

# Old Huntingdonians' Association

The association for all former pupils and teachers from  
Huntingdon Grammar School (1565-1970) and  
Hinchingsbrooke School (1970 onwards)

## Newsletter, January 2014

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## ***The Chairman's letter***

**Dear Old Huntingdonians.**

***Happy New Year 2014***

The countdown to our school's 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015 is truly under way, with provisional dates being put in the Hinchingsbrooke diary by the school and OHA. The OHA contribution to events will feature concerts and reunions with other ideas also being considered. All events will be confirmed as 2014 progresses and you will know about them by October – more about this elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our guest for the 2013 February Reunion was **Andrew Goulding**, new Principal (Headteacher) of Hinchingsbrooke, who presented his vision for the future of our school as well as demonstrating how education has changed over the lifetime of the OHA!

The 2014 Reunion will take place on **Saturday 15 March** when our guests and after-dinner speakers will be **Alan Akeroyd and Caroline Clifford**. Alan and Caroline are the co-authors of the new history of the school due to be published later in 2014 (see page 7) and they will be telling us of some of the interesting things they have been discovering while they have been researching education in Huntingdon over the last four and a half centuries. **Please book your places NOW, using the reply-slip sent with this Newsletter.** Your committee guarantee that the meal will be a great improvement on the one served to us last February - the new Catering Manager presented an excellent meal at the Summer Reunion.

Our 2014 Summer Reunion and **AGM** will take place on **Sunday 6 July**. This will be the usual informal lunchtime gathering in Hinchingsbrooke House; your chance to shape the future of the Association and bring some young dynamic blood to the committee. Again, **please book your places via the reply-slip.**

If you would like to bring along any memorabilia to these events so that you can share your memories with others, we will have tables ready.

We bring you our final nostalgic trip down memory lane from Alan Butler . . . a huge thank you, Alan, for trawling through all those Huntingdonians for the last ten years; ones ending with a **4** this time!

Hoping to see many friends in March and July,

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

## **Developments at Hinchingsbrooke School**

### **From the Principal, Andrew Goulding**

Now into my second year, I feel well and truly at home at Hinchingsbrooke. So much has happened since I last wrote to you and I will try and give you a flavour of some of the key changes.

We have new structures in the school; a new curriculum, new Alternative Provision in the 'Gateway school' and there have been many noteworthy events and celebrations too numerous to mention.

So let me start with the new structures. Hinchingsbrooke has been divided up into 3 mini-schools: The Lower School consisting of Years 7 and 8, the Middle School Years 9, 10 and 11 and the Upper School Years 12 and 13 (i.e. the Sixth Form).

The Lower School consists of a team of tutors who guide and support students in Years 7 and 8 in mixed tutor groups. This means that each new Year 7 student will be allocated a 'buddy' in the same form group who will help them to find their feet and settle in to the school. The team of tutors is led by a Head of Lower School and two Student Support Officers. The school has a dedicated administrative assistant who provides support for parents of students in the Lower School and who is on the end of a telephone for advice and guidance.

In the Middle School there is a Head of Year and a team of tutors who will follow their year group through these important three years to their final examinations in Year 11. The three Heads of Year (9, 10 and 11) report to the Head of Middle School and, again, there is a dedicated Middle School administrator to provide a point of contact for parents and to offer support and guidance. A non-teaching Student Support Officer has been allocated to each Year Team to act as deputy to the Head of Year.

In addition to the pastoral structure as outlined, we have created a Student Services Directorate comprising the two important branches of 'Learning Support' and 'Safeguarding and Inclusion' who provide more specialist support across the whole school.

On the academic side of the school we have divided up the subjects into Directorates as follows:

<b>Directorate of Enterprise &amp; Enquiry</b>	<b>Directorate of Creativity &amp; Performance</b>	<b>Directorate of Global Communications</b>	<b>Directorate of Global Society</b>
Science	Sport & P.E.	English	Social Sciences
Mathematics	Art, Design & Technology	Modern Foreign Languages	History
Business & Economics	Music & Music Technology	Film & Media	Geography
ICT & Computing	Dance & Drama	PSHE & Citizenship	R.S. & Philosophy
Information advice & guidance (IAG), Work related learning, Careers, Enterprise education, Work experience.			Global perspectives

Each Directorate is led by a Director of Learning (Vice Principal) who challenges and supports the Heads of Department and helps to quality assure the teaching and learning and the curriculum offer. Each Directorate has its own dedicated administrative support.

These structures provide the 'warp' and the 'weft' of the fabric of education at the school. The senior team now comprises the Directors of Learning, the Director of Operations, the Director of Student Services and the Director of Sixth Form.

Turning to our new curriculum, this of course has to be under constant review, as the new constraints and requirements continue unabated from the government. We have broadened our curriculum offer to include some new subjects at different levels including Astronomy, BTEC Science and a number of exciting new collapsed days when the school can focus on the development of key skills such as determination, resilience, communication, creativity, problem-solving, risk-taking, analysis, empathy and so on.

In a recent article for the Cambridgeshire Pride magazine, I posed the question: **“What have Lewis Hamilton, The Hunger Games, the World Health Organisation, clay pigeon shooting, Operation Zombie Nation and a murder at Hinchingsbrooke House all got in common?”** The answer (also supplied) was: “They will all feature in Hinchingsbrooke’s new ‘collapsed timetable day’ for students on 26th September.”

Students really benefitted from this approach and found the day a really captivating way of learning. The current Year 7 students will be the first to experience a 2-year Key Stage 3 and next year, in Year 8, their collapsed days will feature activities around personal identity, community and global issues. The final such day for this year group in summer 2015 will feature a festival, organised by the students themselves, to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Hinchingsbrooke School.

This year has also seen the refurbishment of Nunnery Court - the building adjacent to Hinchingsbrooke House – and the creation of ‘Gateway School’. This new provision, for those students who cannot access the mainstream provision and some of whom are in danger of permanent exclusion, has been named the Gateway School reflecting its role in helping students move between mainstream and specialist provision. Work in this area ensures we remain inclusive and true to our values. Although small in number, these students access a varied programme of alternative provision, which has self-reflection built in, and which helps them to become increasingly independent and make the right life choices within a fully supported environment.

In September the Governors and senior staff held a conference to flesh out the strategic direction of the school. We were able to affirm our mission **‘to inspire excellence and fulfil potential’** and agreed the following strategic intents which will form the basis of our strategic plan:

1. To embed the school’s values in the culture of the whole school community.
2. To enable our students to be self-motivated, independent, life-long learners through the acquisition of key skills and attributes.
3. To be outward-looking and forward-thinking in the development of mutually supportive relationships that will support the development of a vibrant learning community.
4. To ensure that high quality teaching and learning is at the heart of all that we do.
5. To invest in the development and well-being of staff.

## 6. To provide sustainable resources to deliver our vision.

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At the end of November, the staff and Governors said a fond farewell to **Carolyn Price** who has worked at Hinchingsbrooke for 21 years. Carolyn, who was also a pupil here, has worked as a PA to four consecutive Head teachers: Peter Downes, Peter Sainsbury, Keith Nancekievill and me. In a series of farewell events, we all paid tribute to her dedication, professionalism, integrity and incredible work ethic over the years.

Carolyn moves to Norfolk and we welcome her successor Rosie Eacott, who is already well established in her role following a handover period with Carolyn.

