

Old Huntingdonians' Association Newsletter, January 2011

The Chairman's letter

Dear Old Huntingdonian,

Very Warm New Year Wishes for 2011

2010 has flown by and while Hinchingsbrooke School was marking its 40th anniversary, we have started to think more seriously about 2015 when we will celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Foundation of Huntingdon Grammar School. The Committee have some ideas, but what about you? How do you think we should mark this important year in our history?

Our 2010 Reunion was a great success with former student **Dr Rita Gardner CBE**, (Director and Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)), entertaining us with stories of her travels in each decade since she left school.

The 2011 Reunion will take place on **Saturday 5 March** at Hinchingsbrooke House when our guest and after-dinner speaker will be former student **Spencer Freeman**, well-known in music circles and a loyal OHA supporter. **Please book your places NOW, using the reply-slip enclosed with this Newsletter.**

Our 2011 Summer Reunion and **AGM** will take place on **Sunday 3 July**. This will be the usual informal lunchtime gathering in Hinchingsbrooke House. Again, **please book your places by returning the enclosed reply-slip**. We continue to look for a new OHA Treasurer. Ann Davies has done sterling service as our treasurer for yet another year but will be retiring at the AGM. Thank you Ann for looking after our finances so well.

Do please bring along memorabilia to share memories with others; we will have tables ready at both events.

In this Newsletter we have yet another trip down memory lane from Alan Butler . . . thank you so much Alan for reading through all those *Huntingdonians*, ones ending with a 1 this time!

Hoping to see lots of you in March and July.

Hilary Angell While ***Chairman (01480 457900)***

The Old Huntingdonians Association

What it does and why

The OHA exists to provide a link between former pupils of Huntingdon Grammar School and Hinchingbrooke School. The OHA was founded in 1933 and has had uninterrupted existence since then. We organise two main social functions each year in March and July and publish this annual newsletter.

There is no formal subscription for the OHA: we function by mailing-list. Inevitably, our mailing-list gets out of date. If we inadvertently send correspondence inappropriately (e.g. because of a death), we apologise and would be pleased to be told of changes of address or circumstances.

The OHA is run by a small group of volunteers and the current committee comprises: Hilary Angell While (Chairman), Alan Butler (Vice-Chairman), Ann Davies (Treasurer) Peter Downes (President), Richard Cook (Data controller), Ann Monk (Secretary), Gary Buckenham (Web-page Coordinator) and John Hinsby.

If you would prefer to read this newsletter via e-mail, let us know. The occasional voluntary donation helps to cover the cost of postage and printing. The Treasurer will be pleased to hear from you with a cheque (payable Old Huntingdonians' Association).

The OHA now has its own web-site. You can access this by going to the Hinchingbrooke School web-site www.hinchingbrookeschool.net and then click on Old Huntingdonians' Association in the left-hand column. A further click will give you details of events and photos too!

Our contacts are:

Hilary While 01480 457900; Peter Downes 01480 398082; Ann Davies 01480 891372 Richard Cook – richardcook@aol.com

PS We really would like to keep in touch with you via e-mail. Printing and distributing 600 magazines by post is an expensive and time-consuming activity for an organisation with no subscription, run entirely by volunteers. Please send Richard Cook your e-mail address today.

Hinchingbrooke School News from the Headteacher

December 2010

Dear Old Huntingdonians,

Overall, 2010 has been a very good year for Hinchingbrooke. There have been some great moments such as winning a national innovation award for physical education in February and some stunning A level results in August. There have been personal triumphs too; Giles Fullard has achieved the prestigious Prince of Wales Teaching Institute quality mark for the History Department; Mike Baker has celebrated forty years service at Hinchingbrooke and student Adam Gotch played Hamlet at the Shakespeare Schools Festival, whilst Max Everest became the third fastest hurdler at Under 16 level nationally.

There have been sad moments too. Back in August we heard that Matt Elliott, a very popular sixth former, had been tragically killed in a motorbike accident. The loss of a young life is always particularly sad.

