

CENTRAL OLD BOYS

CLASS OF 1950-55

CLASS REUNITED

How and when it all started for us.

When we exited the school for the last time, in July 1955, the idea of forming CoB probably wasn't in anyone's minds, as the natural focus at the time was towards either Further Education,..Cambridge Tech, or local college, or an Apprenticeship with local engineering companies...a popular choice, in view of the excellent technical education and aura of Central.

Accordingly, we got on with our personal training and development: careers, some joining the Forces..National Service or longer term. Inevitably marriage and raising a family came along, sooner or later for many of us!

It wasn't until 1992 that I felt the need to briefly return to my roots in Cambridge and contact former classmates..having moved south to Sussex in 1956, undertaking a 4 year Diploma course in Civil Engineering at Brighton Technical College.

Not having any contacts in Cambridge, I recalled that John Smith's family had a shoe repair/retail shop in Milton Road..so wrote there and was delighted to receive a reply from John..leading to a detailed exchange of our respective family and career news.

It wasn't until 1996 that Janet and I planned to visit one of her school friends, now living in Cambridge, that I arranged to meet up with John...and the rest is as, they say, history..regarding how CoB was formed, through cascading and progressing contacts between known classmates, resulting in our first get together at The Pike & Eel in Old Chesterton in November 1997..marking the 42 years that had passed since we left Central!

Subsequently we met there (*see Photo of those attending in November 1998*) on only a few occasions, as they closed at 3.00pm, and we felt we needed a longer time...say between Noon and mid evening, to give flexibility for members to come and go as suited their own arrangements. This resulted in the choice of The Robin Hood at Cherry Hinton, which continues in November each year...often concluding with a sit down meal there or at a local Indian Restaurant.

In addition to the regular November pub meetings, later some Summer meetings have been arranged ..boat trips on The Cam and Hartford Marina also 2 chauffeured punt visits to the Granchester Tea Gardens.

We have a number of people to thank for arranging these gatherings and maintaining current address lists and keeping us all in touch over these past 27 years..namely, and in succession from John Smith, to John Anderson, then (for 10 years) Graham Kirkup, and currently Brian Gates...many thanks for all your efficient administration, time and expended energies!

Ralph (Olly) Olesen

The School day began ; at 9am with Assembly followed by ;

Morning schedule -Classes 9.15-10am, 10-10.45 am then a break ,11.15-12noon Lunch in Mud lane 12.45 (after the Girls of course) Afternoon schedule – 2.00- 2.45, 2.45 -3.30pm then a break, 3.45- 4,30 pm finish.

Tributes to the teachers ;

Jock Livingstone; Headmaster

A superb Headmaster who was a very fair man who ran a 'Tight Ship' to great effect. Mr Livingstone lived along Milton Road and cycled to school in a very sedate manner on his sit up and beg bike along Victoria Avenue and wo betide any boy who passed him as it was clear that he would be late for Assembly! Even the odd canings were tolerable! Old School but very much admired by the whole school.

Ralph (buster)Brown; Deputy Head

Maths teacher and Melbourne House master

A man of Devon who was a very competent Maths teacher who made sure we paid attention.This included slamming down rulers on the front desk and occasionally lobbing the chalk board rubber against a surface .A man with a sense of humour and humility that made him a popular teacher.

Roland Parker ;French Teacher

A tall man with a military stature who gently dragged us in to the use of basic French. Our only foreign language. Well organized and a popular teacher who always supported the Annual School Camps,in some cases assisted by his French wife. In retirement he became a accomplished author and published histories involving local villages .

DB (Dick) Annerly ; Geography Teacher

Form Master to the 1950-55 year group who was dedicated to education despite being hampered by a physical problem with his spine that left him with a permanent stoop. Despite this handicap he had a good sense of humour, that was needed with our class. He was a much admired ,experienced and

informative teacher who devoted so much time and effort in organizing events, In particular the annual School Camps, Photographic Club ,Christmas parties in addition to being a good teacher of Geography . One of the best teachers you are likely to meet !

Algie Newitt ; Metalwork teacher

A modest man (ex Bomber Command) who led us into the useful skills of beating metals into shape. His mantra was 'get it hot and hit it hard ' . No doubt he found us troublesome and administered a light cane sparingly. Our revenge was to substitute it with an aluminium rod which somewhat caused much amusement to all. (See Metalworking sheet of test pieces attached)

Syd Philips ; Technical Drawing

A calm and modest man (Fleet air Arm who flew Swordfish from Ark Royal) who taught us all the skills of draughtsmanship and attention to detail. These were very important for boys going into any form of engineering. He was a popular and unique personality who also ran the model aircraft club after school. Classroom was in Mud Lane.

Richard Sell ; Art

A man with a flair for his subject. Taught drawing and painting that was supplemented by working with Clay and papier mache. The latter using a gungy substance of paper offcuts and Gloy mix. His classroom was also in Mud lane.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME !

