

JUNE NEWSLETTER

No.4 – June – 2013



For the Members, Family and Friends of the
OLD WEALDEN ASSOCIATION

Joint Editors:
ALISTAIR McGECHIE (1957)
PETER LUCK (1943)

Your News ...

MANY THANKS for yet another excellent email edition of the OW newsletter. I really enjoy receiving them as they contain up-to-date information, rather than waiting for the printed newsletter where the news could be up to a year old! However, I still think I would like to receive the printed version. As you say, it is good to sit down and read it! In addition, it was good to have the pictures of the buildings in the last one and to be able to look at them without looking at a screen!

I have not been able to attend the last few reunions, but hope

to be able to attend in the future.

Many thanks for all your hard work, and for everything that is done by the committee members. It is much appreciated.

Regards,
Maggy (Price) Gardner (1958)

[Sent from my iPad]

THANKS for the May Newsletter and the update on the recent OW Reunion. Sadly, I wasn't able to attend even though I wanted to be there as it was the 60th anniversary of my leaving Harrow Weald in '53. As expected, I had a phone call

from Chas Reeves this morning to find out if I was O.K. and why I hadn't been among the representatives of the '47 intake, so I heard about the event first hand, so to speak.

I was really sorry to hear that David Lush had died, and also, Pat Crisp, who was in my year and was showing signs of advancing dementia the last time she came to a reunion. I also couldn't decide whether Clive J. Biggs was the Johnny Biggs who was in my form at Harrow Weald; the obituary note was from his wife, Jennifer, but I always thought his wife's name was Gillian, and at the last count, he lived in Hitchin.

I thought you might be

WEBSITE

There is another website running now. The address is

www.brookshillblog.com

For those of you who have access to a computer please have a look, it's in the course of being built up and there is the facility to make comments on the pieces which appear.

The alternative is at www.oldwealden.org.uk

YOUR NEWS: Please send to: alistair.mcgechie@btopenworld.com or
p.luck123@btinternet.com

interested in the following coincidental anecdote concerning a contemporary of mine at Harrow Weald, who has just recently re-surfaced in my life as the mother of my close friend's newly acquired son-in-law! (Her daughter met and married Sheila Gilmour (Pain's) son down in Bristol...)

I just thought it illustrated very well what a small world we live in, and how one can never entirely escape one's past.

Best wishes to all,

Jan (Ryan) Woodward (1947)

Again, many thanks.
All good wishes,

Marion Mole

Dear Alistair:

Reading about the anniversary of Roy Cook (who was in my form at HWCS – Class of 1936) I thought I would let you know that my wife and I are just celebrating our 67th anniversary.

We have been living in Canada since 1956 but I am still in regular e-mail contact with my schoolday sweetheart, Mollie Villar.

Anne and I were married at St. Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill, on June 29th, 1946. We have two married sons, both lawyers, practising in Toronto.

I served in the RAF as a pilot from 1943 until the end of the war, but never saw operational service. Until my demob in 1947 I was a Physical Training Instructor, working with RAF Apprentices at Halton.

I greatly enjoy news of the old

school, much changed though it is in its purpose, and send you my good wishes.

Sincerely

Peter Brannan (1936)

peterajb@sympatico.ca

Hi Peter

Many thanks for May's email newsletter. This is an excellent idea – although my poor old computer groans a little under the weight! I read it and then delete it immediately! Are these monthly or two monthly or quarterly?

It seems the reunion was a success again and everyone enjoyed their cake and bubbly – a jolly good idea and not too much organization involved.

The sun is out with a vengeance here today – very hot.

Keep well.

Cheers,

Thelma (Gyoury) Wood (1943)

Roy Cook (1936) writes ...

Thanks Peter, enjoy reading it but your suspicions are right, nothing like the real thing and when it has been read it sits on the coffee table for odd references until the next one.

Best wishes from us both –

Roy and Evelyn

Pat (Pamplin) Mitchell (1943) writes ...

Immediately after the reunion we went off to Cumbria..and I feel very remiss that I didn't

send my congratulations and thanks for all the hard work the committee had put into making the 80th anniversary so special to all of us lucky enough to attend

Many many thanks !

I think that you knew I was concerned that I might not know anyone ...but there were some friends ... and even folk I didn't know were extremely friendly and I thought there was a super atmosphere there ... again no doubt due to the good organisation.