The school's entry in the **FORMULA 1 engineering competition** earlier this term was '**Team Luminus**,' consisting of 5 very talented girls from Year 10. Their brief was to design, test and compete with a formula 1 racing car. This feat of engineering required

industry standard procedures and included the use of CNC machines and a very rigorous set of testing protocols. The professionalism and dedication shown was exemplary. The team won through to the regional finals and narrowly missed out in gaining a place in the national finals.

The school has enjoyed many productions since I last wrote: Guys and Dolls, Bugsy Malone, Independence and the talent show, '**Hinchingsbrooke's Got Talent**'; it has hosted authors such as Alison Weir; politicians such as Jonathan Djanogly and academics such as Professor Freeland, whose talk to the Sixth Form gave our students a summary of the latest NASA research into the possibility of life beyond the earth which they found spell-binding.

There have been a number of successful and educational trips for students too. These have included visits to Art galleries in this country and trips further afield such as the History trips to the Battle fields of northern France and Russia as well as the RE trip to Venice.

Finally, our Sixth Form Team were regional finalists in the Pearson Teaching Awards and won through against stiff opposition in the 'Best Team' category.

All in all an exciting year!

On behalf of the school, I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

***Andrew Goulding, Principal***

# Hinchingbrooke School 1565 – 2015

## Its place in history

### *The story of 450 years of education at Huntingdon Grammar School and Hinchingbrooke School*

As one way of marking the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school in 2015, the Old Huntingdonians Association has commissioned a new history of the school from two experienced and well-known local historians and archivists, Caroline Clifford and Alan Akeroyd.

Drawing on previous books about the school, published in 1965 and 1990, but also basing their work on original research, the authors will be showing how educational provision in Huntingdon evolved in the light of historical and social changes, both locally and nationally. The book will be illustrated with photos and other documents. The authors have also received many anecdotes and information from people who have attended the school, either as pupils or teachers, in the last 70 years.

The book will be published in October 2014, together with the detailed programme of events planned for the Anniversary Year, 2015.

We want to keep the price of the book down to an affordable level, possibly about £15. To do that we have been inviting well-wishers to become Patrons of the book by making a donation, suggested figure £50, which will entitle you to a free copy of the book on the day of publication, an invitation to the book launch in Hinchingbrooke House and your name will be included in the book itself.

So far, we have 49 Patrons and the value of the donations, including Gift Aid, is £3,500. This is a good start but we would be very pleased to hear from more of you.

If you would like to help by becoming a Patron, please e-mail Peter Downes on [peterdownes42@aol.co.uk](mailto:peterdownes42@aol.co.uk) and he will be pleased to send you the necessary details. The sooner you can do this, the better as it will enable us to calculate the sale price more accurately. We hope that this publication will more than cover its costs and provide perhaps a source of income for the School to use to mark the Anniversary in some tangible way.

We also hope to set up on the OHA web-site memorabilia pages to create a treasure trove of memories about life at HGS or Hinchingbrooke. More details of that next year.

## **‘THE HUNTINGDONIAN’ RE-VISITED.**

*For the last ten years, OHA Committee member, Alan Butler, has read through the Huntingdonian magazines from years ending with the relevant final number of the year and selected snippets which catch the flavour of the times. This year his article is drawn from the years ending in -4 and this marks the final year of his contribution to this newsletter.*

### **Autumn 1914.**

The Roll of Honour noted that sixty one boys had joined up and that ‘Mr. H. Cresswell, the mathematics master of H.G.S. has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Hunts Cyclists Battalion.’

Few football matches were played ‘in consequence of the bad condition of the field due to the occupation of the military.’ Also ‘the usual winter morris-tube shooting at the Drill Hall has been conspicuous by its absence, owing to the fact that the Drill Hall is being used continuously by the new Hunts Cyclists’ Battalion.’

Girls were busy knitting comforts for the soldiers at the Front and a large parcel had already been sent.

An old engraving of the school from Victorian times had the title ‘Royal Grammar School, Huntingdon’, the Royal referring to the fact that the school was founded by David, Earl of Huntingdon and King of Scotland.

The Scout Camp on July 31<sup>st</sup> went ‘to a peerless watering place on the Lincolnshire coast’ but on the Tuesday night war was declared with Germany. Soon mobilisation orders were being posted up, one Police Constable going away being surrounded by soldiers singing ‘For he’s a jolly good fellow.’

H.G.S. and every other building in town was ‘explored to the uttermost limits by billeting soldiers.’ By the middle of August the Highland Mounted Brigade and the Royal Medical Corps were present in town a sentry being posted at the top of the playground.

Serving with the Huntingdon Artillery at the front, Esmond Clarke wrote to his parents ‘We used to march to the firing line, get up at 5 a.m., dig trenches under fire’....’browse under a haystack for five days’

There was censorship. ‘We have heard from \_\_\_\_\_ chauffeur that \_\_\_\_\_ had said that the war would be over at the latest in three weeks. I hope for the best’

Some reports were almost matter-of-fact. From a Scottish Old Boy ‘The only thing that bothered us was the German snipers’....’I went for water down a shallow communication trench and two or three bullets whistled over my head’...’the bullets go ‘ping zzz ‘ at a high note.’

Some Huntingdonians were under fire in this country. Private R.E. Woolley of the Hunts Cyclists underwent ‘an exciting bombardment ‘ by a German warship directed towards Scarborough. This lasted half-an-hour and came within fifty yards of the Railway Station.



Having realised that 'Home for Christmas' would not happen, Private F.E. Clark wrote 'Please wish all my friends and relations a Very Merry Christmas and ask them to think of me when the pudding is served.'

Referring to a sniper another account related 'I expect my 'friend' had been watching my manoeuvres because I had not been 'on' more than ten minutes when a bullet 'clipped' the top edge of my ear' His ear bled all night but was not serious although it would have been 'if it had been quarter of an inch to the right'

### **Spring 1924.**

Among the Obituaries was that of Arthur R. Hill, former member of the Cadet Corps, whom many remembered as being presented with the Military Medal for his services in the Great War.

Old Girls' News noted that Dorothy Howgate had been appointed Senior House Surgeon at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women in London.

Before the Speech Day announcing of the prize-winners, the Headmaster 'stated that one thing which pleased him in drawing up the prize list was that they had got rid of the horrible procession of girls as principal prize-takers.'

Memories of H.G.S. in the 1860s by F.A. Allen mentioned that it was the smallest in England and desk carvings were common including a bold O.C. The school magazine was the 'St. John's Monthly', the Rev John Fell was the master and Snitch kept the Falcon Inn opposite. 'Sometimes I sneaked across and sat with the village elders, trying to smoke a churchwarden pipe.' Amongst his contemporaries were listed Hunnybun – afterwards a local solicitor – and 'Woody' Ingram, son of the local florist.

### **Summer 1924.**

The Girl Guides were very successful in the first part of the County Flag involving singing, doll-dressing and dancing.

A group of boys were involved 'in the construction of a truly wonderful vehicle'...although outsiders were ignorant of the correct name for this unique specimen of carriage'....'our readers will be interested to learn that this machine can be adapted for use as a punt, or even a sailing boat.'

E.H. Pratt penned 'School Fever' with apologies to John Masefield.

' I must go back to the school again,  
To the call of my schoolgirl years,  
It's a strong call, a sweet call,  
That brings me no fears.'

Girls' Cricket was perhaps an innovation and certainly provided the outstanding score of 171 runs to Slepe Hall's two runs !