ANY BETTER IDEAS ??

Followed by tributes to the teachers by ;

Harry Bell –Sports

Taffy Evans – Music and Sports

Giles --,Woodwork

Edsger – English

George – Science

Central (Technical) School for Boys, Parkside, Cambridge. Class of 1950-55.

Favourite Subjects

The very practical sessions in the purpose built and well equipped workshops..Metal and Woodwork, certainly focussed attentions on crafts and engineering work and resulted in several pupils going on to work with the Cambridge Instrument Company, also Pye Radio, both significant employers in the town.

For the first 2 years our class split in two and alternated every 6 months. We were given the choice in year 3 ..I chose metalwork and have not regretted it in later life... having acquired the skills and necessary tools to repair/make a wide range of metal objects and maintain our bikes etc.

Our teacher was Algie Newitt (Class Reunion photo of 1998 - refers). Whilst demonstrating his skills at forging hot metal into many shapes and styles..pokers, chestnut roasters et al.. Algie would repeat the mantra : **"get it 'ot and hit it "ard!"**

Equal second favourite subjects were Art (Dick Sell) and Technical Drawing (Syd Phillips).

We also worked with clay..mainly coil pots , also with Paper Mache (main ingredients being torn paper in a water/gloy mix) which was termed Moggy..I think).

Technical Drawing lessons later proved to be very useful to me when I took on civil engineering and subsequently highway engineering...particularly using the acquired knowledge of setting out and drawing objects from different viewpoints.. Front Elevation, Side Elevation and Cross Sections, also Iso-metric (angled) projections.

Syd Phillips was a good teacher with an interesting background of having been with the Fleet Air Arm in the War, flying Swordfish torpedo bombers..known affectionately as Stringbags..which were biplanes.. somewhat outdated and vulnerable in the 1940's, achieving some heroic results but with considerable losses.

Syd ran an after school club making and flying model aircraft, so there was certainly a pupil interest there as well as with his popular classes in technical drawing. .benefitting many in their future employment.

Ralph (Olly) Olesen



HNICAL) SCHOOL FOR BOYS
SS OF 1950 – 55

ON : 15th November 1997
e & Eel, Chesterton.

here; ticked it off and now considering whether to
and the occasion both convivial and rewarding,

arly remembered them for



photo of our 2nd meeting @ Pike & Eel - 1998



Cambridge Central (Technical) School Old Boys 2nd Annual Reunion Nov. 199

@ The Pike & Eel Pub (joined by Messrs Sell & Newitt)

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May 2001, after on punt to Grantham
 - and what a gorgeous 'Puntreise'!



Nov 2000 @ The Robin Hood



Class of 1950 -55
Cambridge to Granchester (& back!)
Chauffered Punt Expedition - 20th May 2001



Class of 1950 -55
 Cambridge to Granchester (& back!)
 Chauffered Punt Expedition - 20th May 2001



Return to School..50 years on...in July 2005

Views of Workshops, Playground & access from Parkside



We are now rather more than mature Students !

In the wheelchair next to Dick Sell is our former caretaker, aka Weasel



The main Assembly Hall..scene of end of Autumn Term dances

with the girls...under the watchfull eye of Headmistress Miss Valentine



VISIT TO OLD SCHOOL
2005



19.11.05



Central Old Boys (Class of 1950-55) Annual Reunion @ The Robin Hood PH 18.11.2006





Central Old Boys (Class of 1950-55) Annual Reunion @ The Robin Hood PH 18.11.2006



CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL (TECHNICAL) SCHOOL – CLASS OF 1950-55

Reunion @ Robin Hood PH, Cheeryinton, Saturday 19th November 2005



Who's Who..... Can you match these names with faces?

John Anderson
Dennis Chapman
Dennis Clarke
Mick Colvill
Andrew Gates
Peter Dring
David Ely

Brian Foister
Brian Gate
Roy Gentle
Brian Goo
Jeremy Isles
Graham Kkup
Ralph Olesen

Richard Sell
John Smith
Bernard Wallman
'Chick' Willers
Chris Worland
Jim Wright
This Space Vacant!



