allowing about one hour for cooling, the sand mould was broken away from the casting. The crankcase was air cooled to foundry temperature, before the casting risers were cut-off and the finishing work including extensive machining commenced.

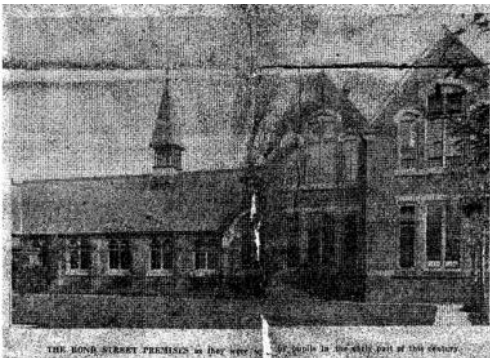
Later in my apprenticeship I worked in the assembly shops helping to build piston, propjet and jet engines and also gained experience performance testing such aero engines. During assembly of the Merlin and Griffon aero engines the two cylinder blocks are mounted inclined at 60°. Each block was held down on the crankcase by fourteen $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter alloy steel studs, which were about two feet long. These were screwed into the crankcase and torqued using a special tool that locks on the stud threads at the other end. I had the distinction of forcefully breaking this tool, while following the proper procedures, during the installation of a cylinder hold-down stud. This breakage caused a gathering of my amazed workmates who were baffled by the tool failure.

Richard Wain found this article, from the *Burton Observer and Chronicle* of Thursday March 19th, 1964. The paper was in poor condition, and I've succeeded in transcribing all but part of one sentence that proved unreadable.

Burton's Overcrowded Grammar School—in 1858 Head Was Accused of Pocketing Assistant's Salary

One of the most significant dates in the four centuries of Burton Grammar School history was the year 1858.

It was in that year that this ancient seat of local learning ceased to be a free grammar school, under a new scheme of management approved by the High Court in Chancery, which allowed for the charging of capitation fees of £7 for the Upper School and £2 for the Lower.



From that time, the only boys who were admitted free were the five boys whom the trustees were empowered to admit to the Lower School from any other school in Burton, who together with five others of the Upper School, were selected by the trustees for free education.

At the beginning of 1857, however, the title of the school was still "Burton Free Grammar School," and so it was called in January, when, in the "Burton Weekly News," it was announced that the following gentlemen of the town had been appointed be trustees in

place of some who had resigned and some others who were deceased : Messrs H. Allsopp, Abram Bass, R. S. Belcher, J. S. Clay, T Goer, T. Poyser, R. S. Tomlinson, T. F. Salt, R. Thornewill and W. H. Worthington.

The school, though not prospering, progressed quietly under the headmastership of the Rev. Henry Clay, with Mr. Henry Hodson as his second master, as there were as yet none of the rumblings of the discontent that was to break towards the end of the year, and would rage throughout 1858.

By the Autumn of 1857, however, rumours that the scholars were soon going to have to pay to enter the Free Grammar School were beginning to circulate, and the matter came to a head when, on October 2nd, 1857, the following letter, from “A friend of the Working Classes,” appeared in the “News”:- “Dear Sir,— Can you or any of your readers inform me in your next publication whether the trustees of the Burton Free Grammar School have decided upon destroying its freedom by the introduction of the following capitation fees, viz., £10 for the upper school and £6 for the lower school? I have had an intimation that such is the case. Sincerely trusting that it is not so, I am, etc.”

But either no-one knew, or no-one cared to confirm the rumour, for in the next week’s “News,” all was silence on this subject, nor was it again mentioned in print until five months later.

Then, on February 26th, discreetly tucked away at the very bottom of a leader article headed “Notes on the Week,” which discussed the Palmerston Ministry, the Chinese riots, troubles in India, the Burton small pox epidemic and a proposed new Burton bridge, the following few lines appeared: “The grammar school, we believe, is at length settled to be re-modelled in accordance with the wishes of the petitioners, and henceforth will not be free, but a charge of £2 to the lower, and £7 to the upper school will be requisite for admission.”

