

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 – Jackie (Brown) Kenny
JKYKNY@aol.com



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

1955 – Volunteer Requested



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



1957 – Shirley (Huff) Dulski
sedulski@gmail.com



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



1959 – John "Mike" Hall
mghall446@gmail.com



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr@frontier.net



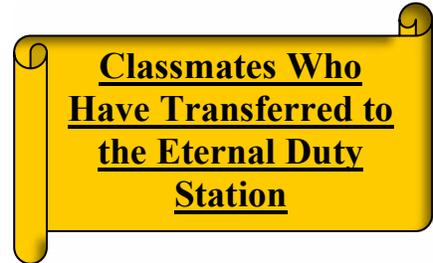
1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz
bslepetz@comcast.net



1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
DonaRitchie@aol.com

A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening 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.

Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at 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](#)



Classmate Ingrid Gath Kakalow, class of 1960, passed on February 1, 2018, Lake Oswego, Oregon

Diane Melton (60) Clomiro



#

Bill Rumble:

I find it hard to send you this notice, since it concerns the passing of my wife, Ingrid Gath Kakalow, after 53 ½ years of marriage. Ingrid Gath (1960) passed away suddenly with a heart attack on the morning of February 1, 2018.

Ingrid would always reminisce about her time at Central High and the experience of living in England. Her dad was career Air Force and she had been to other locations, but none in her mind could ever compare. I believe she was there until late in her junior year when her dad got transferred to a base in Abilene, Texas.

Ingrid attended the 1960 reunion in Houston, Texas, with 3 of her former classmates. Ingrid, I and another Central High classmate, Diana, along with her husband (Joe) attended the 50-year reunion in Las Vegas, NV. We all enjoyed the reunion.

Ingrid would talk about the location of Central High, the dorm rooms, some of the crazy things the “roommates” would think of doing. She loved to talk about the cottage her parents rented along the river and the ducks coming up into the yard. I heard many times of the bus rides home for weekend visits and returning the next week to school. She had the opportunity to visit London and other locations in England and got to love English History and the historical sites. Ingrid also would talk about her 2 week stay (temp quarters) at St. Andrews and the hidden passages. She tried to describe the school, but her yearbook pictures seemed to fill in the blanks as the years went by.

We had always talked about making a trip to England and going by the site of Central, but Ingrid was not able to do any long-distance travel during the last 3 years.

I have not included all Ingrid’s stories and memories of England and Central High, but they were very dear to her, and she always considered herself more fortunate than many, since she had the opportunity to be there.

She truly enjoyed reading the Bushy Tales and had me keep them on the computer, after I printed them off for her. Ingrid’s stay at Central High was truly a wonderful experience for her.

**Sincerely,
James Kakalow, her loving and very fortunate husband.**

#

Bill:

I am providing a little personal info about my wife, Ingrid Gath (1960), since in my haste to talk about her days at Central High and England, I left out what is really info about her.

Again, before I forget, during the Las Vegas Reunion “Judy”, a classmate, came from across the room to call her “Gabby”. Ingrid had forgotten she had got tagged with that name. We had fun with it for a few years, since she always considered herself somewhat introverted and quiet.

After her dad’s retirement, the family, Ingrid was an only child, moved to Southern California where dad was originally from and had gone to school. I met Ingrid in February 1963 on a blind date and we were together ever since. We got married in August 1964 in Bellflower, CA. After Ingrid’s career in the banking/escrow industry, Ingrid and I started a family. We have 3 wonderful children and 4 equally great grandchildren. Ingrid loved her kids and was involved in all their activities. From school plays, sports, to girl and boy scouts, her life revolved around her kids and grandchildren. Christmas always had to be at “Grandma’s House” and was that way from our first child born in 1969 to 2017. We had to have the whole house decorated inside and lights on the outside no matter what, because her kids and grandchildren expected the full Christmas spirit at her house.

I was with the Treasury and got a transfer to Portland, OR. Ingrid loved the evergreen forest, green meadows, great coastline and environment. We have lived here since 1985. I will give you any editorial liberties you need, since I have been rambling and could

probably write many more notes about Ingrid's life and loves. I believe Ingrid had a good life and left this world for heaven in peace.

Thank you for your indulgence.
Jim Kakalow (Ingrid's husband)

