Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central High School at Bushy Park, London England from 1952 to 1962

Issue #5 **July 2010** **Volume #10**

Gary Schroeder (55), Editor gschroeder4@comcast.net

Visit the Bushy Park Web Site at http://www.bushypark.org/

Class Representatives

1953 - Jackie (Brown) Kenny
JKYKNY@aol.com

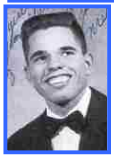
1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote
betsycote@verizon.net

1955 – Nancie (Anderson) Weber
nancieT@verizon.net

1956 - Edie (Williams) Wingate
WingW@aol.com

1957 –Shirley (Huff) Dulski
shuffy2@msn.com

1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen
CHS1958@sbcglobal.net



1959 – John "Mike" Hall
MGHall@Q.com

1960 - Ren Briggs
rpbjr@frontiernet.net

1961 - Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net

1962 - Dona (Hale) Ritchie
DonaRitchi@aol.com

REMINDERS AND SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Don't forget, if you're planning on changing your e-mail address (especially if you've been using a work e-mail to receive the newsletter and are planning on retiring soon) to let either Gary or Pat know so you can continue to receive news about your classmates.

2. Please try to remember to put BUSHY PARK or something similar in the SUBJECT line when you send us something. If we don't recognize your name or e-mail address we might delete it. (I've done that in the past - Pat). **We also need your class year.**

3. If you decide you no longer want to receive the newsletter, just send an e-mail to either Gary or Pat and let them know and you'll be taken off.

4. If you haven't received your newsletter by the 5th of any month (unless Gary or Pat let you know

if there will be a delay), please contact either of them and they'll get a copy out to you.

Roster Changes

New Email address:

Pat OBrien (57)
patrickobrien.57@gmail.com

Robert "Bob" Phifer (57)
joshin2828@gmail.com

Delores (Dee) Antonioli (61)
deeantonioli@comcast.net

New address:

Elizabeth "Betsey" (Crawford) Brune (56)
ebrune2@comcast.net

9172 Las Maderas Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
(239) 495-5472

(Editors Note: Happy Birthday to Betsey on July 27th.)

Where Did They Go?

This is a list of our classmates whose email address were rejected when the last issue was sent out. If any of you know of their new email, address please send me an update.

Marianne (Walton) McCornack (53)
mgm@wideopenwest.com

Ruth (Davis) Zabe (53)
sharkpack@netzero.net

Jerry Berry (55)
memnosine@hotmail.com

John Friswold (57)
paynewaianae@aol.com

Harold Defreece (57)
Defreeceinaz@aol.com

Leroy "Doc" Ferguson (58)
elfdocelf@aol.com

Nancy (Hansen) Key (58)
NancyBKey@aol.com

Daret (Matthews) Raimann (59)
DMatthewsbsn@aol.com

Reunion Information

Dianne (Pendergrass) Hopkins (56)
dhopkins400@peoplepc.com

*****REUNION UPDATE*****

LONDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL at BUSHY PARK
Classes 1953-56 & Friends
September 19-23, 2010
Wilmington, NC

I'm sitting here imagining sitting on the dock of the Cape Fear River, and thinking of our upcoming reunion. We have secured the hotel, arranged all of

the attractions, and have sampled all the food. All that's left is to see you all here on September 19th. Don't wait to hear what a good time your friends had, come on down and add onto our memories of high school. Ruth, Pat, and I will be at the hotel to greet and welcome you, and are looking forward to seeing you all.

We have planned a welcome reception for Sunday night. Starting Monday afternoon, Bob Jenkins shares with us an informative lecture on Wilmington, with the option of a walking tour. Also on Monday, Ted Hopkins '55 will have a presentation for us, which is always enjoyable. Tuesday will be an optional sightseeing trip of the area including Southport, Brunswick Town, Orton Plantation, Fort Fisher, a ferry ride, and much more. Wednesday we have scheduled a tour of a battleship during the day, and a fabulous banquet that evening at the Pilot House, located on the Cape Fear River.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. We need to estimate the final numbers for transportation and each of the events. Cancellation is 24 hours before the arrival date, and the cutoff date to make reservations is **August 19, 2010**. We have had fun planning the reunion and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in Wilmington!