We'll Meet Again...in 2006, Same place, Same day, Saturday 18th November, onwards from Noon
Make a Note in your new (2006) Diary...Hope to see you there!! Ralph (Olly) Olesen

BRYAN GOOD

ROY GENTLE

2

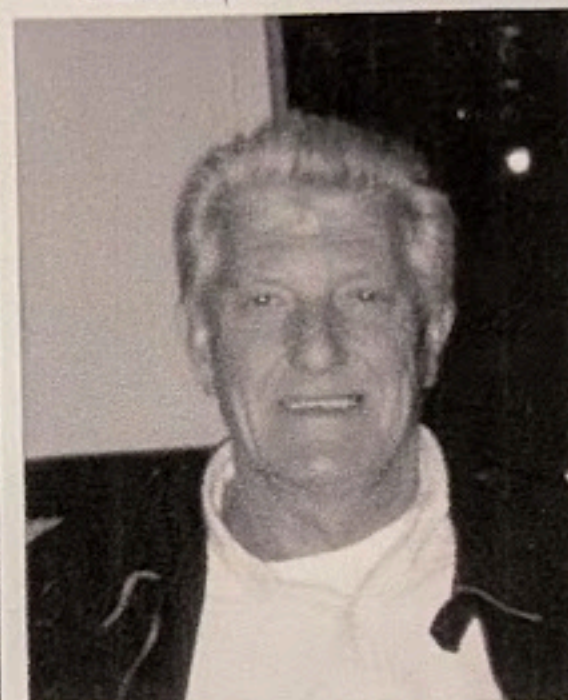
BRYAN
GOOD.

ANDREW
MCCULLOCH.

JEREMY ILES

PENNIS CHAPMAN

RALPH
OLESEN



Central Old Boys (Class of 1950-55) Annual Reunion @ The Robin Hood PH 18.11.2006

BRYAN KIRKUP

ROBIN
CHANDLER

ANDREW
GATES

BERNARD
WALLMAN

JOHN
ANDERSON

JOHN FULLER

PETER DRING

CHICK MILLERS



2
JIM WRIGHT

CHRIS WORLAND

BRIAN GATES

JOHN SMITH

DAVID ELY



FULLER BRING GATES ILES SMITH WORLAND KIRKUP MANNI

WALLMAN OLESEN CHANDLER ELY McCULLOCH ! !

GOOD NISBET SELL CARETAKER, ANDERSON CHAPMAN



Sports teacher, **Harry Bell**, was a former professional football player.



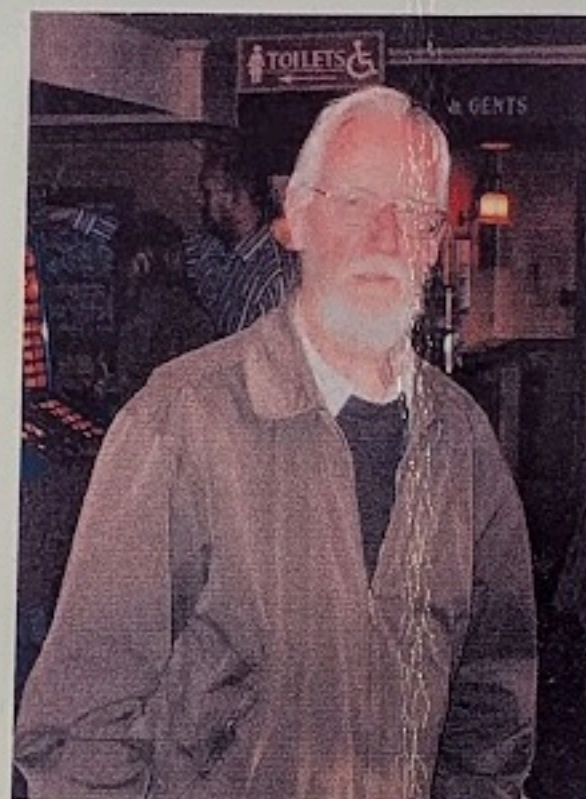
Richard Sell
Art teacher at the Central School for many years, he has also been a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy since 1948.



Mr Livingstone
Known as 'Jock' by the boys Mr Livingstone retired just before the move to the new school in 1958.

Mr 'Dick' Annelly

The geography teacher will be remembered by many ex-pupils. Do you recall his phrase for learning the great lakes? "Some men have every opportunity"



No longer with us, but Well Remembered



Smith, Olesen & Covill
Sports Day circa 1951/2

Class of 1950-55 : Reunion 2008 (17 attended & 4 apologies for absence)