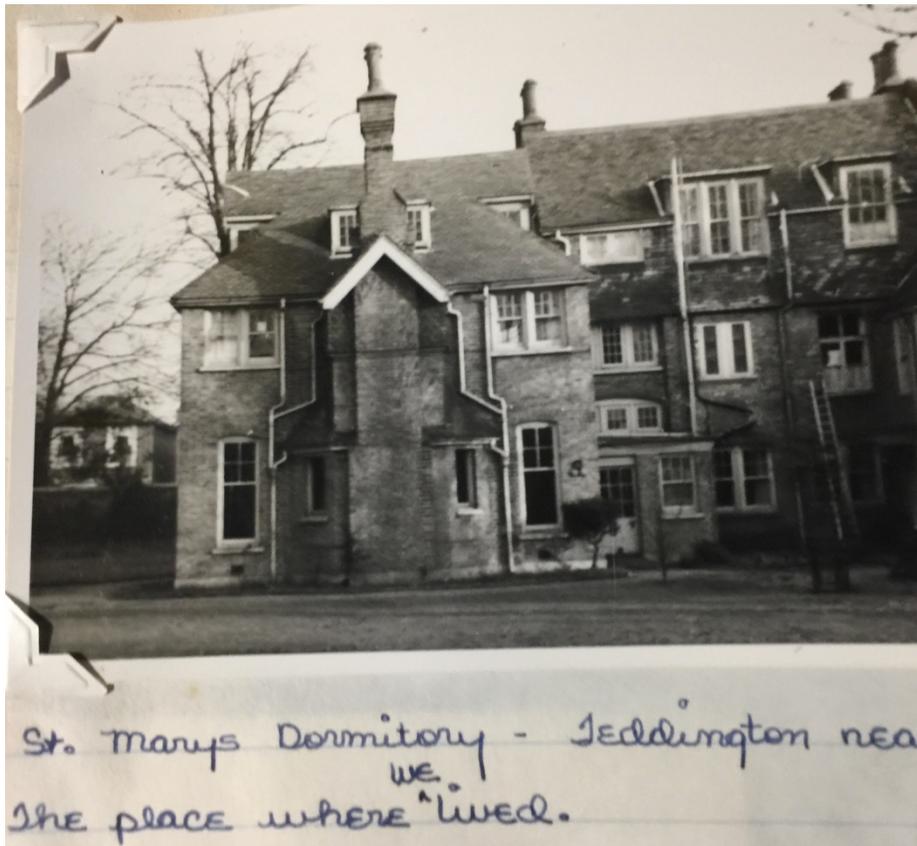
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Memories of Bushy Park



1952-1953 where we lived...it is no longer there

Sue Talbot (53) Cameron



NOTICE

LCHS Gathering - October 7, 2018 to October 11, 2018

It is hard to believe that 2 years will have gone by since our last Gathering in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2016. Well, by October 2018 it will have been just that.

We have booked The Orleans Hotel for Monday, 10-7-2018 to Thursday, 10-11-2018. We have found that timeframe to be outstanding weather. The Orleans Hotel and Casino has everything that we require, and the location is great for our needs. We also have a very good room rate. I will send the reservation information out by mid-May.

This notification is to try and get a head count of those who would be interested in attending. I know that it is 7 months away, and like most of us, I do not know what I will be doing next week. Please consider attending and let me know if you are interested going. It is not a commitment at this date, only to find out the level of interest.

Because of the short time of notification to you, I am requesting your feedback no later than May 1st. Depending on the number who will respond will allow us to move forward.

If you are interested, please e/mail or call me and let me know no later than May 1st. It always great getting together and seeing old friends.

Thank You

Ren Briggs Class of 60 rep.

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Letters to the Editor



Bill,

Great job on keeping the Bushy Tales thriving.

Regarding the TAC location, my recollection is that it was on the east side of Grosvenor Sq. in '54, as Ted says. In early '55 (?) it moved into the newly refurbished ambassador's residence, Winthrop House in Regents' Park, as Betsy pointed out. I do remember quite a bash there – perhaps, when it was inaugurated?? I do not recall it being in the Columbia Club during my time there (54-55).

Cheers,

Alan Phillips (55) [No photo available]

PS. I also clearly remember your brother Pete's antique red car, which I understand had to be left in England when you folks departed.

#

Hello, Alan:

Great to hear from you after all these years. Thanks for your memories of the TAC.

Yes, Pete, always a car guy, managed to purchase a Model A Ford Touring Car. He then rebuilt the engine and painted the car **RED**. For reasons that I never understood, our father would not allow him to bring it back to the USA on our return. I think it would have been permitted, as it would have been the only car we took home. Our other car, a Studebaker Champion sedan, was sold to someone in England and my folks picked up a brand-new car on their arrival in New York City.



Pete Rumble
(55)

The Model A was interesting, in that it was right-hand drive. Apparently, Ford sent disassembled cars to Ireland or England, where they were assembled and sold. Some of the wood used as shipping containers was re-purposed as floor boards in the car, complete with shipping address printed on them.

Bill Rumble (57)

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Notes on the Teen Age Club of London
Fred Buhler (58)

In 1952 my father was appointed Manager of Bank of America's branch in London. Having spent my first twelve years in Redwood City, CA, a few miles south of San Francisco, this was a huge change. I lived in London from 1952 to 1958.

I initially attended the American School in London at 13 Grosvenor Square. Since ASL at that time only offered classes through the 8th Grade, I transferred to Central High School at Bushy Park in 1954.

The U.S. Third Air Force had an officer's club in Winfield House, in Regent's Park. The mansion originally built on this property was damaged during a fire in 1936. The property was acquired by Barbara Hutton, who built a Neo-Georgian style mansion known as Winfield House. During WWII the mansion was used by the RAF and was sold by Hutton to the U.S. government after the war for the grand sum of \$1! The mansion was converted into an officer's club. The property came with a very large garage, which was used by the American Teen Age Club for social functions.