Our old neighbours were with Bill Broadhurst as original scholars ... and so Bill and I had a good chat.

It was interesting as he remembered my father well as they had both been on the committee that decided to have the Barlow Butlin Memorial window installed. What a pity it is now cracked

Instead of feeling my age it really made me feel younger to be talking to someone about my father !!

Needless to say it was also good to chat to your sister Rosemary ...

Again my thanks and best wishes.

Pat Mitchell

Some more pictures from the Reunion from our Treasurer Keith Mayes' camera ...



John Baker tickles the ivories as usual, keeping us in tune, and in time, for the ritual singing of the hymn and School song.

Foundation pupils Bill Broadhurst and Wallace Mackenzie take the first slice into the specially prepared Anniversary Cake.



**AUDREY JOAN
(ROBERTS) CONWAY
(1941) writes from
Webster, N.Y. USA ...**

**A brief view of
HWCS 1941-42**

As pupils it would change our world view.

ON THE FIRST DAY we walked up the hill silently, not knowing what to expect. In place of the splendid uniforms of the 1930s we wore a variety of wartime clothing. Mine was a very short dress printed with tanks and guns which I kept pulling down – how embarrassing.

On entering the classroom we found our places alphabetically and sat down – again silently.

The following are some explicit instructions in our curriculum which our teachers were too courteous to express verbally.

1 – **English:** Perfect your grammar. By the third form we

shall expect you to know it. Better treats are in store. We shall not be teaching you to type or write a resumé. What we offer here lambkins, is education, not training.

2 – **English Literature:** We shall start with Henry IV parts one and two. Here we have the greatest dramatist in the English language. You may not understand it all now but you will. Understanding human nature is a biggie I promise you.

3 – **Geography:** Look at this large map on the wall. Memorise all the names and places, especially the pink ones. These may change, you never know. Topography, natural resources, imports and exports are important too.

4 – **History:** You will not have to memorise the names of kings and queens, you can learn these in your leisure reading. Here we start with the Magna Carta 1215 and the parliamentary machinations which follow. Democracy is in there somewhere.

5 – **Science:** This is a lab. Those metal and glass things which you see are not ornaments or toys. Mr Bergin will hope to teach you how the physical world works. The atom? Yes, it will be split. Just you wait and see.

6 – **Math:** Make sure you know your fractions and percentages now. The third form onward will bring geometry and algebra and, heaven forbid – calculus.

7 – **Religious Instruction:** This is a bible. We may have a state religion, the Church of England, but by golly there is no proselytizing here. The old and new testaments are right up there with Shakespeare. The bible is also history, culture and literature.

8 – **French, German, Latin:** But the English only ever really learn their own language, more's the pity. Arabic anyone?

By the third form we have lost our timidity. We may not realise it but the world and all things on it is our stage.

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			7	8	5			
5		9				7		
	5				6		1	
4	2						6	9
	8		5				7	
		5				9		3
			4	5	1			
				9		2		

SUDOKU

If you've got a spare moment try this Sudoku. It's standard 9 x 9: you need to fill the grid horizontally, vertically and each 3 x 3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

Degree of difficulty – 70%

43ers pictured circa '47 as 4A



Miss Hirst's 4A

Barbara (Penny) Summerfield writes ... "Please send my good wishes to everybody and I do have this wonderful photo of our class with Miss Hirst.

Front row , 1 to r: June Stanbridge, Joy Swallow,, Joyce Clothier, Enid Edwards, Miss Hirst, Maureen Davies.

Second row (1 to r:) Elizabeth (Martin) Balet (now deceased), Marigold Ruffle (now deceased), Jean (Upton) Barlow, Me, Barbara (Penny) Summerfield, Pat (Norton) Jones, Celia Daly (lives in Cape Town), next we think her surname was Morgan, next we can't remember, and last Dorothy Wright. *[not all married names available]*.

Back row, 1 to r: Peter Cook, John Tysoe, Keith Charlton, Don Welham, Albert Kempster, Tony Colwell, Me (PL), Ken Freeman, Derek Mills, John Simpson and Ted Davies.

We would be grateful if members reading this would confirm whether, between us, we have got the names right, and if not please tell us.

Tailpiece ...

A man went into a restaurant and said to the waiter: "Do you serve crabs?"

"Please sit down," said the waiter, "we serve everybody."

The Romanians came to the Olympics last year and took home gold, silver and bronze – and all the lead they could find, as well !