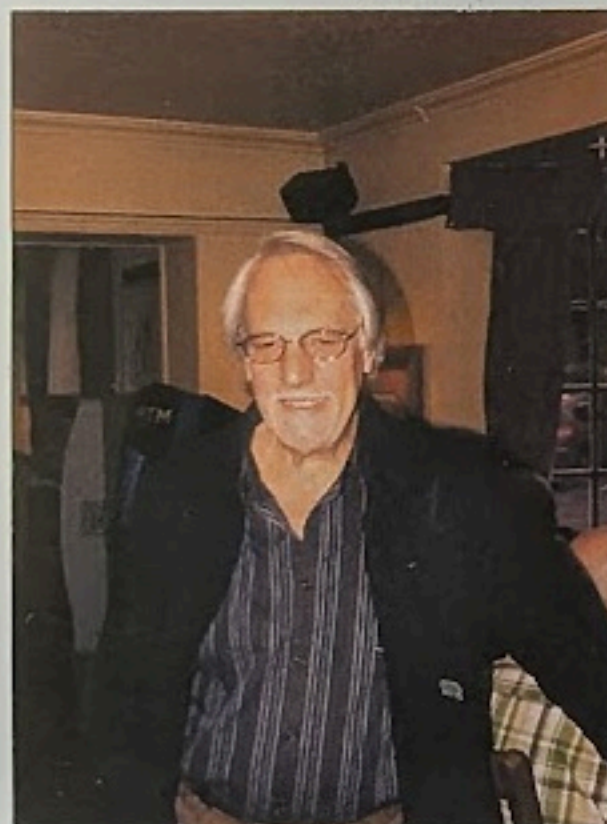




'Things' of Metalworking are a Joy Forever!



'Biggles' Anderson shows off his latest Car Boot purchase.



Class of 1950-55:

Reunion 2009

(19 attended & 2 apologies)

Diary Date for 2010:
Reunion @ Robin Hood PH
Saturday 20th November
See you there!



Handsome lot..eh!



In the evening "we went for an Indian in the High Street!"



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In the evening "we went for an Indian in the High Street!"



The Stalwart Six (Class of 1950-55)...practising Bar Propping
Messrs Olesen, Isles, Anderson, Smith, Kirkup & Clarke.

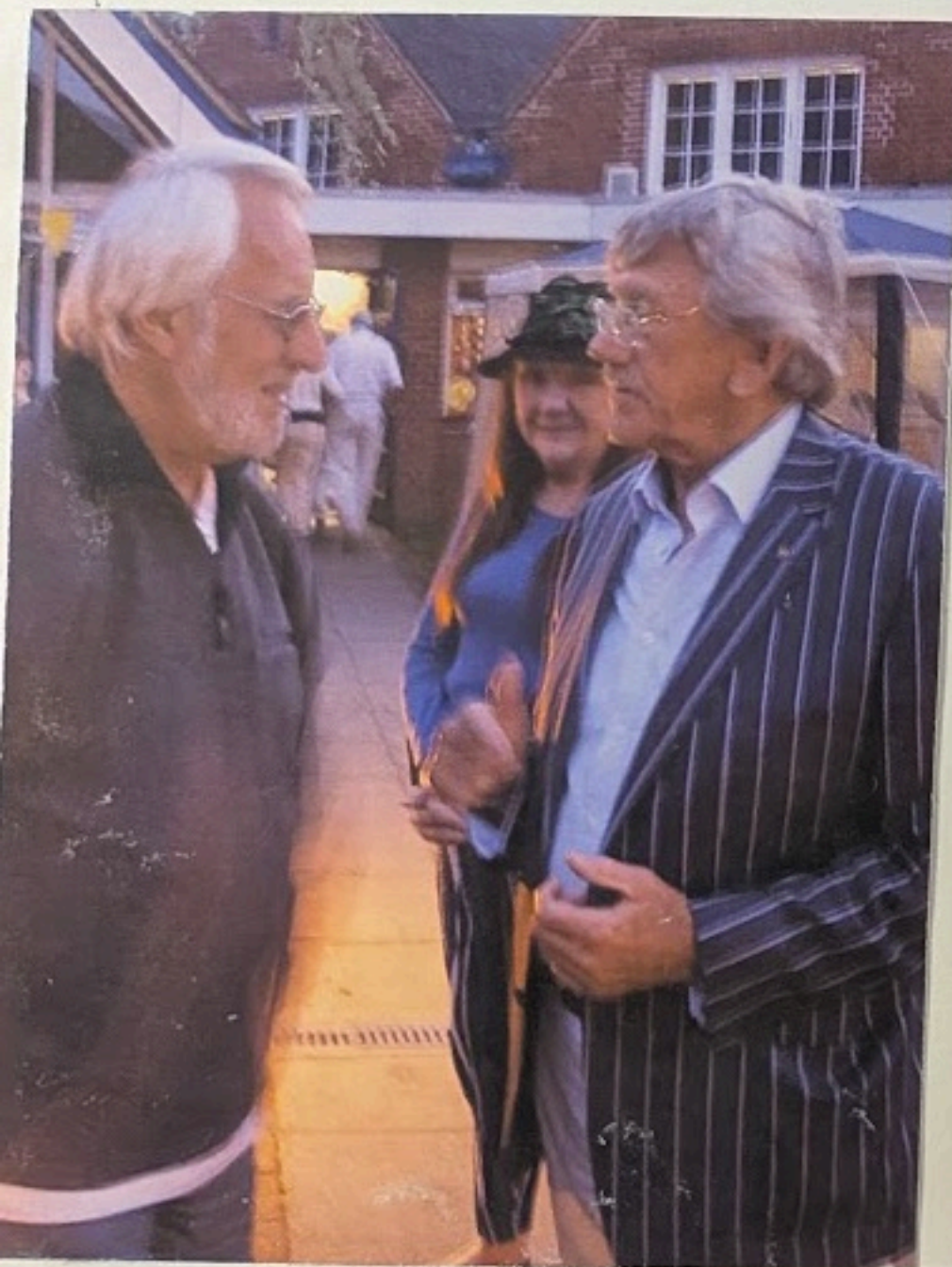
Thank You..