As a side note, students from the American School were bused several times a week from Grosvenor Square to Winfield House to play football, soccer and baseball on the back lawn. On rainy days we played basketball (without a basket) in the old stables behind the building in which the school was housed.

In 1955 Winfield House was acquired by the Department of State, who converted the mansion into the Ambassador's residence. Both the Officer's Club and the TAC were looking for a new home. The Lancaster Gate Hotel on Bayswater Road, across from Hyde Park, was acquired for the Officer's Club. The Air Force offered the Teen Age Club two rooms in the basement. We held our weekly business meetings and social gatherings there. In addition to recorded music, we had live jazz and skiffle bands. The latter, which originated in the U.S. in the 1920's, became very popular in the UK in the 50's. A typical band consisted of a guitar player, someone playing the washboard and a third member playing a "tea-box" base. It was great music for our little venue.

My mother was a square dance caller. Dis-satisfied with the British interpretation of American Square Dancing, which they learned watching Hollywood movies like "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", she organized an American Square Dance Exhibition Group that included British dancers, as well as members of the TAC. The group performed at the Royal Albert Hall. The dancers from the TAC also performed at one of the formal dinners for the American Society and at the post premier party for the London Premier of "Cowboy", starring Glenn Ford and Jack Lemmon. The party was held in a night club near Piccadilly Circus. All the guys tried to get Diana Dors to dance with them, but she would have none of the "cheeky yanks!"

Many Saturday's we played baseball or touch football in the park across the street from Lancaster Gate. Once or twice a year we held formal dinner dances in the grand ballroom upstairs in the hotel.

I understand the hotel at Lancaster Gate was converted back to a civilian hotel in 1975 and is still in operation.

#

Bill,

I recall the interim period as well. We met in the old Embassy in Grosvenor Square. We took a bus on Saturday nights for social functions. I don't recall if it was to a movie studio or South Ruislip AFB. A friend, Tommy Cavanaugh, brought his jazz band once or twice. He was also a film actor, so he may have helped us find a place to meet in a movie studio. Tommy was also a square dance caller. That's where I initially met him.

I went on an extended home leave Feb 1956 to Aug 1956, returning for my junior year in the fall of 1956. I was elected President of TAC and served 1956 - 1957. Early in my term we were setting up the premises in the basement of the new officers' club.

Agree with you. The TAC provided a terrific venue for American teenagers living in London who otherwise would have little to occupy their time. Because we were spread out all over town and some in the suburbs, we needed a central venue.

On another note, I found the comment on the '52 fog and the Christie murders interesting. I'm reading the book. I think the author's comments on the fog are a tad over done, but it was a big issue. My parents went for dinner with friends. My mother had to walk in front of our car, guiding my dad, for four miles to get home I remember going out in the fog, in front of our flat on Bayswater Road. I thought standing there listening to footsteps nearby but not being able to see anyone was great fun. Spooky, but fun. Most years, between fog and snow (mostly fog) we could count on the school closing down for about two weeks.

Re the Christie murders, from 1952 to 1954 I went to Scout meetings at a church in the Nottinghill area. I recall the bus went by Christie's house. Of course, once he was discovered, where he lived and what he had done filled the newspapers for quite some time. In the neighborhood where the Boy Scout troop met, in a Church of England church, the average take home weekly salary for head of household was about \$5! Because of a lack of funding the troop used great imagination in their activities, including a two-week summer camp which we set up in a farmer's field in the south of England. Great stuff. As commented in the book, I also remember playing in bombed out buildings. What else does a twelve or thirteen-year-old, with a sense of adventure, do in his spare time?

I also have memories of the Queen's Coronation. For about six weeks before the event, troops from all over the Commonwealth, the U.S. and Allied Forces were camped in Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, right across the street from our flat. Wandering through the camp was really interesting. On the day of the Coronation, as a Boy Scout I sold programs on Oxford Street. Then I watched the parade from a building owned by a customer of my Dad. He removed the windows on the second floor and set up bleachers, so we could look down on the parade.

London was quite an adventure!

By the way, thanks for your work on the newsletter. Much appreciated.

Fred Buhler (58)

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Hi Pat,



Warren Gehrett
(56)

Good to hear from you. Hard to believe this is our 60th HS grad year! My best were my 2 years at CHS.

Warren's wife, Mary Lynn, passed away a few years ago and he moved to Lubbock, TX, to be close to a daughter. Warren & I are much alike, aging, but very healthy for the most part, thanks be to God and good genes, I think. He has not gotten into the computer much, so a friend of his, Annie, lets him use address. I have forwarded Bushy Tales to him several times, but I called and

talked to him this month about having Annie see if she could get him on the mailing list. He asked me to send all his info to you & Bill.

I ordered two books from Amazon for my Kindle, that were mentioned in the last Bushy Tales, "Death in the Air" and "A Woman's Garden of Prayer" and enjoyed both of them. I have also read some of Joyce Knapp Holland's books over the years and enjoyed them. Thanks for including those authors etc. Joyce & I were roommates for a good part of our freshman year.

Thanks for all the work you and Bill do, so nice to have this link.



**In His great grip of grace.
Beverly Gehrett (58) Wagner**

--FINIS--