Best Western Coastline
1-800-617-7732
Group #193218
$89 group rate Bushy Park Alumni

Organizers:
Ruth Lund Bethea (rbethea@verizon.net
Pat Miller Hodges (pathodges@earthlink.net)
Dianne Pendergrass Hopkins
(dhopkins400@peoplepc.com)

On the last page of this newsletter there will be a registration form for this reunion .

Ren Briggs (60)
rpbjr@frontiernet.net

Well the 2010 Gathering / 50th reunion for the class of 59 and 60 is over. I would like to thank all of the Bushy Park Brats that attended. I have to say from everybody that was there all felt the same. It was OUTSTANDING. We had 72 Bushy students, 4 teachers and a total of 126 people. Mr. Frank Janusz, Mr. Cliff Gunderson and Mr. and Mrs. John and Doris Billington were the four teachers and what a pleasure it was to have them there. We had the largest amount of first time attendees of all the previous Gatherings.

The Orleans Hotel and Casino facility was a very good choice. It had everything under one roof. The rooms and all of the restaurants were very good. The Buffet Dinner was without a doubt the best food that I have had at a large function.

As many of you may have heard, this will be the last Gathering/Reunion that myself and the committee will be involved with. We have enjoyed doing them but we also feel that it is a good time to step down. Should someone wish to pick up the flag and continue to do the Gathering /Reunion in the future, I have information that I would be happy to share with you that may help you ease into putting one together. They do require a lot of work and coordination.

For the attendees, I hope that you went home with fond memories and renewed friendships. Thank you

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This and That

Billie (Culp) Bules, (54)
DWBCBULES@aol.com

I found the article in the June issue of Bushy Tales written by Craig Sams, class of 1961 very interesting. His career with healthy/vegetarian foods was fascinating. And, the fact that he chose to live in the London area to begin with, was interesting. When we lived there I never saw any signs of the English folks knowing or caring much about alternative foods. I know that the cooks in the cafeteria at Bushy Park prepared very bland, tasteless food, to my taste. I preferred to carry a

sack lunch to school every day, rather than eat what they presented.

Let's hear more stories from former classmates about their career choices, or what they have done since leaving Bushy Park. It seems that those of us from the early years have told all the stories that we remember about attending Bushy Park, or living in the London area.

Wendell "Oren" Jones (58)
wendelljones@embarqmail.com

I am pleased to have won this recognition for a short story about one call with a boy who lost his mother, while doing volunteer work in the Trauma Intervention Program in Las Vegas the past two years. TIP volunteers are called by emergency responders when a loved one is in grief or trauma from the death (accidental, suicide, or natural death) of a loved one. The story had to be read in 2 minutes or less.

TIP SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

I am pleased to announce that TIP volunteer Wendell Jones from our Southern Nevada Affiliate is the winner of our Compelling TIP Story contest. Wendell has been a TIP volunteer since October 2008. He is a professor of management at the University of Southern Nevada. Before this position Wendell held senior executive positions with a number of companies. He says that degrees and titles are not longer important to him, but helping others is important.

I want to thank all those who submitted a compelling story. The judges report that all the submissions were outstanding. Following is Wendell Jones's winning story.

Wayne Fortin

Seeing two police cars parked in front, he thought that must be the correct address. He parked and walked up to the nearest police officer and introduced himself as a TIP volunteer. The officer responded, *"Thanks for coming. Your client is the eight year old boy in that car. His name is Andrew."*

The TIP volunteer opened the door, greeted the elderly lady in the front seat and then slid in next to the child in the back seat. *"Hi, Andrew, I am Daniel, and I have been asked to spend time with you. Tell me what happened."*

"My Mommy died!" Andrew exclaimed with tears flowing down his cheeks. *"I don't know why she died. I went in the bedroom and her belly did not move up and down. Grandma called on the phone. The firemen and police came and my aunt and uncle also came. They said Mommy is dead."*

"Did you talk to your Mother this morning?" "Yes, Mommy came out and hugged me and said that she will always be with me." "What did you say to her, Andrew?"