Staff & Students @ Parkside

For a Great Day & Reunion



Robin Chandler & David Renwick (Head Prefect 2 years before us)



Andy Gates & Nigel Neville (Head Prefect 1 year before us)



Fernando's Kitchen. Evening entertainment with musical umph!



Andy Gates & Brian (Five Bar) Gates



Mick Colvill



Bernard Wallman



John Anderson Graham Kirkup 'Tug' Hardy Andy Gates 'Olly' Olesen



John Smith David Ely

Chick Willers



Jim Wright



Central Old Boys Reunion

22nd November 2014



Chris Worland



Mick Fuller, R. Chandler Graham Kirkup, Bryan Good

NOTE FOR YOUR 2015 DIARIES... Watch out for Graham Kirkup's announcement concerning marking of 60 years since we left Central... probably a June Event.



John Scotcher



Bryan Good



Brain Gates



Dennis Chapman



Robin Chandler



Mick Colvill



Bernard Wallman



John Anderson Graham Kirkup 'Tug' Hardy Andy Gates



'Olly' Olesen

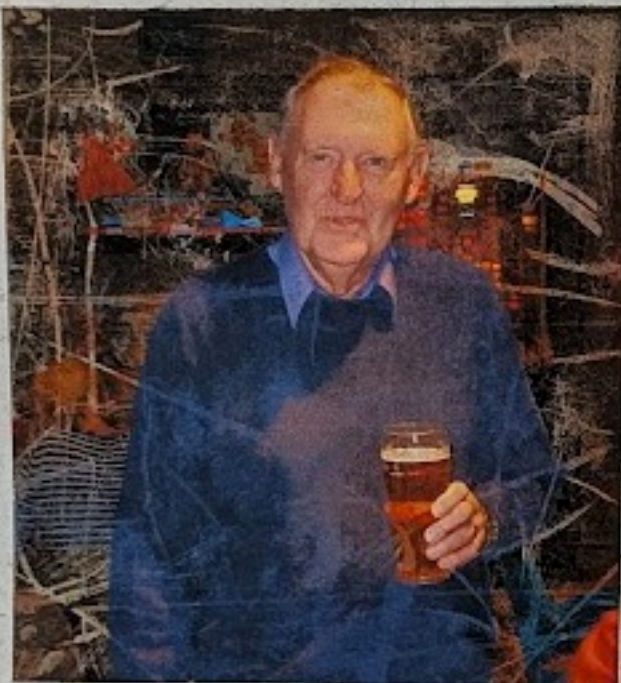


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John Scotcher



Bryan Good



Brain Gates



Dennis Chapman



Robin Chandler



Welcomed back to School....after 60 years....on Thursday 18th June 2015

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Delicious Dinner!

CENTRAL OLD BOYS 1950-55

DIAMOND YEAR EVENT (1955-2015) THURS 18TH JUNE 2015

On a diamond day (thanks Jock) we gathered at The Grain Store, overlooking Parker's Piece, to get into the mood. Dennis was resplendent in his blazer and appropriate cricket tie only just upstaged by Jerry's world traveller style.

Crossing the Piece revived memories of our PT classes there, and Taffy Evans pinching one cheek whilst slapping the other (why?)

Upon entering the gateway there was dismay at the loss of the big beech and horse chestnut trees, and the change to the old metalwork and woodwork shops.

Jock's office to the uninitiated has become the main entrance where we were greeted by Sue Fanning to guide us round the school in its new form.

Apart from the building changes the fundamental change was to mixed sexes, a far cry from our days of total segregation (although many devious efforts were made by some to correct that omission at the time) Ironically we were joined by two old school girls: Ilene and Georgie...who started a year before us...but looked much younger. We were introduced to a class, of all rooms it was Percy Bonk's commercial classroom, inevitably the subject of corporal punishment in all its' form we relayed to the now wide eyed students. Amazingly (?), 'Six of the Best' had no meaning for them...and Jerry should know!

Sue introduced us to the new headmaster, he took time to join us for the tea and cakes and chat about their status and the future of having eighteen year olds studying there (yes we left at fifteen).

Many cakes were left over as Anderson was called away to be interviewed by the 'news' watch out for this report.

Our stroll to the awaiting Georgina took us through or near: Melbourne Place; Park Street; Clarendon Street and Paradise Street all giving their names to our school 'houses' which have now anonymously named North South East and West..... shame.