The Boys' Cricket team did not lose a game winning five out of six matches. The report may have been by a batsman because the match scores only carried the batsman's scores and not the bowling performances which must have been praiseworthy as several teams were dismissed for less than 35 runs. J.V. Hard, G. Gayston and L.G. Briars in six games amassed 39 wickets for 125 runs ! In contrast one batsman averaged 29.66 and the rest were below sixteen.

### **Spring Term 1934.**

D. King (Science VIth) reported on the Scientific Society activities when Cresswell spoke on 'Chemistry in War' – 'of gases, shells and bombs used in modern warfare' illustrated with diagrams of a Mill's bomb, a shell and a gas mask. Mention was made concerning the protection of civilians from a gas attack and the effect of poison gas on the vegetation.

The Debating Society continued the war theme with the motion that 'This House will under no circumstances fight for King and Country' – the motion being carried by nine votes.

The Musical Notes were pleased to report on 'the first concert for which the School has undertaken to provide an orchestra.'

Speech Day's prizes were awarded by Dr. Wood of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, the Mayor of Huntingdon proposing a vote of thanks and taking the opportunity of asking for an extra day's holiday, to which Dr. Wood immediately declared 'that he felt that he had been robbed of a pleasant task and promptly requested another extra day.' which was granted to the 'great delight of all those concerned.'

Among the articles Cresswell (Form VI), described his visit to Brooklands Flying School in 'Learning to Fly' in which he learnt 'the simple movements of the 'stick', rudder bar and throttle lever'....'how to stall'....The next thing I was shown was a 'spin'.....after my first spin I was glad to hear that welcome roar'....'On arriving back at the Club house, I found that my pals had started up the ambulance which seemed to be a familiar practice when a new pupil makes his first flight '.

On the football pitch the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs played 26 games between them losing only two. On December 9<sup>th</sup> v. Hitchin Grammar School: 'The pitch was frozen hard, walking in football boots was a torture.'

On January the 27<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 opened the New Year with a 1-9 loss to St.Ives Reserves but 'in extenuation the St.Ives pitch is exceptionally large, our opponents were heavier and, we must admit it, faster than we were, and that, the day before, we had all enjoyed a very long evening at the School Social.' Amazingly the school did lead at the interval !

There followed two pages entitled 'Team Criticisms' – praise followed by reality !

The Girls' Hockey team won all seven matches and congratulations were accorded to Peggy Hopkinson, for many seasons games' captain at H.G.S., when she gained her Hockey Colours during her first year at Reading University. In 10-0 and 6-5 victories against Birmingham and Leeds Universities respectively Peggy scored 12 goals !

## **Summer 1934.**

The Editor bade farewell to the readers 'and for the future let them remember 'omne ignotum pro magnifico est.'

A welcome addition to the cricket facilities were the new cricket sight screens made by the woodwork department.

The Old Huntingdonians' first Annual Dinner Dance at the George Hotel was a great success where 44 members sat down for dinner and over 100 at the dance. However, the football match against the school resulted in a 10-2 defeat.

W.G. Carter ( IVa ), on a visit to Henley Aerodrome, saw 'where parachutes were packed, repacked tested, mended and made' and 'where harnesses were tested by dummies.'

Literary judgements at H.G.S. varied from Keats' Ode to a Nightingale –'This poem was written by Keats but does not tell much about a nightingale, but is about himself, and says that he has taken some kind of dope that makes him very happy' to, on Bacon's essay on love, –'Bacon thinks meanly of love and thinks it is a serious disease which should be avoided by all means.'

Individual efforts by Hinsby (Senior 100 yards 10.6 secs) and Finding (U.14 220 yards 26.2 secs) were noted in the school's victory in Inter-School Athletics over schools from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Cricket team criticisms were very positive, the team undefeated to other school teams.

The Brooks Brothers T. and F. were outstanding, regularly taking most of the opposition's wickets between them and scoring several fifties.

The Swimming Sports were improved by the use of Swimming Lanes at the Huntingdon Bathing Place.

The Guide Camp had their own flower show having to grow at least one flower from seed whilst the Scout report highlighted cooking practice 'when Mr. Armstrong took us out at about 7 a.m. to cook our breakfasts.'

## **Winter 1934.**

Another entrant to Cambridge was noted 'Old Boys of HGS will soon be able to form a special Association in that 'ancient seat of learning'.

The school held a model Assembly of the League of Nations with Miss Williams as the interpreter. There were delegates from Austria and Persia, friendly relations were established between Italy and Greece and there was a settlement of a border dispute between Finland and Sweden. Affairs concluded with a vote of confidence in the League.

The lighter activities of the Orchestral Society included a Gala night and 'The Squealor Squawkington Squintet (a chorus specially trained for the occasion ) looked very smart in their costumes – the ruffles and saucy hats of School colours being particularly attractive.' A Dance competition was 'a new and exciting feature of the evening.'

The Hockey team won eight out of nine games, drawing the other and scoring 45 goals to 4 while the Football team was closing in on scoring 100 goals in the Christmas term – 92 at the time of printing.

The Guide report congratulated ‘Nora Cannon on gaining her Dairymaid’s Badge, the only guide in the Company to get it.’

## **Spring 1944.**

The Red Cross Prisoners of War week had raised £98 plus an earlier sum of £52, while War Charities since 1940 had raised £700. The School War Savings Group to date totalled £2,338 6 shillings and 6 pence.

An assortment of Old Pupils were serving all over the world as wireless operators, Mustang fliers, under training in Canada, prisoners-of-war and in charge of British and African troops in the Burma Jungle. Henry Standen (1920-27) having been badly burned in an air crash but thankfully coming through a series of remarkable operations published an article of his experiences in the ‘Strand’ magazine entitled ‘I wanted a new nose.’ The brothers E.W. and L.J. Thoday met in Africa after being separated for four years L.J. a Corporal in the R.E.M.E. and E.W. a Sergeant in R.M. Commandos.

‘It was with great regret that we heard of the death of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. F.J. Thornton ( 1922-27 ) of St.Neots. ...It was with regret that we hear that David Nicholls (1911-18) is reported missing from an air raid over Germany in mid-February.’

The GTC was disbanded, as girls were being directed into factories or hospitals and those remaining were unable to provide the coupons required for even minimum equipment.

At the ARP Lecture, Sgt. Craghill of the Hunts Constabulary, gave a talk in which he showed ample specimens of weapons he described may be found in the district. ‘At the conclusion of his talk everyone had an opportunity of seeing his exhibits at close quarters – after being assured that they had all been rendered passive.’

Mr. Donald Grant was a visiting lecturer, his talk being entitled ‘Soviet Russia, Europe and Hitler’ where he noted Russia’s experiment in government ‘the outcome of which will be of great importance for the future.’

Anne Wills of the Junior Stamp Club wrote: ‘It was decided that each member should design a stamp to commemorate victory for the next meeting, which will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.’

The cast of Aladdin (proceeds in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund) included some future well-known local names – Doreen Murden, H.Rapley, Jillian Skerry, Thelma Rapley, D.Connan, B.Sturt and D.Braybrook.

D.Cook’s The Slave of the Lamp brought this comment – ‘As usual this natural little comedian commended his quota of laughs from the audience’...while mention must be made of Jillian Skerry as a child and D.Connan as the Caliph’.

‘ One of the highlights of the performance was the gymnastics display by Hobbs and Braybrook, their balance, nerve and complete muscular control being a joy to watch, and reflecting great credit on their gym master, Mr.Lumley.’ There was a reminder of war as rehearsals had to be arranged to fit in with the blackout.