"I said Mommy you are as beautiful as a butterfly."

"All of your life, Andrew, you will remember that the last thing you said to your Mother were those nice words." When it was time for the TIP volunteer to leave a few hours later, Andrew hugged him tightly, and whispered, *"I will miss you."*

The TIP volunteer then walked to his car, feeling sad for Andrew, but glad that he had been able to make a difference for Andrew and his family during their traumatic experience.

Judith (Samms) Stanford (59)
stanfordwk@earthlink.net

The Bushy Park Reunion in Las Vegas was fabulous. Lots of laughs and good times were had by all. We are so lucky to be a part of such a great group.

George Lawson (59)
lawsongm@aol.com

Thank you, Ren, and those whose efforts created new memories for we who attended the 2010 Gathering in Las Vegas.

Affording an opportunity to shared our past memories of teachers, excursions into London, sporting events, and bus rides to and from school--all that helped develop our individual Bushy Park experiences. Our school may have been leveled to the ground, but its buildings and sounds will forever remain in that special place we hold so dear. The 2010 Gathering refreshed my memories of faces, sights, and sounds. Let us continue the Gathering so long as we live.

With a grateful heart for all that you have share.

Judy (Risler) Murphy (60)
lchs1960@aol.com

Hey gang! Just wanted you to know Mike and I are back in the swamps. We've only been gone a month (heavy sarcasm here). But we had a great time, both in Las Vegas at the gathering, and in driving up the California coast to San Francisco, Sacramento, across the Donner Pass (in a blinding snowstorm, I might add), across Nevada on "the loneliest highway", back down south to I-40 and home. We did stay at Ren Briggs' house for two days over Memorial Day so we could back up and regroup and get warm! It was cold in California! Who woulda thunk it? Anyway, we had a fantastic time, and saw some beautiful country.

But we're glad to get home. Now we can start planning our next adventure, whatever it might be.

I took a lot of pictures at the gathering, and will send them on as soon as I can. I was accosted on several fronts after I got home with various 'n' sundry "crises", so let me deal with them first, and I will get back to the fun part.

If you were there, it was wonderful seeing all of you, even if we didn't get much of a chance to chat. If you weren't there, you were sorely missed. As a collective effort, Ren was presented with a scaled down red British telephone booth, complete with red telephone, a lovely paperweight containing the unofficial flower of the military brat, a dandelion that scatters to the four winds, and an appreciation plaque that, I hope, adequately lets him know how much we appreciate his efforts in bringing us all together so many times. He says this was his last hurrah, so it was especially nice that many were there to acknowledge him and what he's done for all of us.

Also from Judy:

Our own unofficial Pied Piper of Bushy Park, Ren Briggs, has decided the 2010 Bushy Park Reunion in Las Vegas will be the last one he will preside over. And that is sad, because for the past eight years he has been the motivator and driving force behind the reconvening of our particular kindred spirits. Now it's time for someone else to pick up the reins and lead us to that once-a-year gathering that renews our spirits and gives us a chance to stroll down Memory Lane one more time. There have been others who have hosted our gatherings, and each one has been memorable in its own right, but it was Ren who sparked our imaginations, and moved us to gather together under one roof and collectively touch yesterday again.

Here are the words I put together on a plaque that was presented to him at the May 2010 reunion:

IN APPRECIATION
to Ren Briggs
For your enthusiastic, unswerving devotion to the idea of reuniting Bushy Park classmates, most of whom who have had no contact with each other in decades...
For cajoling us into the positive frame of mind necessary to attend such a reunion...
For your fortitude and perseverance in finding the right time, and the right place, at the right hotel, for the right price, and your patience in dealing with the ongoing hassles involved...
For your concentrated efforts in getting the word out, by email, snail mail, telephone, and tell-a-brat...
For your unflagging encouragement in making us believe that nothing would be as much fun if we weren't there...
For urging us to get our reservations and money in as soon as possible, and then exhibiting unmitigated forbearance while they trickled in ever so slowly...
For your time, hard work, and unflinching determination to see us all together again, just one more time...
THANK YOU!
From the Bushy Park Brats
1956-1962

Anita (Hardy) Johnson (60)
anita42phil@msn.com

I just got back home from the 3203 miles of road trip from Seattle to Las Vegas for the 50th Reunion.
I (along with everyone else) want to say that it was a resounding success. We all had a fabulous time. Ren Briggs '60 who organized and worked so hard to put this on deserves our **MANY THANKS !!!** It was the very best one yet!

