

# Bushy Tales

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



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Visit the Bushy Park Website at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



**1953 – Mariann (Walton)  
McCornack (d. 2022)**



**1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote  
[betsycote@Atlanticbb.net](mailto:betsycote@Atlanticbb.net)**

**1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)**



**1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate  
[WingW@aol.com](mailto:WingW@aol.com)**



**1957 – William Douglas  
[rwm Douglas@gmail.com](mailto:rwm Douglas@gmail.com)**



**1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen  
[nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net)**



**1959 – John "Mike" Hall  
[MGHall446@gmail.com](mailto:MGHall446@gmail.com)**



**1960 – Ren Briggs  
[rpbjr@frontiernet.net](mailto:rpbjr@frontiernet.net)**



**1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz  
[bslepetz@comcast.net](mailto:bslepetz@comcast.net)**

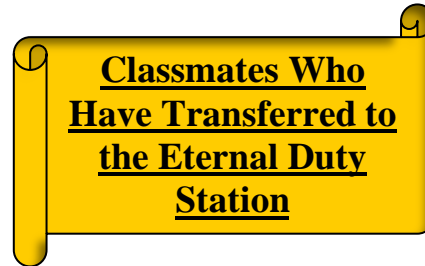


**1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie  
[Dona.Ritchie@att.net](mailto:Dona.Ritchie@att.net)**

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**A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen [nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net) or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.**

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**Jacqueline Leah Holder (57) Asher**

Age 80, of Citrus Springs, FL, died March 5, 2019. She is survived by her son, Clint and his wife, Erika. Cremation care is being provided by the Chas E. Davis Funeral Home.

Published by Tampa Bay Times on Mar. 11, 2019.

## Memories of Bushy Park

**Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at [BushyPark.org](http://BushyPark.org) Among the things you can see at this website is a “Guestbook”, in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007.**

**Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)**



**From: Karen Sweetland (59)**

While decades ago, there are vivid memories from those 3 years. Some amusing, such as this particular memory:

The back story...I was highly enamored with London theater, attending as often as possible. My routine consisted of taking the train into London in the morning, going shopping, then going to a truly mediocre restaurant off Piccadilly circus. The restaurant was charming in ambiance, a long narrow dining room with large fountain at the end of the room, music and water set to timing. As a high school kid, when compared to my English peers, I appeared much older, lacking the bland uniform with hats and chinstrap. Thus, in said restaurant I was regarded as 20+ years old, and using this as an asset, I'd order a dreadful lunch and whiskey sour (1), and light up a cigarette as I watched people. Then it was off to either a matinee play or movie, stopping at Wimpy's for a burger, bit of flirting with the GIs, then train home.

It always shocked me that my very strict parents had no problem with my going into one of the world's biggest cities, alone, with the only requirement being the need to be home by dark. In summer that was near 10.

So, Mondays I'd be asked by friends what movie or play I'd seen. After numerous reports, some of these friends wanted to go along for the full experience. I was less than comfortable about the arrangement. I made it very clear what we'd be doing, including lunch, and cautioned them to say NOTHING, leaving me to order. Oh, and positively NO GIGGLING, EVER.

The day progressed without incident, until in the restaurant. The waitress asked for orders, which I gave, at which point there was a barrage of giggles, prompting the waitress to card them, but not me! I was irked, but we did the theater and Wimpy's. Alas one girl got too carried away by a young GI, leaving with him. I have no idea how that all evolved.



Taken in Cancun, November 2022

But I thereafter decided it was less stress, and complication, if I continued with my routine alone.

During those years I cut my theatrical teeth on the world's finest productions, actors, music, drama. A truly epic experience that spoiled me for life.

For the record, I don't smoke, and haven't had a whisky sour in decades! I still adore great theatre but don't live in an area where first class productions frequent. But boy are there lots of mariachi bands!!!

One last observation...we from Bushy Park, and all those from that era, were truly blessed to have grown up during a time of tranquility, sanity, safety, and freedom, unequalled since, where right, God, and honesty were the order of the day.

Now? All that was right is wrong and vice versa. Not to mention the endless litany of insane thinking and actions of today.

God help us!

Karen Sweetland  
Class of 59

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## Letters to the Editor



**From: Walter Costa (54)**

On Ruth Lund's passing:  
We dated for a while, back in the day. How sad she's gone.. I Remember her as a sweet girl. Wally '54



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**From: Bill Douglas (57)**

Bill/Pat,

The question of “underground room” brought back a memory of a ride in from the Beaconsfield to CHS route, which I believe was Bus #17. On one of the last stops before school, a student who I think I recall his name but won't enter it here, boarded the bus with two young, heavily made-up, English girls. He proudly announced that he was going to set them up in the old bomb shelter near the school and charge a half-crown a trick each for their services. The three got off when we arrived and headed away from the school. I don't recall anything further either good or bad as to the success of the venture. Thought I'd respond immediately before I forgot to do it!

Happy New Year,

Bill Douglas '57

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**From: Suzanne Garrison (54) Mayo**

Hi Bill, Short but very interesting! This is not a complaint. I certainly have not done my part in contributing any articles to you. Now my memory is getting a little fuzzy. Whatever I did send to you, I probably would only repeat and that would be embarrassing!



Our core group reunions from the classes of '54 and '55 have certainly dwindled due to deaths, which has been so sad. I do however stay in close contact with Gary Baldwin, Billy Culp Bules, Mike Salmon (all from '54) and Teddy Hopkins ( '55) with his wife Dawn. So far all of us are doing well, healthy, and ready to travel again. I guess I'm still wearing my "rose colored glasses" and not ready to get rid of them.

I hope you're doing well. I'm sure your surgeons think you're a miracle patient, with your recovery which has sounded amazing.

Thank you again for all you and Pat are doing to keep us informed and together. It was such an important time in our lives, and I would imagine that most of us never realized how fortunate we were to be in England during those years.

Hugs to you, Bill,  
Snookie (Suzanne Garrison Mayo '54)

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**From: Phillip/Pete Laughlin (56)**

Is it possible that the underground room rumor was started because Eisenhower used the base to plan the Normandy invasion? Rumor has it he planned it in our English room. Interesting angle.

Keep up the good work.

Phillip Pete Laughlin  
Vice President  
Class of 1956  
Central High Bushy Park, England

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**From: Peggy J. Corder (54) Johnson**

Thanks to you Bill and Pat...

Hate to see we lost Ruth Lund Bethea. Your coverage of that was so thorough. Thank you.

You are right...no input, no newsletter. I will try to go through my photos, etc. and send you something.

I do realize classes of ours are dwindling...I hate it, but it is true.  
Thanks for keeping this alive...

Love you both. 🥰🙏

Peggy Corder Johnson

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From: Bill Grable (57) Rees

Chico Kieswetter and Bill (Grable)Rees members of the 1956 Bushy Park Bobcats basketball 🏀 team having a mini reunion in Venice, Florida.



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