Miss McClelland wrote and produced ‘a polished and finished performance...gay tunes with original lyrics and spirited and mirth provoking dialogue.’

The article by A. Swot, Secretary of the R.S.A.H.F.S.C. would have brought sympathy to pupils, past, present and future bringing attention to ‘the wonderful work of my organisation The Royal Society for the Abolition of Homework for School Children. There must be thousands of downtrodden, brow-beaten, suffering hordes of humanity who would welcome this scheme with wide open arms.’

Sheena Smith’s ‘The Housewife’s Privilege’ began with ‘Oranges to-day...at Brown’s and Hart’s’. and continued with overheard queue snippets. Mrs. A’s husband serving in Palestine ‘where oranges could be had for the picking’ to Mrs. B’s baby not liking orange juice ‘ even with sugar’ and Mrs. C. not being able to ‘get either fully fashioned stockings nor hairpins in the town that morning.’ The queueing proved fruitless in more ways than one as the writer had left her ration book at home.

‘Our Prefects ‘ by T. Peck seemed to be written with some caution as the Prefects were identified by their initials ‘G.N.O. Patrols corridors without success. J.K. Speaks two languages – one is known to be English; other undecipherable.’

M.J. Summerlee’s ABC of Cricket Hints concluded most appropriately with ‘ Z. Now I am stumped !’

The Football Team notes were understandably proud of a record of only two lost games in the season ‘the last two seasons have produced the strongest teams for a decade.’

Captain D.C. Chapman ‘s players’ pen pictures were honest enough, being brave enough to include himself as ‘A good leader and very reliable back, his kicking and tackling being strong. His captaincy has been a happy one.’

## **Winter Term 1944.**

School Notes included the fact that Pupils turned out in force to carry out agricultural work during the summer holiday.

A stark reminder of the war was the presentation of a Cup by Miss Eileen Lloyd-Smith (1920-30) in memory of her brother, Alastair Lloyd-Smith (1923-1932), ‘the first of our Old Boys to lose his life in this war ‘. ‘ He was lost while piloting his aircraft over the Low Countries in those anxious days of May 1940.’ The Cup will be for Cricket to the boy who does the most for School cricket.

Old Pupils’ News was dominated by military news such as ‘Recent military operations have taken toll of our Old Boys and it was with deep regret that we heard that Lt Peter Robinson (1932-39) had been killed in Normandy and Sgt. Wireless Operator A.R. James (1924-26) was killed in operations in June.’

Others were reported as missing but 'F/O Harold Ruston (1931-38), we are now glad to learn is well, although a prisoner in Germany.'

The various theatres of operations in which Old Pupils were involved included Ansio, West Africa, Canada, India, Burma and France while 'Geoffrey Burges (1931-38), who is serving on the destroyer Kimberley, recently had the pleasure of seeing the Prime Minister at close quarters.'

Cpl.M.J. Summerlee reported on the School ATC with various RAF station visits including cycling to 'a local airfield where an Oxford aircraft took them up for a short flight, although weather conditions were not good.' Training included aircraft recognition, anti-gas and navigation.

Aircraft related, at least in terminology, was the 'Flying Up Ceremony' in the Guide Notes whereby Brownies who had gained the Golden Hand, the top badge, had the honour of flying up to the Guides. Thus they gained their wings.

The War Charities Committee distributed £25 10s to various good causes such as Hunts County Hospital to the Fund for Wounded Russian Horses and Dr. Barnardo's Fund in aid of bombed-out children.

A. Londoner (5a) tried to lighten the gloominess of shelter life with descriptions of an Anderson shelter from erection to use of the bedroom rug and the way his mother daintily climbed into her bunk.

R.J.H.(VI Sc) wrote in 'Is War Inevitable?' that with History repeating itself 'Man must learn by his mistakes, and now people are better educated and alive to the questions of the day.'

The glimmer of hope for the future would lie in the 'responsible educated youth of the day.' R.J.H. noted the failure of previous generations. 'We certainly have a long furrow to plough before we reach the other end of the field and sanity.'

The Scientific Report noted that they were fortunate, in war time, to have the opportunity of local visits to the projection room of the Grand Cinema and Messrs Chivers and Sons. A talk on 'Drugs and their Recent Developments' mentioned the 'common remedy for all aches and pains – aspirin !'

The Sports Notes included the return, after a considerable lapse, of Rowing notes reporting on the use of three pleasure boats for the Rowing Contests held over five-eighths of a mile and finishing at the flagpole between the road and rail bridges between Huntingdon and Godmanchester. Much was owed in boat preparation to the School's friend 'Skipper' hall. The final was watched by most of the school resulting in a six inch margin of victory to Thurston's crew over that of Mitchley.

## **Spring Term 1954.**

The Editorial noted that 'The Huntingdonian' would move to two issues instead of three partly that by gathering entries over three terms for two issues the standard would be raised and issues would be larger.

The O.H.A. notes announced the award of the Military Cross to Captain Peter Childs for a high and consistent standard of courage and endurance in Korea.

The Sixth Form Society notes included debates on 'This House disbelieves in Father Christmas' and 'This House believes in Flying Saucers' but also presentations and discussion on 'The Element of Chance.'

Music and Choral Society Notes had much detail on the Music Festival and 'the untiring, where music is concerned', work of Mr. Brown 'and the success of the festival is mainly attributable to his efforts.' The conclusion was Mr. Brown's stirring arrangement, perhaps appropriate, of 'He who would valiant be.' The soloists Jean Mallandaine and Jillian Skerry are students at the Royal Academy of Music who played piano duets – 'we were particularly pleased to hear them, as Jillian sang in the festivals for several years when she was at H.G.S.'

Many Societies had shortened reports as much effort was being put into preparations for the forthcoming production of '1066 and all that.'

Correspondence centred mainly on the pros and cons of the staff wearing gowns. Ronald Booker and Robert Wells approved, considering that it contributed to teachers' dignity and prestige.

Simon E. Rippon thought gowns good for keeping warm and keeping chalk dust at bay but trying to revive an old custom on the verge of dying a natural death made the teacher unapproachable. He concluded 'H.G.S. is undoubtedly a better place without this mournful drapery and any proposal to encourage its use condemns the school to a life of gloom.'

Also on the 'uniform' front N.J. Pittams considered that there should be a limited number of variations of the girls' summer dresses. The only common factor was green but of many shades, variations in material patterns and styles possibly leading to 240 different kinds of school summer dresses. Mrs. Stuart however had taken a step in the right direction at last with two styles – one for younger girls and one for older girls.

'The material to be used has rather a harsh pattern and closely resembles curtain material but perhaps it will look better when it has been made into the dress.' Senior boys were indignant that they were not consulted as 'it is a well-known fact that the world's best fashion designers are Frenchmen'.....although they do 'not profess to a French ancestry but they do belong to the stronger sex.' A girl, noting that it was of no concern to the boys, was reminded that the girls 'only wear the dresses whereas we have to look at them!'

The writer concluded, on behalf of the senior boys he awaited 'with breathless anticipation the arrival of the new school summer dress. Vive la nouvelle robe !'

## Summer Term 1954.

O.H.A .notes included the announcement that that the first Dinner and Dance since the War would be held at the George Hotel – tickets 12/6d. Former pupil news included that of K. Mary Johnson (31- 36) who was nursing in an Indian Hospital in North Ontario looking after Indian and Eskimo tubercular children. She was 200 miles from any large town with a train twice a week. Gordon Hodge was congratulated on ‘his success in gaining the Gold medal of the International Dancing Masters’ Association (Old Time.)’