Looking ahead, we face uncertain times. We are shocked by the withdrawal of funding for the School Sports Partnership, which was making such a difference to young people's engagement with sport. We will keep it going if we possibly can.

There are great opportunities and some risks in the greater freedom for schools. The initial risks are about funding and we will be facing budget cuts next year. Fortunately, we are used to change and making every penny count which means that we are as well placed as any school to make the best of the future. Our most recent re-accreditation assessment for the Investors in People standard was very complimentary about how we have managed organisational change.

All best wishes for the New Year,

Keith Nancekievill
Headteacher

More of the 20th Century through the pens of *Huntingdonian* writers

Spring 1911

The Editorial mentioned a coming event. *'Even now the word Coronation is on every lip and preparations for the great day are being made throughout the whole world. Exorbitant prices are being paid for the temporary use of residences which facilitate a sight of the procession and America, that ripened fruit dropped from the tree, is among the foremost of these buyers.'*

Meanwhile at HGS the Model Aeroplane Club seems to have passed quietly out of existence. The Woodwork shop was to have been the building shed but *'we have not seen too many models soaring above our heads'*. JAH echoed the difficulties of writing for the magazine with *'The Worries of a Writer'* being accosted with *'Now then, you've got to buck up and write something for the Mag.'* The main difficulty highlighted was to never call anything by the same name twice over. For instance the football report *'must never except under dire necessity call a ball a ball; it must be 'the leather', the sphere', 'the globe' or any other fancy name. Similarly the goalkeeper becomes in turn 'the goalie', 'the custodian', the guardian of the goal'*. A Church must be alluded to as *'a venerable pile' or 'an ancient fane'*. CA in an article on Homework enlightened readers with news of an interesting sect which has few members – *'The Venerable Order and Brotherhood of Swats'*. These brilliant geniuses (or genii) did not believe in combined intellect and never imparted the least atom of knowledge to *'a forlorn and shipwrecked brother'*.

Similarly, *'The Trials and Tribulations of Examination by JM'* indicated that the ways in which the question sheets were received was *'legion'*, varying from a polite *'Thank you'* to *'And you really expect me to answer these? How strange.'* Others regard with a look of fear as though *'it would bite'* while *'some almost snatch in the eager desire to get it done'* while some cast a look as *'I never did any work in my life and I really could not do it now.'* However, others take it quietly in the sure knowledge that they will answer well.

Among the Sports News the March girls did their *'fair share of barging'* and those bullying off v. Fletton received a shower of whitening as a result of *'a mass of liquid whitening' – the marker having overturned. It 'even decorated the stockings of the referee'*.

The Girls' Social evening included a programme of dancing and games where *'all girls mix with one another. It has even been said that that grumpy set in the Sixth Form try to make themselves amiable. Lastly may we suggest that pretty frocks add a great deal to the delights of a Social. Perhaps this accounts for the Boys' Socials occasionally being slow.'*

At Speech Day Mr.Coxon urged *'steady enthusiasm on the part of the staff, strenuous endeavour on the part of the children and sympathy on the part of the parents.'*

The Scout Group pursued such likely future skills as badges entitled *'Poultry, Farmer, Dairyman, Bee Keeping and Ambulance.'* The camp at Hunstanton saw some cycling back arriving before those on the train.

There seems to be no 1921 edition, perhaps still the effect of War shortages. I have no 1931 magazine in this archive and so to.....

Spring 1941

The Editorial commented on the need to be thankful for *'both the comparative tranquillity of our life and the continuance of the activities which we regard as necessary to paint a pleasant design on the dull grey canvas of life.'*

The sewing and knitting group were heavily involved in producing woollen comforts to be sent to the Old Boys in the Forces or to the crew *'of our adopted ship.'*

Staff and Senior pupils were engaged in Fire Watching while those of 5a and 5b were becoming expert porters, meeting trains and conveying baggage of small evacuees to the buses. *'Two members of an enthusiastic fire-watching party recently manned their stirrup pump because they saw two bright lights hovering above the school; it transpired that one was the moon'*

The Voluntary Penny-a-Week Charity system raised about 25 shillings every week.