I'm including a lot of photos for the newsletter so that those who couldn't make it can see some of their class mates.

From Left: Karen (Dougherty) Preast '61, Thyra Caldwell '61, Judy (Risler) Murphy '60, Anita (Hardy) Johnson '60 and Judy (Paullus) Laird '59

Class of 1958

(Editors Note: I could not get more than these two in this issue due to the size of the pictures. However, I have made a separate file of all the pictures she sent and if any of you would like a copy just email me and I will send it out to you. It is a large file so if any of you have an ISP that will not let you receive files over 1 MEG I will not be able to send it to you.

What are we doing now ?

Sherry (Cheryl Burritt) Konjura (57)
sherger2@gmail.com

Here is a photo of me holding my 2 new Great Grandchildren! My son Eric is behind me, his older daughter Jade is on my right and I am holding her baby girl, Bailey Kate - born April 12th - on my right arm. Eric's younger daughter Chesney is on my left and I am holding her baby boy, Phoenix Chandler - born March 2nd - on my left arm. Seems like yesterday when Eric was a baby! Time marches on....

Someone suggested that we start sending in information on our lives since leaving England, so, for those who might have an interest in what I've done since graduating from Bushy Park in 1957:

I married and had my three sons, then decided to go back to school. Talk about doing things backwards! I managed, somehow, to graduate Cum Laude in four years with a degree in Speech & Theatre. I immediately went on to Graduate School and received my Master's Degree with a 4 point average just a year later. That Fall I was hired by the High School where we lived in Columbus, MS to teach English and Speech. Since I also had a minor in Psychology, I wound up initiating and teaching a class in beginning Psychology during the Spring Semester. I left the school after one year to take a teaching position in the Speech/Theatre Department at Mississippi State University just 30 miles away. I remained there teaching Speech, Theatre and Oral Interpretation for 10 years. All throughout those years I did a lot of acting in local theatres.

By the time I left MS State, my youngest was in college and I had separated from my husband. I went into Professional Theatre full-time, divorced my husband and spent quite a few years traveling from one theatre to another, finally settling in Lancaster, PA where there were two Professional Theatres. I worked exclusively at one of those theatres for a number of years where I met and married my husband Gerry whom many of you have met at various reunions. Over the years I have also worked as a photographer, interior designer, and tour director while also doing radio and television commercials. Don't let anyone kid you - acting is a very tentative profession, and is lucrative to only a few. I was lucky for many, many years to have acting jobs almost constantly, but that is rare and has dwindled down considerably now that I'm older. Of course these days I'm not that anxious to travel around the country and be away from home for extended periods of time!

I have five grandchildren and the two great-grandchildren pictured. In addition to the two granddaughters pictured, I have two grandsons who are now married. Their sister, my youngest granddaughter, is a Senior studying Theatre at Shenandoah University.

So, that's my life in a nutshell....I look forward to reading about the lives of some of you former Bushyites...

Letters to the Editor

Sherry (Cheryl Burritt) Konjura (57)
sherger2@gmail.com

Hi Gary,
I have a question for anyone who's Dad

might have been at West Drayton during the mid-50's. My brother Duane needs a bit of information.. Does anyone remember the name of the NCO club bartender? Duane thinks his first name was Johnny. Duane was friends with his son and daughter, but can't remember their names or the family last name and would like to make contact with the son. Thanks to anyone who might have an answer to this!

Pat O'Brien (57)
patrickobrien.57@gmail.com

I have very many negatives, all 35 mil. most are taken in and around the school.