The Scientific Society had a talk by Mr. Marsh on ‘The Shape of Things to Come’ enabling discussion on ‘supersonic speeds and the reversal of controls at these speeds.’

A visit with a difference was to Langwith Colliery near Mansfield. Surprises included the white washed walls and the excellent ventilation ; also, the pit ponies being well looked after and often coming to the surface for a rest. However, the pupils also had to crawl on their hands and knees right to the coal face.

Another industrial visit was to Baker Perkins where we saw ‘a large variety of lathes and drills cutting metal into every conceivable shape ; we saw a large foundry where ladles of molten metal glided through the air in a most alarming fashion and their contents were poured into moulds with amazing dexterity.

The production ‘1066 AND ALL THAT ‘, although a difficult venture comprising twenty scenes and masses of different decors, was according to ‘Playgoer’ an ‘entertaining experience....infinitely worthwhile....’ Although ‘there could have been more smiles among the pin-ups of the chorus.....Sometimes the slapstick was laid on with a heavy shovel’

Eva Swiderska, 111a, born two months before the war broke out, wrote of her life in Poland . ‘My life was very different from that of most English children’.... something of an understatement considering that from when she was four years old life was constantly moving to escape repercussions after a battle on her uncle’s farm.

Together with her mother she was finally reunited with her father in England – the first time she had seen her father. He had escaped to England before the war. ‘I never imagined I would learn English so soon and be able to feel at home among English children.’

In Athletics H.G.S. had three representatives at the All-England Sports, Pat Spencer, C.J. Woodley and J.C. Smith, Woodley progressing the furthest reaching the semi-finals in the Senior 220 yards.

The Tennis V1 won five matches out of six while the Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> X1 completed two seasons unbeaten. None of the Cricket teams was defeated, many of the wickets seeming to be a bowler’s track – For the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Murden 4 for 1 ; Murden 5 for 6 ; Handscomb 4 for 10 ; Hardinge 6 for 19 ; For the Junior X1 Dodson 5 for 7 ;Dean 5 for 8 ; Dodson 5 for 9 ; Sargeson 6 for 1 ; - the Junior statistics leading to 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain, M.J. Handscomb’s comment ‘ The junior teams have also been successful this year and contain several players of very high promise.’



## **Winter 1954-55.**

The Editorial wished Mr. Scott, the caretaker, 'Jumbo', getting 'swept up' having become part of the life of the school. 'Everyone is sorry to be losing an old friend.'

Miss Williams was welcomed back after a long and serious illness and everyone was pleased to see that she had regained her 'joie de vivre'.

It was noted that it 'it is probably true to say that nobody is very well satisfied with the words of the school song ;at any rate it will do no harm to compose a better one'.

Among O.H.A. Notes was that of Lt. Henry Summerlee who had 'recently been the pilot of a helicopter which rescued four men from a storm-tossed yacht off the Cornish coast and took part in the Spithead Review.'

Also 'Michael Bully, now serving with the R.A.F. at Kinloss has been busy flying on Operation 'Snow-Drop' in Scotland. Bully and his wife Deirdre (née Tiblicock) have found it very cold this winter in their caravan.'

The Sixth Form Society debate on 'This House believes the Modern Generation to be Pampered and Spoilt', may have had interesting generational repercussions with Mr.Neden one of the speakers for the parents and Betty Neden one of the speakers for the Modern Generation.

An article by J.N.T. on 'The Huntingdon Grammar School Dress Before 1863'; included a Pen and Ink sketch of the Greencoat Boy, Huntingdon, depicting a cap based on those worn by the Beefeaters of the Tower of London - 'green with a red bobble on top and a red band round the middle, the tails of which hung over the back'. Also featured was long green coat with a red collar and green knee breeches.

An article on Flying by P.L. Wood, 111b, describing the author's first flight - 'bouncing slightly in the crystal clear morning air'.....'like lying on a very springy bed'....some acrobatics'.....'a stall and a spin'.....'the earth started gyrating madly around, my stomach began to gyrate with it'....'a loop'....'a dive'....'over on our backs' - concluded with 'It's about time we landed!' said the pilot calmly.'

Also on the flying theme, accompanied by photographs of a Vickers Valiant B.Mk.2 and a Short Seamew, was a report on a visit to The Farnborough Air Show with 'thousands of people, who seemed quite content to stand for some hours waiting patiently for the flying to start'. When it did, several hours flying included the Hunter flown by Neville Duke and the Supermarine 525 flown by Mike Lithgow.

Literary skills of an unusual kind were needed by A.H.Marsh when his story 'The Biter Bit' was in response to 'The Observer' setting a competition in which a story had to be written with the opening and last paragraphs as supplied by the paper, while Perbeck Warkin's 'The Elizabethan Sea Dogs of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century' was an essay made up entirely of genuine sentences taken from examination papers.

Among the illustrations were 'The Seven Stages of Schoolboys' ending with 'Upper V1. Mater's Despair' the First Stage, 1<sup>st</sup> Former, having been 'The Infant Mummy's Pride and Joy'.

A photograph entitled 'Winter Sports H.G.S.....How are the mighty fallen!' seemed to be a glorified rugby scrum on ice on the playground with lines of pupils enjoying the spectacle.

## 1964

The Editorial begin in more optimistic vein than most – ‘This year’s magazine committee was a lively one, full of bright ideas and schemes.’ Many seem to have been used but many more will be in future publications. ‘Forum’ aimed to challenge others to offer their opinions in the next issue. The initial subjects were Holiday Jobs and the Nuclear Deterrent. A competition in the form of a Literary, Photographic or Art entry under the headings Balance, Reflection Haste and Violence brought about a considerable response. Mrs. Stuart decided the winners were Joanna Thicknesse with a silhouette photograph ‘Balance’ and J. James for his effective poem ‘Abattoir’ under the heading of Violence.

The new school had been delayed by Whitehall and ‘it is increasingly difficult to squeeze more transportable classrooms into the School grounds.’

C. Foren’s article G.C.E.( with apologies to Genesis ) contained such as ‘In the beginning Cambridge created the G.C.E.....Let There be exam papers and there were exam papers.....Let there be candidates in the midst of the common people.....Let the candidates bring forth abundantly answers which have life.....And Cambridge created answers in his own image... ‘ And on the seventh day Cambridge retired to bed with a headache ‘

Fresh air themes were well catered for with poems and articles on Camping, Sleeping in an Igloo, Sleeping by a Haystack, Sleeping in a tree, The Rain and The Storm. Similarly Animals made several appearances – Encounter with Wildebeast, The Snake, The Fly, Mice, Dog’s Hair, The Stricken Wolf and Something I Hate the latter beginning with ‘I went into my bedroom / It was about half-past-nine / And suddenly / I saw it /Cringing in a corner’ which turned out to be ...’ A jumbled mass / Of lambs skin and hair / I picked it up in a flannel / And heaved it through the window / I had come out victoriorious / From my battle / With this / Ghastly /Ungainly / SPIDER .’

S.H. wrote about the opportunities ‘On Being Sixteen’ – leaving school, staying on, being not ready to accept facts but wanting to know why, where and when, having one’s own passport, being able to smoke and go into a pub. The conclusion was ‘In fact I think I will go and smoke, drink, think on and ignore all those patronising people who refer to me, an adult, as ‘only sixteen.’