The death of James Howgate, who had been made Headmaster in 1905, was announced. He had given *'notable public service to School, Town and County.'* His task when appointed had been to convert a poorly attended boys' school into a flourishing mixed secondary school. In this he was brilliantly successful and when he retired in 1932 the *'school was not only full to capacity but it had a reputation of scholarship which any school of similar size might envy.'*

There were 130 former pupils in the Forces – three had been killed on active service and two were missing.

It was thought that *Twelfth Night* was rather ambitious – there being a need to paint a great deal of scenery when materials were short *‘but Mr.Towler and some boys from the art classes produced a set of very effective scenes harmonising beautifully with the costumes.’ ‘As Sebastian, Ostergaard gave a most lively performance, and one remembered with pleasure by his lugubriousness on his first appearance, his fight with the two miscreant knights and his love scenes with Olivia;’*

The Earl of Sandwich, prior to the war, had his artwork collection under glass but with the danger of bomb blast damage he had them removed and kept in boxes unmounted. Works included were by Gainsborough, Augustus John, Constable, Cezanne and a Sickert sketch the property of Peggy Ashcroft but *‘evacuated’* from London. The Earl’s talk was accompanied by *‘delightful anecdotes with which the Earl interspersed his pictures.’*

Summer 1941

Highbury Hill High School – an evacuated school – got many mentions. For example participation in Music and Verse speaking and *‘a first-rate production of ‘St.Joan’.*

Twenty-five boys were having tractor lessons in preparation for agricultural work during the school holidays.

Among the Old Pupil notes was the *‘Wireless Operator W.G.Carter (1931-36) has had a lively time with the Merchant Navy in the Middle East. His ship has been receiving the unwelcome attention of Nazi bombers’.*

A.Moore (V1 Arts) likened the Senior Cross Country to *‘A Happy Band of Pilgrims’* when *‘sixty or so feet patter down the school lane and on to the pavement, past a group of open-mouthed amused school girls and thence through a fence and on to the common’.* The winners could expect no cups, medals or certificates – war-time measures.

Winter 1941

Although some boys were making frames for blackouts it was difficult to *blackout a building designed to give the maximum of light and ventilation.’*

Those in the Forces had mixed fortunes. Wing Commander E.V.Knowles gained the D.F.C. and Sgt. Pat Crisp was awarded the D.F.M. while others bailed out over East England having made raids over Germany and others were POWs.

A visiting speaker extolled the virtues of being a WAAF. Joining up could

lead to vocations such as nursing, being an interpreter and a mechanic. Also radio location and working on balloon barrage sites. Everything was found and a *'WAAF had only to find her own stockings!'*

The Science Society visited Huntingdon Brewery and *'hoped for further visits.'*

A Speech before Meal, with apologies to Winston Churchill, ran thus;-
*'Once again unto your food, dear friends, once more
Or line the tables with our brave unfed!
In peace, there's nothing as becomes a man
As doughnuts, creamy cakes or fish and chips
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the rabbit,
And chew thrice over,'*

Spring 1951

On the first page is a memory inducing drawing of the Grammar School. The Music and Choral Society sang around the illuminated Christmas tree in the Market Square. Some went further afield as a contingent for a concert in connection with the Festival of Britain programme with massed rehearsals in the Albert Hall.

Summer 1951

OHA notes seemed to revel in the unusual. Peter Rivers was reported as flying over Huntingdon (en-route to Boston) in a sail-plane while John Lumbers *'is reported to have grown a beard.'*

The obituary of Morris Barbanel was reported. He had served the school for nearly 21 years, and died on his 45th birthday *'a first rate school master who had built up the Physics Department'*. He was very *'conscious of the sufferings of fellow Jews which made him so sensitive and sympathetic to others.'* He had had a guiding hand in the planning and equipping of the new labs having come from a lab where *'dark room was an alcove behind the stove: benches were trestle tables which mid-way through the Autumn Term disappeared into the hall to become the apron stage for the play then being rehearsed.'* He had the respect and affection of his colleagues and pupils in full measure.