The weather made the stroll pleasant enough, but made the river trip absolutely glorious. We were now joined by those who could not make the earlier part of the day, to bring the numbers up to 25 in total.

We cruised past old haunts: Auckland Road school dentist site (arrgh) the now demolished Brunswick replaced with swanky apartments with great river views, on past the site of the Pike and Eel (the venue for our 1998 second meet up) again being developed with 5 houses for sale around one and a quarter million.

Music from 1955 was piped through the boat's system, and mint humbugs, sherbet dips, refreshers, Pontefract cakes, alas no spangles were made available to get back to the era of our school days.

It was not possible to pass a group of swans without arguing what the correct collective noun should be. After many dubious suggestions high Tec was referred to, and we more or less settled for a bevy, or two.

The pleasant return trip to Jesus Green mooring allowed us time to stagger across to the Arundel Hotel for a pre meal drink of Old Speckled Hen etc. before being ushered to our appointed dining room by the attentive Miss Latvia (Liene)

Fading memories caused a few mix ups of orders, but no fights broke out and we continued to enjoyed the company and general banter

A few words of thanks were given to firstly our generous sponsor making the whole event possible to arrange, and welcoming Joy Dring to our company and having nominated the boat trip in memory of Peter her husband, also remembering our old school mate David Holgate, sculptor extraordinaire, who died last year.

It was a great day to catch up on our activities and recall some of the antics of the past, but most importantly that we do meet up and have the opportunity to reminisce.

The only bit of gossip was that of Dennis seen departing in the company of two personsto be continued.

I am anticipating Olly Oleson will be able to combine this report with his inimitable style montages of the day.

ANNUAL PRESSUP Saturday 18th November at the Robin Hood, usual arrangements apply.



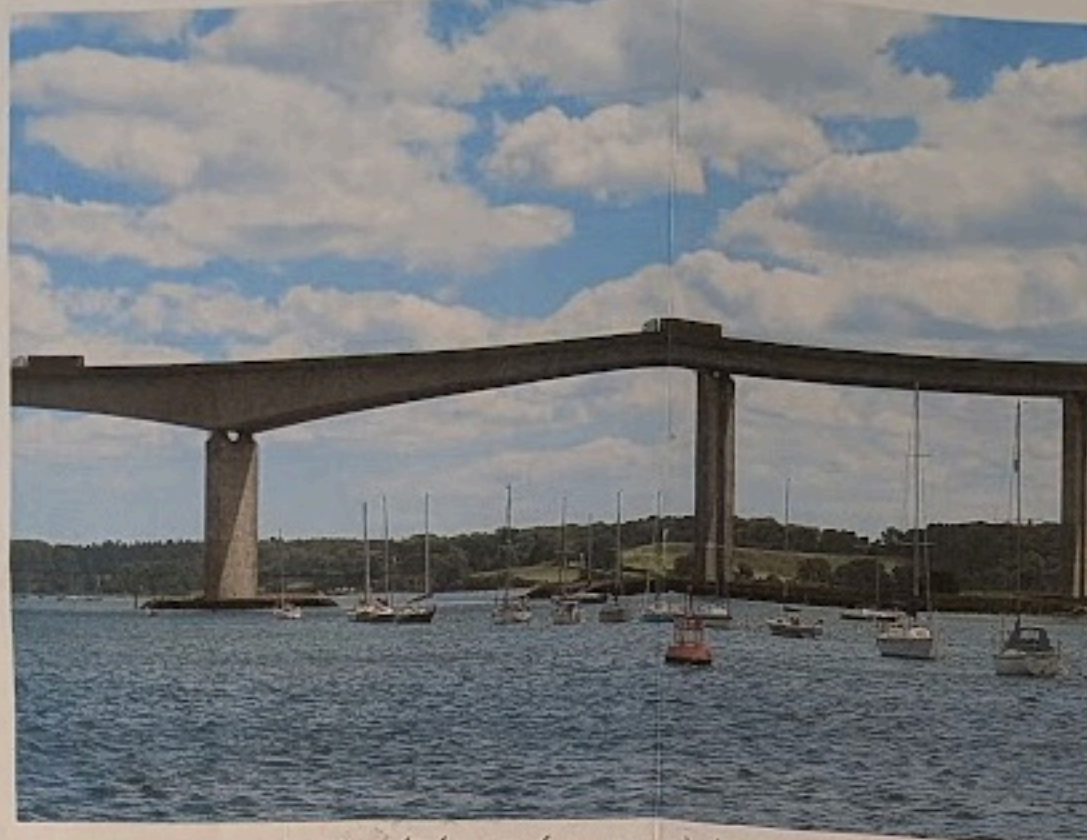
Welcomed back to School....after 60 years....on Thursday 18th June 2015



How about some suitable captions...No. 6 relates to our Prefects Room!



Happy Sailors



Here it is again...much larger!