That started it. The first blow was struck by “An Anxious Father,” who, hitting out at the abolition of freedom, also caught the reverend Mr. Day an ungentlemanly one below the belt.

“I noticed in your paper two weeks since,” he wrote “an announcement that the new plan of the Grammar School has been adopted. Now, nothing at all has been said to any of us who are chiefly interested in the subject, and we have had no public notification of the change.

“I believe it is well known that about £450 per annum was left to educate gratuitously 60 boys of the town—that 20 of these were to be admitted gratuitously to the upper school, and that the headmaster sometime since, wishing to make the benefit more general, obtained leave to take extra pupils at a certain rate, providing for their instruction by an additional assistant.

“This additional assistant was kept by the last two chief masters, but the present one, Mr. Day, has taken the extra payments without fulfilling the conditions, and last half I believe there were 40 boys in the upper school for him alone to teach. Of course, the quality of the teaching may be imagined.

“What I now wish to learn is whether there will be some *certain* arrangements made for fresh teachers, or whether we shall still be handed over unconditionally to this same Mr. Day. and our children taught by one, two or three, just as he may choose?

“It is an important matter to us townspeople, and we all feel much anxiety about it.”

Pon our souls, it does look as if they had the problem of overcrowded classes even in the 1850’s—doubtless as the result of the “bulge” caused by the Crimean War! Add to that the insinuation that the headmaster was pocketing the salary of the non-existent assistant master and you realise that the Victorians could have used a few Robbins, Crowther and Newsom reports.

The anxious father who wrote the letter grew a little angrier a fortnight later, for no action seems to have been taken on its contents.

So he wrote again "I must trouble you with a few more remarks, as no notice whatever has been taken of my previous letter. I wish to know what guarantee we townspeople have that, under the new plan, our children will be better taught or have more masters than under the old one.

"I should decidedly object to its being left to Mr. Day to settle how many and what masters must be employed, for, if instead of the number of scholars increasing it should diminish, it is hardly to be expected that he will show the liberality of paying teachers, when he himself gets less remuneration.

Judging from the past, one must be brought to the very opposite conclusion, for if (as is the case), he has taken the additional fees of extra pupils without getting the assistant agreed upon, he will most probably go on without even one more until he sees a chance of making it pay him well.[two lines unreadable] Yet I think we have every reason to believe that he will not be more generous than the men of his generation, but that he will count the cost first to his own pocket before he thinks of doing a benefit to the town."

Thus uneasily did the town prepare to accept the fact that its sons must now pay to be educated at the Grammar School. Even the "News" itself now grew a little unhappy about the situation, and commented: "Our Grammar School is still a vexed question, as the letters of our correspondents show, and we wish the authorities would set the matter at rest by some public notification of their intentions.

"We dislike giving insertion to complaints, as much as anyone can, but a journal is bound to become the channel of expressing the opinions of all who honestly communicate them."

Grammar School affairs took a brighter turn in May, 1858, when the "News" announced that Messrs Bass and Co. had subscribed £1,000 towards the erection of a new school and residence for the scholars and masters.

But still there remained the gnawing doubt as to whether the teaching staff was large enough to ensure an adequate education, and so, in the same month, one who signed himself "Index," and who appeared to know something of what was in the silent trusts' minds, was writing thus:—

"I wish to say nothing that is not just and impartial, and do not desire to take any part in the disputes which have arisen or may arise out of it.

"The matter as far as I understand it stands as follows: The Petitioners have obtained the sanction of law to alter the foundation, henceforth a charge of £7 or £2 will be made, new buildings are to be erected, the one for the school-house, the other for the master's residence.

"To accomplish this, a sum of £4,000 is required, a part of which has already been given by the liberality of Mr. T. Bass, Esq., M.P., and in course of time a good and efficient staff of masters will be employed.

"By these means it is hoped that the character of the education given will be raised, and the institution will be made more generally beneficial to the town.

"I cannot see that this scheme is so liable to the corrections so strongly urged against it. I am aware that the townspeople have been accustomed to look upon the School as free, and they will be apt to construe its change as a violation of that.