Thirty one senior members of the Choir joined in the combined singing of 1150 choir members from all over England. Rehearsals were by Sir Adrian Boult in the Albert Hall. On another musical note Jillian Skerry was accepted as a student at the Royal Academy of Music.

Senior Girls swam in Chiver's Pool with a view to taking the Bronze Medallion for Life Saving. *'Land drill occupies their lunch hours and they can frequently be found stretched out on the gym floor resuscitating each other.'*

On the Lake District trip with Mr. Illman the map readers proved unpopular due to leading the group to Thurlspot, nearly ten miles from their base at Barrow House Hotel. On April Fool's Day Mr. Illman was provided with some extra rock climbing practice when he was tied in his room by someone and had to escape out of his window.

The Paris Cultural Holiday with Miss Williams experienced a dispelling of confidence previously gained in a recent oral exam when it was found that the details of one's family, ambition for the future and the time one left for school in the morning were of no use whatsoever.

Staff popularity seemed to be on the increase going by the number of visits made by various boys – except that these visits coincided with the times when Test Match scores were broadcast.

In School sport Newman won the 220 and 880 yards at the Hunts and Beds Athletics' Championships while Dewbury won the High Jump.

Winter 1951

The Editorial recorded the death of Lady Sandwich and the arrival of new staff members Messrs Marsh and Trevett. The school caretaker, Mr. Scott – 'Jumbo' – had recovered from a previous illness.

The Debating Society, *'That men and women should receive equal pay for equal work'* was only approved by three votes.

E.P.(5A) in *'Luxury Travel'* had *'the great misfortune to travel on the railway branch from Kettering to Huntingdon'* There were three battered coaches of different types *'one being resplendent in gaudy crimson lake and cream livery. At the end of this pile of scrap was a maid of all work of roughly 1890 vintage connected with a massive dome.'* The shower of sparks would have done credit to *'a firework manufacturer.'*

At the All England Inter County Athletics' Championships Diana Stoddart was 2nd in the Senior High Jump with 4' 10".

In Cricket there were some outstanding bowling figures. Standen 4-6 v. Wisbech, Woodley 5-18 and Standen 3-9, both v. Ramsey and Dr. Clayton 8-16 v. the school. Woodley also gained figures of 5-13, 6-15 and 6-22 in matches for the 2nd X1 and Junior X1.

Summer 1961

This edition opens with a photograph entitled 'Boots! Boots! Boots!', with Mr. Mills, John Lamb and others staring camera-ward through....their Boots! This trip was to Wales where *'Webb showed his dislike for heights in a somewhat unusual and self-injurious manner there being a muffled cry followed by a loud bump at some unholy hour of the morning.'* Blaenau Ffestiniog meant a visit to a slate mine and dressing works...and a three hour spell in a local billiards hall. The trek to Brynguyant proved that the *'Notley Weather Forecasting Corporation proved to be correct – a semi-amphibious trek'*. All in all it seemed to be a fine holiday in a country few of the participants knew, the only complaint being that they had to leave for the *'dull landscape of Huntingdon and District.'*

At The Founder's Day Service P.Midwood thanked Mr.Brown for working so hard to make *'the worst Choir we have ever had presentable'*.

The Peterborough Conference report by B.R., S.H.S.. and D.J.G. was brutally honest when a *'party of unwilling Sixth Formers attended a conference on the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Of the two speakers one was doubtless extremely interesting and enlightening but for the greater part, completely inaudible. The other was audible but neither interesting nor enlightening.'*

The 6th Form Circus was sent to Coventry to see an example of town planning. *'The shape of things to come in the Chapel of the Cross.'* The attention of some of the members seemed to be taken by the hourly appearance of Lady Godiva while *'The female members of the party were intrigued by the architecture and interior decoration and the tempting wares of the large new stores.'*

After the strenuous labours of 'A levels many sixth formers found pleasure in invading the woodwork shack and *'relaxing.'* They hoped that their efforts did not reflect too much on their characters as the main products were a variety of ash trays and a card table although some did attempt wood carving and turning. P.H. thanked Mr. Rowe for *'allowing us to desecrate the shack and for his invaluable assistance.'*

Among thoughts from recent Examination papers were...
'His father had the fated calf killed. By product of gas works – nylons. Hamlet was a student. He didn't like murdering people but he tried very hard.'