Refreshments below decks



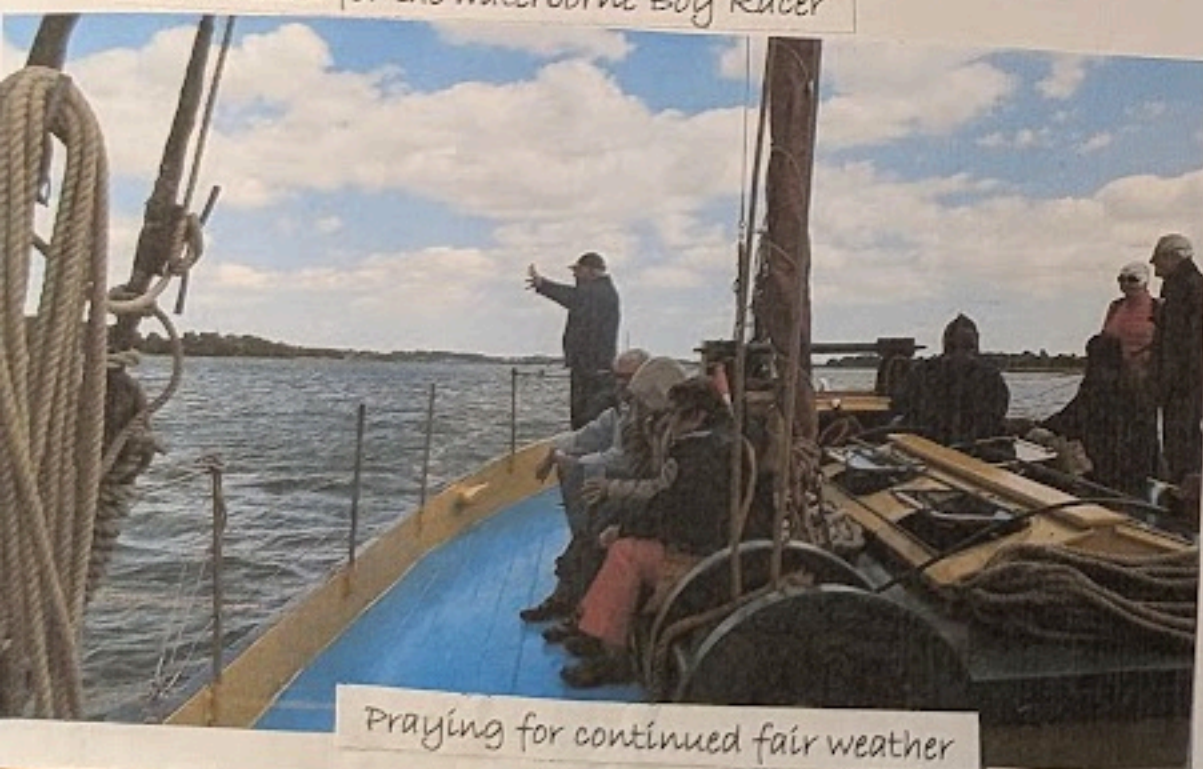
ideal vessel for the waterborne Boy Racer

Cruising the Orwell - 2

Cambridge Old Bosuns & Mates 7th June 2017



Orwell Bridge ahead



Praying for continued fair weather



Is it wind or just my jokes?



