

Bushy Tales

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



Issue #6

June 2025

Volume #25

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



1953 – Marcia (Craver) Thomas
txstarmt@aol.com

1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote (d. 2024)

1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)



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



1957 – William Douglas
rwmdouglas@gmail.com



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

1959 – John “Mike” Hall (d. 2024)



1960 – Ren Briggs
rpbjr42@gmail.com



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



1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie
Dona.Ritchie@att.net

A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen 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.



**Classmates Who
Have Transferred to
the Eternal Duty
Station**

Memories of Bushy Park

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](#)



From: Alan Burgess Phillips (55)

Bill,

Not sure what or where the occasion was, and I cannot identify all, but I am front row center with your brother (Pete Rumble) and Bob Coppa.

Also, you will see Joe Wolfe, Jon Searles, Fred Bidgood, Phil Creasor, Fred Tims, Ted Hopkins

....

For use as you see fit.

Alan





From: Connie Newlin (60) Drennan

Hi Pat,

With all the talk of green cards and aliens, about a month ago, I sent a note directly to Bill. My questions were whether other kids were expected to register as aliens while in the UK? At 16, I was told that I must register and carry a green folder at all times, out of the house. I believe the folder had my picture, but I cannot remember. It was about four inches by six when folded. I remember it just fit into the small, zippered purse I carried.

I am asking if others had the same experience, who lived on the economy. We lived on the economy, as my father's assignment was in downtown London. Thought it might make a filler.

I have also wondered about how all the switches in scrip and finally to greenbacks impacted everyone over a period of time. Did anyone forget a stash and find it too late?

Are there other slightly odd experiences we now realize teens in the States did not have?

I hope this finds you doing well.

Connie N. D. Class of '60



Letters to the Editor



From: Lindsay Ervin (60)

Hi Bill and Pat,

Thanks for all your effort in putting out this monthly newsletter and helping all of us to connect with some of our past classmates. I've heard from only one classmate and seen posts from others in the past years. Mike "Willie" Perkins has sent me several of his stories about his time in Vietnam and other places in NE United States. I think you posted one of his stories.

The other student I see posts from is Bill Rees Grable, with whom I played basketball at Bushy when he was a senior. But that's been about it. Thanks again for all you do.

Best regards,

Lindsay Ervin, Class of 1960

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From: Edie Williams (56) Wingate

Good morning, Bill,

--just reading the latest newsletter—indeed, it was brief, but lovely to read. Fun how Bill 1 and Bill 2 stayed in touch all these years!!

Alas, nothing to send you for the next newsletter. 🙌 that after reading this newsletter, others will be motivated to contribute a story or two.

Edie

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From: Bill (Grable) Rees (57)

Subject: Bushy Park mini reunion, Cocoa Beach, Florida



Richard Stillwagon and Bill (Grable) Rees, class of 1957

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From: Pat Terpening (56) Owen

Bill - found the original message at the Bushy Park website and contacted her to see if she would like us to put the message in a future newsletter, and she said yes. At the bottom is her original message.

She is Stephanie Wenger, granddaughter of Mrs. Mildred Bidleman.

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(Original message)

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 10:11:23 AM MDT, Steph W <coffeecat914@gmail.com> wrote:

Lovely! I'm working on a self-pub book of her letters from when she was teaching. Not sure when I am getting it out, but will let you know so Bushy Park alumni could get it if they're interested. The majority of her teaching was at Bushy Park?

Thanks again.

Date: 2/15/2025, 11:14 am, EDT
Name: Stephanie Wenger
Email: coffeecat914@gmail.com
Location: Madrid, Spain
Number: 372



Hi. I am looking for any memories or pictures of Mildred Bidleman, math teacher for Bushy Park from 1953 to 1962. I am compiling her letters from this time.

I am her granddaughter.

These tidbits of your time at the school don't need to be positive--anything you remember about her or about being in the school. I would love to hear any stories you have and are willing to share.

Stephanie Wenger (currently in Madrid, Spain)

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From: Carol Albert (57) Yacovone

I love that you still work so hard to keep this going, Bill. While the rest of us old Bobcats deal with our day-to-day and slow aging process at will....

I remember Bill and Spoon hanging from our DC reunion years ago. Reunited with a bunch of our 56 -57ers. I was lucky to remain friends and have time with many of my England buddies over the years. My long-time friendship with Robyn Rudat Allen, Sandy Middlestadt Buchanan. Bev Gehrett Wagner and Sean McMahon to name but a few.

Made it to many reunions over the years, starting with the big one in Houston in '88. Met up with my favorite teacher, Gail Kelly, in '88 and was able to continue our friendship over many years... and followed by trips to Biloxi, DC, and Vegas, where I was able to catch up with so many more....

I still hear from Father Pete Sheldon Peters, Bill Grable Rees , and Dave Mangold via Facebook, along with still prettiest girl, Sheryl Burnett. Facebook has been a blessing to reunite, if only briefly, with a joke or hello on Facebook pages with many of our old friends....I feel blessed and lucky.

Carol A. Yacovone
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Hi, Carol,

Thank you for your kind words. We do what we can with what we receive.

With your approval, I would like to include your email in the next newsletter.

Kind regards,

Bill R.

**

Of course, you can use. I also went to our reunion in Arlington. Fort Worth. And met up with a few more CHS mates. Hope others send you some news. I'm not big on writing out my whole life story yet. Although I probably should jot down a few words of wisdom for my many Grands and Greatgrands. 😊

Brother Ted also did Navy duty after college. He lives in Soap Lake, Washington. Most recent pic of me with youngest daughter Chana at her 60th celebration

Carol A. Yacovone



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Hi, Carol,

I think my wife, Barb, and I met you at the reunion in Houston way back. Thank you for your additional information.

I understand your reluctance to write about your life experience. While you might think it is of no interest to others, those who know you and those who do not have an interest in what you have experienced through your life. Each of our lives is different!

*Kind regards,
Bill R*

I believe we did ...Robyn, Sandy, and I all came to that together....Also, brother Ted (Albert), who was Class of '59.

Carol A. Yacovone

--FINIS--