P.Curtis (V) provided some thoughts on the end of season sport's teams' photographs. Some appear coy or either refuse to smile or look as though they are advertising a new wonder toothpaste. Children have to be moved to keep the balance of the picture and eventually, having waited half an hour, 'Smile Please' and it is all over. *'And to cap it all when the school magazine comes out, we have been left out to make room for a photograph of happy newly weds about to be crowned with hockey sticks.'* (note – the wedding of Mr. and Mrs.Riach.)

The cricket X1 had excellent performances in a season without defeat. Simpson v. Laxton 8w-10r ; v. March, Handscomb 85 n.n. Milton 4w-6r ; v.Wisbech Simpson 47w-10r; v. Orton Longueville 5w-21 r.

The U.14 team were *' keen and enthusiastic, batting became more consistent and backing away towards square leg was gradually eliminated.'*

A very brief rounders' report showed 7 wins out of 9 with two cancelled.

At the Fenland Sports the Championship Shield was won for only the second time since 1934. C.Pack did the double in the Senior 100/220 yards; E.Nash another double in the Middle 100 yds and 80 yds hurdles; The Senior Relay team of Witchard, Curtis, Baxter and Pack knocked 0.2 secs off the sprint relay record. B.W.Jex thanked Mr.Bright for his work with the relay team *'who were drilled to take over very expertly'*.

The increasing interest in sport extended *' even to the strange art of track walking'*.

1971

Staff Farewells included that of Mr. Fred Marsh. He was originally appointed as Senior Science Master *'a part he filled with distinction and benefit to the school before becoming Deputy Head'*. He was *'a man of practical ingenuity.....he kept wicket for the Staff X1, contributed to the Circus programme and outside school was prominent in Civil Defence.'*

The play 'Zigger-Zagger' was a *'refreshing and worthwhile change from the classics.'* This play involved nearly one hundred actors and *'deals with subject matter that lies within their experience – both good reasons for choosing it'*.

Nick Fisher as cheer leader for the Reds and demon-in-chief *' fitted the role like a glove.'* Diane Dixon gave Harry's mother *'the full treatment.'* Quiet performances of Edna played by Caroline Hart and Les, played by Pete Gilbert, provided a welcome contrast to the noise and hustle of the chorus. Raimund Liiv's portrayal of the Chairman of F.C. was *'the best piece of caricature in the whole production.'* Dave Young as Harry Philton *'conveyed*

the mixture of a social, clumsy adolescent only too ready to follow the crowd and giving a sense of dissatisfaction and responsibility. His articulate moments were his most eloquent'.

The National Westminster Bank essay competition was won by Janet Cole with 'Six Days for One.' – the one day being when the pigeons in her care were raced.

'*The Outing of Historians*' by D.Yates was written in true Samuel Pepys Esq. Style – 'July 6th Tuesday. Up to go to Belton House, Lincolnshire about ten o'clock.....' then finally 'We back by 4o'clock to Hinchingbrooke again on the same road. To the Coachman, 5p., And so home to my tea'.

The football teams were undefeated in 19 games winning fifteen. Truswell '*emerged as a opportunistic striker and the team comic*' ; Fisher was a most thoughtful and energetic midfield link; Schiel a forceful stopper'.

Rugby was handicapped by the waterlogged state of the pitches – but '*Sharman was potentially an excellent fly-half and G.Gregory had a quite exceptional gift for the game*'.

The Cross-Country team was excellent at all levels having the Triangular event '*in a vice-like grip*'.

The main cricket comment for the younger teams was that some had a sound basic knowledge '*but few of them show any fine understanding of this most complex game.*' In contrast it was over two years since the 1st.X1 had lost to a school team.

In Tennis the school individual championships had been played with a mixture of enthusiasm and apathy – '*several players not bothering to turn up at the appointed times.*' Perhaps just as well that six of the eight scheduled games against other schools had to be cancelled. In contrast Hockey was similar to the Cricket – 22 games without a loss.