Visits included Italy-the Doge’s Palace, St.Mark’s Cathedral, Venice and several lace and glass making factories, but also ‘the bar lacked a dart board, the bar tender very sportingly suggested to a few of us that we should have a knife - throwing contest with him into the bar floor’.

Also featured was Christmas in Palestine – the Dead Sea Scrolls, The Holy Shrines at Nazareth, the Church of the Annunciation, Mount Zion and the Mount of Beatitudes.

The Sixth Form Society achieved considerable success with the Satire 'That Was The Term That Was' performed by a team of 6<sup>th</sup> formers led by Paul Nutley satirising James Bond, Trades Unions and products made by man with women in mind 'and in the process made the audience scream with laughter.'

With regard to James Bond The Current Affairs Society reported that the Russian Embassy had agreed to send a speaker to talk on 'Life in Russia Today.' On receiving the Embassy telephone call Mr. Jamieson said 'It was the height of my teaching career. I felt like James Bond!'

The Drama Club had consistently high attendances, the highlight of the year being a Miniature Drama Festival consisting of three plays written by members of the Society. These productions varied from unmarried mothers to a Russian spy's problems. 'These plays were performed before an appreciative audience after school, including Mr. Bright and Mr. Frisby, who made constructive criticisms and commended the high standard of writing.'

The Music and Choral Society reported one function where there was a performance of 'Everyone Sang' by Charles Vale, which was intended to blow the Governors off the platform, but which did not quite succeed.' It was also mentioned that 'with the passing of Trinity Church it appears at the time of going to press that the Founders' Day service is to be allowed to disappear with it. This is a great pity and it is hoped that some-time in the not too distant future this important and moving occasion will be revived as a fitting climax to the school year.'

This Chess Club won the 'Schools County Competition' without losing a match, P. Bradshaw (3a), winning the U.15 County Individual Tournament.

The Railway Society, in addition to providing an Obituary for Sir Railway S.O.C., H.G.S. who died of an overdose of Beeching Pills while 'the balance of the mind was disturbed.', reported on a trip to the Bluebell line with such comments, mainly 1<sup>st</sup> formers as 'Now I know what it looks like to look (a) down a funnel (b) in the boiler (c) in the tender.....my hands were very oily.....I gave up to eat my tea with dirty hands....Mr. Mills behaved quite well'

The J.W.B. Boys' Sports report was most comprehensive both in achievements and criticisms. Individually, one highlight was Curtis's batting at Ramsey 'a natural hitter stolidly defending for the good of the side, even when cruelly tempted by the most innocuous seeming lobs' saved HGS from an ignominious defeat – his three runs in an hour helped to bring a final score of 20-9 facing 155 – 9 declared. Team-wise, a team-building year was forecast but Soccer and Cricket held its own, Rugger had its best ever season, the board was swept at Cross-Country the Triangular Sports was won. Points to ponder were the tendency for pupils to drop out of active sports after leaving school, Junior teams' table manners and senior teams not in uniform for a school match.

M.E.B.(VI Upper) Girls' Games report noted that Joanna Thicknesse was chosen as reserve for the East Anglian Junior Team 'and we seem to be nearer to producing an England player from our midst.' The Under 15 Netball team covered itself in glory winning the Under 15 County Tournament and Cup while the Hockey 1<sup>st</sup> X1 did eventually recover from only having ten members to produce a team that was most encouraging.

Both Boys and Girls excelled particularly in Athletics with many school records being eclipsed, the Girls introduced the shot-put causing 'much amusement from our male counterparts'.

And as for the OHA J.W. Laws reported that finances were in crisis the New Year's Dance being a financial failure. 'You showed your appreciation by not turning up.' Support was needed both in attending functions and paying the membership fees - £1 Life membership and 5 shillings yearly.

Of particular note in this magazine were the regular excellent illustrations including 'Collapsing Cathedral', 'Badger', 'Motor Cycle', 'The Fight', 'Harvest' and the 'Quietness of Offord.'

## **1974**

The boots on the cover were reflected in the Editorial headed 'Boots-boots-boots-boots-movin' up and down again' which stood for the sheer physical effort required by 'all the cast of thousands in the mighty Lower School production of Oliver', the Duke of Edinburgh scheme whereby twelve Sixth formers gained the coveted Gold Award and Buckingham Palace visit, the Help the Aged Charity Walk (£16,000 raised, at the time the highest ever by a Help The Aged Youth Organisation from one walk), the walking undertaken simply moving from one area of the school to another and for three pupils walking the entire length of the Pennine Chain.

Susan Turbayne 1.C1 was pictured with Fanny and Johnny Craddock having placed second in the final of the Eastern Gas Board Cookery Competition at Norwich. Susan was judged on her Queen cakes, Squatters Snack and Sailing Barges.

Seventeen 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> form members travelled to Austria for skiing and 'were assured that by bending zee knees and zee ankles we would be able to do anything.'

The Music report highlighted the December concert where the Junior orchestra made their debut in 'The Willow Pattern Plate' by Derek Healey and also the newly formed Sugar Foot Stompers (shades of Louis Armstrong!) first came to the notice of a wider public !'

There was no Brains Trust competition, 'our old enemies (e'g' Kimbolton) not wishing to be trampled underfoot once more.'

S. Summers' poem, 'The Historians(?) Outing' around some of the castles of yesteryear – Rockingham and Kirby – concluded 'Thank you for a great day out/ Rod, Roger and the rest / For now that we've seen the others / We know Hinchinbrooke's the best.'

The Rugby report noted that the U.12 XV was not only the most successful, winning eight out of the ten games, ' but also holds the record for the number of scrum-caps seen at any one time in a school team!'

Although a team game the inspiration of Geoff Lunn was mentioned as a wonderful example as captain and player to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

In Athletics special mention was accorded to Tony Elliott for selection for the County for the Seven Counties Meeting and the All England - in three different competitions he cleared over 5 feet 6 inches using the Fosbury Flop style.

Hockey had an impressive season as winners or runners-up in the four age groups of the South Hunts League ; Netball went more than one better – winning three age groups and runners- up in the other ;Basketball, Trampoline, Badminton and Gym Clubs seemed to be emerging with the middle and lower age groups. ;

With the availability of six courts at both schools and the introduction of more tournaments and competitions, Girls' Tennis ' took on a new dimension.' Overall very few games were lost the U.15V1s winning all matches including vs. Stamford High and The Convent, Bedford. In the Junior County Tennis Tournament four of the five sections were won by Hinchingsbrooke pupils and in the fifth Hinchingsbrooke provided the runner-up. Emphasis was put on enjoyment and ' the social opportunities which accompany the game ', although the U.14 V1 report did mention ' The play of the U.14V1 greatly matured in fact they seem to have learnt every legal trick-in-the-trade!'

Girls' Athletics recorded victories in the Triangular match and the South Hunts Athletics Meeting.

A sad note was in The Hinchingsbrooke Society report with the last appearance of the Hinchingsbrooke Singers, Mr Guy Fisher, Chairman of the Governors, presenting bouquets to the girls and book tokens to the boys on behalf of the Society.

Doris Anderson, Hon Sec, reported that the OHA had had another busy and successful year including a Barbecue and Disco in the Nunnery Court.