“But if by the new plan the instruction be improved and the design of the founder more fully carried out, if, further, the cash of persons who take advantage of the school be such as can afford easily to pay the charge intended; surely the alteration is proper, well-advised, and is likely to prove useful, and it becomes those who expect to reap benefit from it to exert themselves in promoting its accomplishment.

“Without considering whether or not all the proposed measures are necessary, I may conclude by remarking that upon one point loth. parties must agree—that two teachers are totally inadequate for the large number of 70 or 80 boys who attend the school, and that therefore some means of improvement are really called for.”

The controversy was only just beginning, and so far the trustees of the Grammar School had remained silent, both concerning their plans for the future of the school, and upon the troublesome problem of adequate staffing.

What is more, there had been no rejoinder from the Rev. Henry Day either to the charge that he was deliberately keeping the school understaffed so that he could pocket the assistant master's salary, or that, as a direct result, the scholars were being inadequately educated, and the classes over-crowded.

The battle of the correspondents was only just beginning to warm up, and Burton's once-free Grammar School was one of the main topics in the letters column of the “Weekly News” throughout the year—nor did the heated arguments abate even on Christmas Eve.

The rest of the story-of this tumultuous year, as the wind of change blew through the hitherto unruffled precincts of the little school in Friars' Walk, will be told next week.

But it can't be, as this is all we have

BURTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The school was founded about the year 1520 by Abbot 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, though the article above will make clear that funding and management were a problem by 1858. In 1869, all the revenues were amalgamated, and the Burton Endowed Schools came into being. In 1877, the Grammar School 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.

Peter Rowley OBE (1966-73) writes...

Whilst I prefer to look forwards rather than dwell on the past, I remember my time at Burton Grammar School (mostly) fondly. I hated Woodwork, Metalwork and Physics, but loved all sports — colours in Rugby (I played on the wing), Cricket (I opened the batting) and Athletics (lucky enough to be captain and managed to win the Victor Ludorum Cup one year) and can remember most of the faces in sports team photos of the period that Kevin Large has posted on the website. I was deputy head boy to Graham Staley in the year that W.H. (Bill) Gillion retired as Headmaster and did English Literature, History and Geography at A-Level - the 'Modern' set was much smaller than 'Science' in 6th form. I was a contemporary of 2 past Presidents of BGSOBA – Graham Milnes, a superb spin bowler and Mike Brown, a formidable lock forward. Sadly, I have lost contact with all of my cohort of 1966 and a few either side with the exception of Graham Staley, who now lives in Florida and 3 cousins who were a few years younger. I remember some great teachers – 'Brab' Smith, John Crowther, Percy Barrett, John Long, Ron Illingworth, Geoff Henton, John French and Vic Roebuck among others.

A-Level results were good enough to get me to Manchester University to study Law initially, but I can't claim to have enjoyed it, so I switched to Geography after a year, and I met my wife, Hilary on the same course. We've been married for 41 years and have 2 children – Jen, a lawyer and Alex, an accountant with 2 children each of their own.

I joined Midland Bank (now HSBC) after University, moving to the Cooperative and Standard Chartered Banks before becoming General Manager at Newcastle Building Society and then Chief Executive of Darlington Building Society. Upon appointment, aged 36, I was the youngest CEO of a UK building society and I stayed there for 17 years before retiring early in 2009. Since then, I have indulged my passion for volunteering and sport in various non-executive roles, including chairing several national sports organisations and was honoured to receive the OBE for services to sport administration in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2017. I'm still a trustee and director of 3 sports charities, company secretary of another and finish lecturing part-time in sport management at Northumbria University in June, where I've been teaching strategic management, economics and finance for the last 4 years. I'm still very active – an obsessive runner competing all distances from 5k to half marathon most weekends and I'm an enthusiastic hill walker in the Lake District, or was in pre-pandemic times. Let's hope we can get back to them soon!