In Cross-Country Christine Brinkhurst and Janet Coles were selected to represent the County in the Southern Championships.

The Sixth Form Society got its first job running the Common Room where it was furnished, decorated and then arranged for the constant flow of coffee and bought a record player '*thus ensuring perpetual boom conditions in the stylus industry.*' One event was 'The Stuff Grill' '*(how strange to think that Mike Baker has been with us for only one year, sometimes it seems so much longer).*'

Varied Musical tastes abounded – an orchestra, madrigals, informal lunchtime concerts, '*comic turns on the double-bass from Mr.Watson*', visiting musicians, a jazz trio and a celebratory concert of different styles, Britten's St.Nicholas and Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat.

The OHA Bösendorfer piano series

The Old Huntingdonians are now in the fourth year of promoting concerts based on the Bösendorfer grand piano bought for the school by former pupils in memory of Ken Brown.

Jillian Skerry continues to find excellent performers for us to enjoy in the Performing Arts Centre. After our third series, we were able to donate a further £1,000 to the OHA Music Fund. This is used to provide prizes and bursaries for promising young musicians in the school today.

In the current 2010 - 11 series we have already had performances from solo pianists, a baritone and a top-class cellist and are looking forward to the final concert in the series on **Friday, January 14th**. The soloist will be Marina Nadiradze who gave a thrilling performance last season. Those of you who live within reach of Huntingdon may like to join us for this occasion. You can reserve tickets by telephoning the box office on 01480 375678.

Making these concerts viable is a challenge so if you would like to be a sponsor, or put us in touch with a sponsor, we would be delighted to hear from you.

These concerts, and the piano that inspires them, give the OHA a valuable opportunity to contribute to the cultural life of Huntingdon. Free places at the concerts are available to current and former pupils up to the age of 25, funded by the Foundation of Hinchingsbrooke School.

A loyal Old Huntingdonian, Spencer Freeman, also helps OHA Music Fund by liaising with Huntingdon Rotary Club to put on a piano concert featuring the prizewinner from a competition Spencer runs in the South East. This event raises a further £300 for the OHA Music Fund as well as money for local charities supported by Rotary. The concert in 2011 will be on Friday, March 4th in the PAC at 7.30 p.m. Tickets from 01480 398082.

Peter Downes, OHA Music Fund project director

Tributes

The OHA cannot undertake a full obituary service in this printed newsletter but we do now have an 'In Memoriam' page on the web-site so if you hear about any former pupils who have died, please let us know and we will add them in. However, three recent losses justify special mention:

Douglas Reading was Head Boy under Norman Armstrong in 1939, a turbulent time for the school with the move to new buildings coinciding with the outbreak of war. Douglas went on to have a varied and successful career in the Inland Revenue and in private school management, eventually retiring to the Isle of Wight.

An early supporter of the OHA, he hardly ever missed a meeting or Reunion for over 60 years. He and Phyllis (whom he met in Huntingdon when her girls' schools was evacuated from London) were always the life and soul of the event, chatting to everybody and taking countless photos. Latterly Douglas and Phyllis have been supported at OHA events by their family who have virtually become honorary Old Huntingdonians.

Douglas was a generous benefactor to the school which, he often said, had given him so much. He was a 'one-off' character who will be sorely missed but remembered with great affection and respect.

Frank Lunn – from one of his earliest pupils, Denis Briggs:

"In 1950 a new teacher, Mr Lunn, a German specialist, came to the school. Having listened for years to my father's accounts of his experiences in occupied Germany, I was keen to opt for German. I was highly motivated to learn by Mr Lunn, and sure enough German became my best subject, though not as easy as my father had made out!

You did not "muck about" with Mr Lunn. He was not nasty or frightening but he spoke with calm authority. The GCE exam in those days demanded a good knowledge of basic grammar but occasionally Mr Lunn introduced other activities, including poems by Goethe, which he wrote on the board and we copied. I continued German to A Level with Mr Lunn in a class of one, me.

We were on formal but friendly terms in class but on several occasions I was invited home in the evening where Mrs Lunn spoiled me with plates of warm sausage rolls.