## **1984**

The cover shows some of the 400 Roundheads and Cavaliers in suitable Pikeman pose in front of The House. This was for the Battle of Hinchingsbrooke – 'The ground shook as the cannons roared ; indeed, the whole House shook !' – although the only lasting damage seemed to be one lost shrub, a cracked pane of glass and a broken lamp-shade in the Headmaster's study. Over the weekend the result was a one-all score draw in front of over 2,000 spectators. The House was promoted in other ways through a photography course at Huntingdon Technical College for the summer Shakespearean production at the George Hotel, and filming by Anglia T.V. for a forthcoming programme on Oliver Cromwell and the Civil War.

The House also played host to over 2,500 guests and visitors at various major functions keeping 'The Steward and assorted band of waiters, chanteuses and pot-washers.' more than busy. Everything from the launch for the Appeal for the new Cheshire Home to Antique Fairs to a meeting of all three candidates for the

European Election in June 1984. Among visitors were former staff and patients of the Red Cross Convalescent Hospital at Hinchingsbrooke during World War II 'and a descendant of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sandwich's loyal negro servant, James Alexander.'

The Editorial 'Welcome to the 1984 Huntingdonian!' mentions that it is the father of magazines in Hinchingsbrooke School and has 'bred the outrageous House Mouse, the bubbling Writers' Cramp and most recently, that worthy newspaper, The Hart.'

Facing such topical competition *The Huntingdonian* can only hope to compete using its basically unflamboyant approach being the official organ of the school, recording the main events of the past year, catering for a wide audience of present and past pupils, staff, parents and governors 'not only now but in the years to come.'.....We are sure it will fuel lasting memories.'

The Lower School report included 'the pleasure and excitement of taking part in Tin Pan Ali' where nearly 100 pupils 'will remember for a long time the hard work of rehearsals and the elation of the actual performances'. Music was prominent with lunch-time discos as popular as ever with the proceeds of special ones after School going to Charity. Other positive responses for help included £700 for a sponsored spell-in for Help the Aged and a 'mufti-day' resulting in £300 for the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Laser Appeal.

This was both helping others and getting a sense of achievement, exemplified throughout the magazine in reports on different activities such as travelling abroad, competing against others or challenging themselves – 'all learning activities in the widest sense.' Much of this involves teachers going beyond their job-description of the academic side.

Thus this report by T.H Hughes and D.S. Grey showed that their opening quote 'The only thing which interfered with my education was school.' was not said by a pupil at Hinchingsbrooke – 'Hinchingsbrooke is not that sort of School.'

In 'Youth Speaks', the public speaking event, the Sixth Formers seemed much less ill at ease dealing with the questions than their initial speech although Helen Baxendale's topic 'The female of the species is deadlier than the male!' convinced most of the audience.

Several members of the Science staff set up The Great Egg Races basically solving a specific problem within a certain time such as designing and constructing a coin sorting machine and another to propel a Polo mint one metre onto a target. Overwhelming interest stretched the Science department to the limit.

The Poetry competition came up with a Mrs Stuart commended 'Revolt of the Brussel Sprout' by Jessica Bent.

The Lower School hobbies fair resulted in the awarding of 20 certificates for such entries as War Games, mineralogy, doll making, Fishing while 'At one stall pupils were actually making and selling earrings and lace articles to order.' 'The myth that young people spend their free time sitting vacantly in front of the television was forcefully dispelled.'

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme had the distinction of taking the school's tally over the one hundred mark since starting at Hinchingsbrooke in the early 1970s.

Mr. John Major the local M.P. presented the awards. With the help of the WRVS Community, service has expanded – ‘the wilder the garden the greater seems to be the satisfaction’ – meeting older people in their homes.

One expedition to Wales was puzzled by sign-posts pointing to the same place – ‘Llwybr Cyhoeddus’ – which could not be found anywhere on a map. Eventually realisation meant that it was Welsh for Public Footpath! M.G. Baker concluded that the whole experience was described by the Duke of Edinburgh as a ‘do-it-yourself kit to civilised living.’

One innovation by the Music department was the institution of informal performance evenings by pupils of all abilities. Another new development was the establishment of the Hinchingsbrooke Rehearsal Orchestra working on an ambitious programme including Stravinsky’s ‘Rite of Spring’. About 70 people attended including some from London and Leeds. In addition Mr. Cronin organised no fewer than 13 concert visits to London.

Trips here and there involved Wertheim where some came back thinking in German, Malham where the geologists complained that the fine weather meant that the trip lacked ‘zest’, Stratford where the quirky set – ‘two movable and rotating electronic organs and three mechanical cranes’ – claimed more attention than the actors and the Social Science A level visit to London where whirlwind visits to such as the Stock Exchange, the C.B.I., Parliament, Foreign Office, Financial Times and the London Docklands Enterprise Zone meant at least a thorough knowledge of the Underground system!

‘Billy Liar’ (6<sup>th</sup> formers) and ‘Oh What A Lovely War’ (Middle School) tested acting ability in distinctly unfamiliar environments. The Northern atmosphere was effectively created special mention being made of ‘Mike Ockwell as the eponymous hero whose wide range of voice and gesture was used to great effect and who engaged our sympathy in his struggle to cope with the real world.’ while the abiding memory from the war years was ‘of raw, young voices singing, in local accents, songs which their great, great, grandfathers had sung when only two or three years older than the actors themselves.’

The major event of the P.E. department was the excursion of 500 pupils and 15 staff in six coaches and two double-decker buses to Peterborough ice-rink. How could everyone get their skates on in orderly fashion? – ‘but everyone was soon kitted out and on the ice by 5.15 p.m.’ Perhaps the teachers were apprehensive about facing the ice and pupils’ jeers ‘indeed some of them achieved a perfect set of 6.0s though artistic impression was sometimes lacking!’ Eira Davies reported an accident-free evening,

On the football front the U.16s were winning finalists on penalties at St. Neots Town ground v. St. Ivo.

Richard Youngs wins the Cambs Cross-Country and goes on to place 4<sup>th</sup> in the 800m. final at the Nationals.

The Volleyball team, after a tentative start last season, had a full programme of fixtures against adult teams so needed a team ‘not only comprising pupils and former pupils but a member of staff.’

In Girls' sport the successful trampolining team merited a photograph winning medals and certificates while the gymnasts had a suitable action photograph.

The Ski trip did involve some skiing but also discoing, ice-skating, tobogganing, snowball fights and a thigh-slapping, high-kicking folk dance display.

For the OHA, targetting certain year groups seemed to have had the desired effect with over 90 people attending. John Butcher M.P. and his wife were the guests.

## 1994

The editorial team led by English teacher Sam Bell produced a highly pictorial version of the school magazine emphasising the artistic and creative aspects of school life. The new Performing Arts Centre came into full use during the 1993-94 school year, providing a venue which raised events like the Presentation Evening to new heights. School plays (Oh, what a lovely war, Sixth Form Christmas Panto) attracted bigger audiences. The professional concerts (clarinettist Emma Johnson gave the first performance in the PAC) made the PAC an attraction not only for the school but to the local community. We had a from the Imperial Brass Quintet (with three ex-pupils), and the Coull String Quartet who coached school string players during the day and then played in the PAC in the evening.

The school's outstanding record of charity work and fund-raising was highlighted and Head Boy Tim Gilbert referred to the £2,000 raised through the School Fête to build a new school in Namibia and more locally, the Christmas hampers delivered to old folk in Huntingdon.

One of the other innovations of the re-designed single site school, the Resources Centre, was celebrated by Duncan Grey. Teacher governor Dave Fitzsimmons explained what it means to be a governor of a large school like Hinchingsbrooke, at this time the 12<sup>th</sup> largest school in the country, and referred to the description of the school in the *Daily Telegraph Schools Guide* as 'a vibrant, at times hectic, school. He wondered if the students should have a direct voice on the governing body, as well as teachers, parents and local community representatives.