Continuing to stay in touch

The Association has now been dissolved. We did consider having it morph into a legacy body whose only asset is the database of members, but instead decided to retain only those alumni who gave their consent to remaining on a list kept by the editor.

This newsletter is going to all members of the Association at its demise, after which the database will be deleted. If you want to receive future newsletters, and haven't already given your consent to remaining on record, please email bgs@cicsplex.co.uk as some

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.Grimmsley
1959-60	H.H.Pitchford	2011-12	K.B. Large
1960-61	D.J.Grimmsley	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	2018-20	J. A. Taylor
1967-68	W.F.Howarth	Association closed October 2020	

Minutes of the (final) Committee meeting held on 26 October 2020

Present: President John Tylor, Graham Marshment, Keith Large, Andrew Gentles, Eric Bodger, Bob Andrews and Steve Wilcox.

This meeting was held as a virtual meeting because of pandemic considerations. All members of the Committee took part.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider the vote made by members in response to the Committee's Resolutions 1 & 2 and decide the final outcome of the Association's future, on behalf of the members of the Association.



1. **Apologies:** None – the meeting was attended by all Committee members.
2. Minutes of the 2nd September 2020 meeting read, approved and signed by the President.
3. There were no Matters arising.
4. Secretary's Report and Voting Results; this had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed in detail. It was agreed that this confirmed the decisions outlined in Resolution 1 and 2 to formally close the Association. It was Proposed to accept the Report: Eric Bodger. Seconded: Andrew Gentles.
5. **It was unanimously agreed by all present that the Association be formally closed.**
6. Archivist's Report: Bob Andrews had already circulated a text which he hoped to have recorded in some form to put in the records and in the Archive room to explain how a legacy of the Association and the BGS could be retained for posterity.
It was unanimously agreed to accept his Report and give full approval and thanks to Bob for his work in ensuring the survival of the archived items and documents.
7. **Financial Report:** The Treasurer reported a total of £710.05 in the Bank but with a cheque for £186.02 which had not yet been cleared.
This left a balance of £524.07 to be donated to cover the future maintenance of the Archive Room at the Burton Club. The Treasurer confirmed that all outstanding bills had been paid and that he would close the account in the next few days and ensure the remaining monies would be passed on to the Archivist. It was agreed to accept the Report: Proposed: Eric Bodger. Seconded: Keith Large. The Committee voted unanimously in favour.

8. Continuation of the three informal contact groups was approved and these will remain operative after the closure of the Association. It was agreed to approve and encourage the information provided in the links detailed in the Agenda.
9. It was confirmed by the school that there would be no Remembrance Service this year but in future years, Old Boys could ring the school and arrange to attend any Service being organised.
10. The President's final letter to all members was discussed and given wholehearted approval.
11. AOB – There was no AOB but various members raised an on screen glass to the survival into the future of the spirit of the BGS Old Boys!

Voting responses to letter sent to 400+ members of the Association

All emails and voting slips have been retained for possible future scrutiny.

Question	Yes	No
I agree the Committee's recommendation to close the Association formally in October 2020.	130	6
If, in the future, the Committee regard it as worthwhile to retain an informal legacy database, are you happy for your details to be retained on it?	133	4

From the Editor:

I should like to thank all who have contributed material to this newsletter, including Committee members and others who have provided updates and photographs. People have been so generous this year that I have been unable to fit everything in; my apologies to anyone who has contributed material omitted or abridged.

If you are happy for your details to be retained, please send any updates to me at bgs@cicsplex.co.uk. If you later decide you don't wish me to keep your personal data, please notify me and I will remove your entry. I am happy to forward emails on request, providing the person you want to reach has an email address on record.

I will maintain the www.cicsplex.co.uk/BGS/ web-site for as long as there seems to be an interest, and email links to an annual newsletter so long as input continues to arrive. It will not be possible to print newsletters for posting in future, so please let me have your email address if you are not already getting electronic communications.