I appreciated and respected Mr Lunn's seriousness and soundness in his work with me. His patience must have been tried during our A-Level time together but he was a real professional and never failed to encourage me. He had a profound influence on my life. I later studied German at university, married a German girl and now live in a bi-lingual household."

Frank Lunn went on to be a Head of Montagu House and 'Senior Master', retiring early for health reasons but continuing to come back as a supply teacher. He remained in pretty good health into old age and was able to attend a Staff Reunion in 2008.

Reg Howse was born in London but moved to St. Ives, his mother's birthplace, at the beginning of the 2nd World War. He attended HGS and was Head Boy in 1945. He worked for various engineering companies in the area, had a long association with the Rotary Club of St Ives, was vice-president of St Ives Music and Drama Society (SIMADS) and a long-standing member of the Old Huntingdonians Association.

He came to many OHA reunions and was also an active member of the Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House. A stoically independent man, he lived in Ramsey for many years.

* * * * *

Why not become a 'Friend of Hinchingsbrooke House' ?

The Friends help the school protect and enhance Hinchingsbrooke House and promote the House as a historic monument.

As a registered charity, we fulfil our aims by:

- making donations to improve the internal fittings of the House
- labouring to restore and maintain the Rose Garden and the herbaceous border adjacent to it.
- organising House openings on Sundays in the summer, training and managing the Sixth Form guides
- putting on two events every year:
 - An Annual Dinner on the first Sunday in February when we have a visiting speaker who talks about some historical aspect of the House or about some of the characters associated with it
 - A Summer Evening meeting on the first Sunday in July when, after the short formal AGM, we have a short talk followed by a tour of the grounds.

Membership of 'The Friends' is open to anybody interested, whether or not they have direct links with the buildings as a former pupil or teacher.

To join, send a cheque for £12 (payable 'Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House') to the Treasurer, Ian Nicholls, 9 Glebe Road, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0DG.

Enter 'Hinchingsbrooke House' in Google and find out what a fascinating and historically important place it is.

Hinchingsbrooke School – Forty Years On

It was in 1970 that Huntingdon Grammar School was transformed into Hinchingsbrooke School. It took in all the pupils in the catchment area, not just those who passed the 11+. The Lower School (the first two years) remained in the former Grammar School buildings in Brampton Road and the older pupils were taught in new buildings opened in the grounds of Hinchingsbrooke House. The House itself was the preserve of the Sixth Form.

At the time it was regarded as a courageous move to locate a comprehensive school in a Grade One listed site but, under the leadership of Headmaster John Wakelin and his rapidly growing staff, the school settled in well to its new surroundings.

One member of staff who joined in 1970 is still associated with the school today – Mike Baker, teacher of Economics, Head of Pepys House and Leader of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (which he still does today).

A document has been produced to mark the 40th Anniversary of Hinchingsbrooke School. It has articles by Keith Nancekievill (Head), Mike Baker, Carolyn Price (Head's PA and former pupil (née Hopkinson)) and Di Beddow (Deputy Head) has written about Mary Stuart's book 'A Houseful at Hinchingsbrooke'. All this can be viewed on the school web-site by going to www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net and then following the following the link to NEWS

Forthcoming events . . .

'The Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House'

Annual Dinner, Sunday, February 7th, 2010, 6.30 for 7 p.m.

Theme: 'Everyday life in the House of Lords !'

Guest Speaker: The Earl of Sandwich

Tickets: **£22** from:

Peter Downes, 42, Huntingdon Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, PE28 4PA.

Cheques payable 'Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House'. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01480 398082;

e-mail: peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

O.H.A. Annual Spring Reunion

**Saturday, March 5th, 2011, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.
Hinchingsbrooke House, Huntingdon**

Guest Speaker: Spencer Freeman

Tickets: £22

Please use the enclosed reply-slip to book your tickets.

OHA Summer Lunch Reunion

Sunday, July 3rd, 2011, from 12.30

An informal buffet lunch and a chance to look round the grounds, the school and the House.

Tickets: £15

Please use the enclosed reply-slip to book your tickets