Alongside the many conventional sports activities, the school now ran a Golf Society for teachers, students and parents, described by Ray Henshaw as 'illustrious' and 'undaunted in the face of adversity'.

At the Rotary Clubs 'Youth Speaks' public speaking competition, Clare Brooker argued the case for mixed sports teams.

Peter Hewett wrote a prescient essay about the brutality of videos and computer games and their potential impact on young people.

Ex-pupils wrote about their life since leaving school: Mike Ockwell wrote about the challenges of being a professional actor; twins Robert and Lewis McCaffrey emphasised the value of travelling the round the world after leaving university.

The OHA reported the death of former Head, Norman Armstrong, who had founded the association in 1933. A remarkably energetic man (appointed Head at 28), he had master-minded the building of the new school on Brampton Road, opened on the very day the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war started.



## The Bösendorfer piano series

The concert series based on the Bösendorfer grand piano, bought for the school by former pupils in memory of Ken Brown, is now in its seventh season.

Jillian Skerry continues to find excellent performers for us to enjoy in the Performing Arts Centre. After our sixth series, we were able to donate a further £300 to the OHA Music Fund. This is used to provide prizes and bursaries for promising young musicians in the school today.

The support for the concerts from the local Huntingdonshire community has been growing gradually as more and more people have realised that they are getting top London performers at a bargain price and without having to travel to London or even Cambridge to hear them.

Three more concerts remain in the 2013-2014 series:

- **January 24th – Caroline Dale** (cello) and **Paul Turner** (piano); works by Beethoven and Brahms
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Wass** (piano); programme of music by Bach, Beethoven, Busoni, Berg, Franck and Barber
- **March 28<sup>th</sup> – Emma Halnan** (flute) and **Daniel King-Smith** (piano): music by Tchaikovsky, Weber and Liebermann

Those of you who live within reach of Huntingdon may like to join us for these concerts. You can reserve tickets by telephoning the box office on 01480 375678 between 9 and 3.30 during the week and speak to former pupil Lynn Pettitt.

The OHA also helps increase the school's Music Fund by liaising with Huntingdon Rotary Club to put on a piano concert featuring the prize-winner from a competition run by former pupil Spencer Freeman in the South East. This event also raises money for local and international charities supported by Rotary.

The concert in 2014 will be on **Friday, March 14th** in the PAC at 7.30 p.m. and the soloist is **Riyad Nicolas**. He is a very talented young pianist from Syria who has been studying in England since he was 16. Tickets from 01480 398082 or by e-mail to peterdownes42@aol.co.uk.

**Peter Downes, OHA Bösendorfer Piano Concerts promoter**

## The 'Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House'

The 'Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House' is a registered charity set up a few years ago to help the school to protect and enhance Hinchingsbrooke House and promote the House as Huntingdon's most prestigious historic monument.

We have recently contributed to the restoration of the flag-pole on the House and paid for the carbon dating of what were thought to be the bones of the nuns, but have turned out to be not what was expected! We help too with the opening of the House to the public in the summer months and we have created a Tree Trail round the grounds. In 2014 we are hoping to arrange a visit to Mapperton, the home of the Sandwich family, former owners of Hinchingsbrooke.

We put on two events every year:

- An Annual Dinner early in February when we have a visiting speaker who talks about some historical aspect of the House. In 2013 we welcomed back Roger Mitchell, a former history teacher at Hinchingsbrooke and Head of Sixth Form. He talked about how Country Houses had struggled to survive during and after World War Two.

In **February 2014** our topic will be '**Hinchingsbrooke, Huntingdon and World War 1**' and the guest speaker will be Martyn Smith. Martyn's grandfather was a member of the Hunts Cyclists Battalion in World War 1. Martyn is now a mine of information about that local aspect of WW1 and has his own website devoted to the subject. We are also researching other archive material on Hinchingsbrooke at that period so we should have an interesting and varied presentation.

- A Summer Evening meeting on the first Sunday in July when, after the short formal AGM, we have a talk followed by a tour of the grounds.

A few of us work in the Rose Garden and adjoining herbaceous border, though its maintenance to a high standard is beyond us. If you would like to donate a rose in memory of somebody, please send a cheque for £30 to the Treasurer (address below).

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. As a Friend, you will receive Newsletters and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that part of your subscription goes to help with the maintenance of the House as a historic treasure.

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.

## The O. H. A. – what it is, what it does and how you can help

The OHA exists to provide a link between former pupils (and teachers) of Huntingdon Grammar School and Hinchingsbrooke School. We organise two main social functions each year in February or March and on the first Sunday in July at lunch-time. We publish this annual newsletter. We organise the Bösendorfer Piano Concerts. We donate money to the school to provide prizes to outstanding pupils.

Unusually for 'alumni associations', there is no subscription for the OHA. It has been suggested that, in lieu of a membership fee, Old Huntingdonians may wish to support the running costs of the Association, including the production of the Newsletter, and any additional costs for 2015, by a regular donation (suggested minimum £5) or by setting up a standing order – details on separate sheet. Do please support us as we approach such an important landmark for our school. Or, if you prefer, send the Treasurer a cheque (payable Old Huntingdonians' Association) to John Hinsby, 30 Thrapston Road, Brampton, Huntingdon, PE28 4TD.

We function by mailing-list. Inevitably, like all mailing-lists, ours 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 cannot undertake a full obituary service in this short 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.

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, Peter Downes (President), Richard Cook (Data controller), Ann Monk (Secretary), Gary Buckenham (Web-page Coordinator) and John Hinsby (Treasurer).

We really would prefer to keep in touch with you via e-mail. Printing and distributing nearly 400 magazines by post is an expensive and time-consuming activity for an organisation with no subscription, run entirely by volunteers. The cost has increased this year because of the rise in Royal Mail charges. **Please send Richard Cook your e-mail address today.**

The OHA now has its own web-site. You can access this by going to the Hinchingsbrooke School web-site [www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net](http://www.hinchingsbrookeschool.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!

**Hilary While 01480 457900; Peter Downes 01480 398082; John Hinsby 01480 457827; Richard Cook – [richardcook@aol.com](mailto:richardcook@aol.com)**

## ***Forthcoming events . . .***

### **'The Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House'**

**Annual Dinner, Sunday, February 2nd, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m.**

**Topic: 'Hinchingsbrooke, Huntingdon and World War 1'**

**Guest Speaker: Martyn Smith. Local historian and specialist on the Huntingdon Cyclists Battalion**

**Tickets: £22 from:**

**Ian Nicholls, 9 Glebe Road, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0DG.  
Cheques payable 'Friends of Hinchingsbrooke House'.**

**Please enclose stamped addressed envelope. Tel: 01480 811870**

**e-mail: [ij.nicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:ij.nicholls@btinternet.com)**

### **O.H.A. Annual Spring Reunion**

**Saturday, March 15th at 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

**Hinchingsbrooke House, Huntingdon**

**Guest Speakers: Caroline Clifford and Alan Akeroyd, authors of the new history of the school**

**Tickets: £21** Please use the enclosed reply-slip to book your tickets.

### **OHA Summer Lunch Reunion**

**Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 12.30**

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

**Tickets: £17** Please use the enclosed reply-slip to book your tickets

**NB Those receiving this Newsletter by e-mail will receive separate reply-slips as an attachment.**