I am in hospice now (COPD), Kidney and heart problems. If you can use these or just wanted to look to see what there is I can have my son mail them to you.

I was pleased to read one of my thoughts. That is, what would happen to a non military brat about 17 years old if turned loose in London or New York. Many times I have thought back to the times I spent a weekend at the dorm instead of going home to Oxford. That time was spent just wandering around London or Kingston . I did enjoy Oxford also, but everything was so inexpensive we had to try every experience we could. Center stage row at live theater cost only 6 or 7 schillings. The natural history museum is so large I spent all of three weekends going through it and still did not see it all.

Our first house was in North Leigh. A large two story all rock house built in 1640. And, yes it was haunted. The address was, and still is Old Cottage on Church Road. We moved in to that house near the end of August and if you wanted hot water you needed to build a fire in the (very large) fireplace, and of course it took a long time to get hot water. I still enjoy a warm beer, but have never found Woodpecker hard cider or a hard cider that was as good.

Many good memories, even being suspended twice had a bright side.

Ron Crowe (64) (no picture available)
roncrowe@pacbell.net

I'm the '64 class rep and one of my classmates wrote me this morning asking why a Bobcat was our school mascot. Do you know or know someone that would know?

Brenda (Hickman) McFarland (59)
kemcfarland@comcast.net

The reunion in Las Vegas, May 16th to 19th was a huge amount of good time spent talking with many students who attended and the faculty also. It was great to connect with classmates, some of whom I had not seen since graduation. While there, going over all the memorabilia ~ which was a great display ~ I remembered that I wanted to purchase MEMORIES OF BUSHY PARK by Judy Risler Covington ('60). I did so and Judy promptly sent me her publication. What a great time I had reading it. Her memory for detail is outstanding and the book is so well written and there are some really humorous tales. It certainly brought back a lot of memories of similar happenings. It was especially fun when I finished reading it on a road trip to see our daughter and grandchildren in Meadville, PA, listening to the great CD of 1959 Greatest Hits that Ren Briggs gave out at the final reunion event. Thanks must go to Ren for all the years he and the people who have helped him in planning so many reunions. I've only attended three over the years, this was a special one celebrating 50 years out of high school and such a school it was!

After everyone left, my husband and I went to the Grand Canyon, a 20 hour roundtrip bus sightseeing tour. It was a lifetime desire to see the majesties of the canyon in person.

God Bless and protect our men and women from all five services who are serving, and who have served, to protect and defend this Great Nation, and God Bless the United States of America.

BUSHY PARK REUNION
CLASSES OF 1953-56 and Friends
Wilmington, NC; 19-23 September 2010
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____Class: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ email: _____
Guest: _____ Driving to reunion? Yes No; if yes, how many riders could you assist transporting to two activities? ____

A discussion of the daily plans appears in the information sheet in the newsletter. We hope everyone can participate in all activities, but we need to know for reserving transportation and meal requirements. Thanks!

Per person, except where noted:		**No.**	**Amt.**
Registration fee:	($25)-**class member only; not guest**	1	$25
Sunday night reception:	($10 + open bar)	____	$_____
Monday evening dessert get-together	($5)	____	$_____
Tuesday all-day tour	($45 - lunch additional; all admissions included)	____	$_____
Wednesday battleship tour	($10)	____	$_____

Wednesday night banquet (**Circle choice of entrée* <u>and</u> dessert**)
*(Price includes entrée, salad, dessert, beverage, tax, and gratuity)

Vegetable Linguini	$33		____
Mixed grill (salmon, tuna & large shrimp)	$42		____
Crabcakes	$47		____
Garlic Chicken	$39		____
		Total Meal(s) Cost	$_____
Key Lime Pie			____
Fruit Cobbler			____
		Reunion Grand Total:	$_____

Please mail completed registration form and check **not later than 10 August** to:

Ruth Bethea, '55
7309 Leesville Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22151

NOTE: In the event of a cancellation, refunds are possible for the reception, battleship tour, banquet, and the dessert get-together.

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