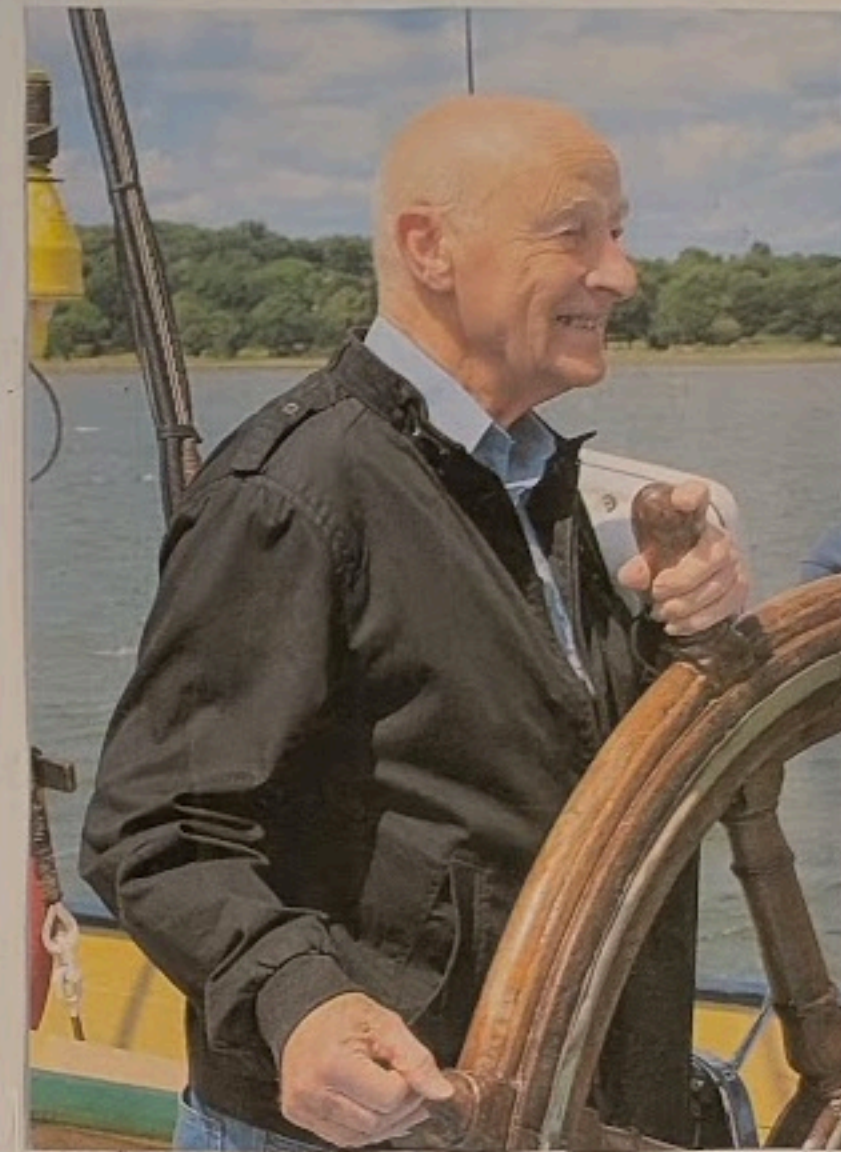
Approaching Felixstowe Container Port



Admiral Ely at the Helm.



Not so much a joy stick as a joy wheel



Good Navigator



Cruising the Orwell - 1

Cambridge Old Bosuns & Mates 7th June 2017





Central Old Boys: Class of 1950-55 : Punt-along to Granchester (June 2018)





Enjoying the Good Life with former Classmates in Salerno, Summer 2019

John Cleal , Brian (5 Bar) Gates & Bryan Good

Brian Gates , Pete Zobel & Bryan Good



Central Old Boys (Class of 1950-55) & Partners - Reunion & BBQ @ Anderson Towers on 20th June 2019

left to right): Ralph (Olly) Olesen - Bernard Wallman - Andy Gates - Jerry Isles - Graham Kirkup - John Smith (just peeping behind wife Maureen) - Dennis Chapman – Robin Chandler & John Anderson.



John Cleal; Brian Gates; Bryan Good.



Brian Gates ; Peter Zobel; Bryan Good.



Bryan Good; Sylvie Gates; Brian Gates, John Cleal; Joy Dring

Early Summer 2019 In Salerno, Italy

In Ravello, near Salerno Italy



Central Old Boys (Class of 1950-55) & Girls gathering @ Anderson Towers on 20th June 2019 to mark the retirement from admin duties of Graham & Maggie Kirkup..a decade of peerless service, keeping us all in touch....many thanks!

Photos included above of the Overseas Reunion between messrs Gates and Good with Peter Zobel and John Cleal in Salerno, Italy.



John Cleal; Brian Gates; Bryan Good.



Brian Gates ; Peter Zobel; Bryan Good.



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(left to right): Ralph (Olly) Olesen - Bernard Wallman - Andy Gates - Jerry Isles - Graham Kirkup - John Smith (just peeping behind wife Maureen) - Dennis Chapman – Robin Chandler & John Anderson.



Approaching our Cruise turnaround at Godmanchester



Central Technical (Boys) School : Class of 1950 -1955 - Reunion Old Boys & Partners @ Hartford Marina, 18th July 2023

David - Personal / Cambridge

Cambridge Independent Article - Sept 20 23

September 27 - October 3, 2023

www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk



The Central Old Boys in 2015 and, inset, in their younger days

Funeral reunites Central Old Boys once more

The Central Old Boys – former pupils of the Parkside-based Central Grammar School from 1950-55 – were among those attending the funeral of John Anderson, one of their members, at St Mary's Church in Willingham.

Robin Chandler fondly recalled John from their time at the school, which relocated to Netherhall as a secondary

“He was the first one on the register and he was a very nice bloke.

“He became an engineer and had his own engineering firm over at Bar Hill at one time,” said Robin, who noted that there are 20-25 Central Old Boys who meet twice a year, usually at the Robin Hood pub in Cherry Hinton and for a summer day trip.

“This year we went on the river

do try and keep going,” said Robin.

Ten of them attended the funeral on Friday, September 15.

Recalling their school days, Robin, who lives in Bedford, said there were 60 boys in his year.

“Until the late 50s it was the Central Technical Grammar School for boys and girls. It was a great school, in the centre of





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