There are several web-sites you may find informative:

- The legacy 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

Archiving in ‘The Abbey’

The archives stored in the loft of the building we know as ‘The Abbey’ link four important pillars on which the town of Burton-on-Trent was built: ***The Abbey itself; The Brewing Industry; The Grammar School; and The Burton Club.***

We have set up a facility to preserve the tradition, and hope there will be others in the future who will care for these artefacts and that they will be aware that they will be preserving a thousand years of local history.

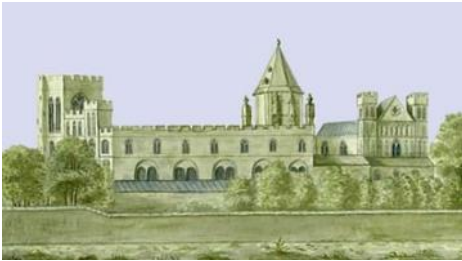
Byrtun, was a small village on the banks of the River Trent, when in around the year 625AD an Irish nun called Modwenna or Modwen stopped off on her pilgrimage to Rome. She built a small Church on St.Andrew’s Isle opposite where The Abbey now stands. Over the centuries the name gradually changed to Andressey.

Modwenna returned to Burton from Rome and built another Church at the bottom of Mount Calvis (Scalpccliffe Hill) on the other side of the Trent as the area was full of Pagans!

Modwenna then travelled to Scotland, and when she died her body was brought back to Burton, at her request, for burial on Andressey Island. Sadly her tomb was desecrated by a Danish Army around 874 and her bones scattered, the church destroyed.

However, once the Danes had left local townspeople collected some of her bones and secreted them away as she was now a Saint and miracles were assigned to her, especially for pregnant women.

The Abbey



In 1002AD The local Saxon Lord, Wulfric Spot, decided to build an Abbey in Burton and bones of St. Modwen were placed there. There is a copy of an engraving of Wulfric and his will in our archives. When you look at his crest, note the style and colour, as it reflected in the Grammar School uniform; the first link in our chain of history.

The building that we now call The Abbey is built on the foundation of the infirmary and excavations indicate it has exist since the main Abbey was built. The central part of the building, was constructed in 1316 by Abbot William of Bromley . It is described as a ‘Great Hall’.

The Grammar School

The date we have for the foundation of the Grammar School is 1520 AD but it was in existence, within the Abbey before that. The Abbot, William Beyne saw that if the Abbey was destroyed by Henry the Eighth, the School could be lost and he set aside certain lands to bring rents to pay for a teacher. There are books and records within the archives documenting this.

The lands around Burton were given by Henry VIII to his loyal supporters, one of whom was Sir William Paget, whose descendant was one of the founders of The Burton Club yet another link in our history.

Sadly, the Burton Grammar School was closed in 1976 by government reforms and it was replaced with a new comprehensive school, the Abbot Beyne School.

It is worth remembering that it was some of the former Grammar School pupils who originally founded The Burton Club. One of them was Lord Burton, a Grammar School boy who built his family business into the largest brewery in the world. He is another link in our history.



Amongst the artefacts in The Abbey is a cap as worn by pupils of the school 150 years ago. Lord Burton probably wore a similar hat. The school building which he attended still stands in the memorial gardens.

The Brewing Industry

Burton is Brewing! When did it start and why was it so successful? Beer was brewed universally as a means of purifying water but its condition depended on the quality of its well water. In Burton the water which for thousands of years has trickled through gravel and gypsum beds made it ideal for brewing beer. In addition, the water has a slight sulphur content known as 'The Burton Snatch' which has been described as making the beer, 'A brightly sparkling bitter, the colour of sherry and the condition of champagne'.

The monks in the Abbey no doubt brewed beer but it was the great brewers in the nineteenth century who made the Burton beer world famous. The link between the Breweries, The Abbey, Burton Grammar School and The Burton Club were woven by the owners of the breweries who have a close association with all four of our subjects.

We have in our archives the history of the breweries written by and for The Burton Club by members. These are not published anywhere else and will remain available for future generations to peruse.

To the custodians of the future we trust the artefacts and the books relating to a thousand years of history and trust you will preserve and pass them to the next generation, as we have passed them to you.