

Derek Hogg RIP - *personal profile*

I am still in contact with one other from our school days - Andrew Hogarth, known as "yogi" in those far off day's.

We have been friends ever since we first met, at the school, when he came up to me and said: "I see you are another member of the swineherd".

As I was then a day boy and lived in Cheshunt, Herts and he was a border, who used to go home at weekends, we both travelled on the same train to Cheshunt, where I went home and he went on to Potters Bar.

Victor Valente, was another who used the same train but he went on to London. In my early day's I also used to travel with another day boy whose father was a Jeweller in Waltham Abbey, I think his name was John Bond.

Back to Andrew, as I said we have been friends since those far off day's. In 1970 I asked him to be my best man which he duly obliged. Oh and by the by, he was the chap who told me of this web site.....

My feelings for Harlow College are very much like most of the others I have read. I did not think the standard of education was that high, although in hindsight I didn't know that until I was forced to leave and go to another school but of course it was here I really found girls !! So my education didn't do much better.

Back to Harlow again, there were one or two masters that I found gave me the incentive to learn, namely Mr G.F. Harvey but obviously he didn't take all subjects and when he slipped me in later years he really meant it . Unlike

Purgavie, who I think didn't really want to see any more boy's under the tree-waiting!!

In my early day's as a day boy I was in Keyes house, but later on when my parents decided to change direction and bought a shop in Braughing, Herts ,I found that travelling by bike to Bishops Stortford, where I left my bike at the house of Simon Noakes-about 15 miles meant I was late so often that I ran out of excuses. So I then became a border and obviously went in to Beatty House.

I cannot remember when it was, but my very first nick name was Burt (thats how I spelt it) given to me when one clever master at registration said "Oh Herbert Hogg from Hampstead eh. Ha Ha." but of course boys being boys it stuck-for a term or so.

I was definitely more into the sports fields than the classroom and played both Cricket and Football for the Houses and the School although not up to the standard of Sear II - what ever was his first name? I was in the year below him any way. I was a fairly decent runner both sprint and Long distance although I never ever liked cross country.

When my day's at Harlow ended , just before it officially closed, I had to find another school in Bedfordshire. My parents had to sell the shop because of my mothers health and we moved to a little village called Wootton, in Bedfordshire.

My first few day's were very strange, all the lads spoke funny and talked of their old boys - meaning their brothers and because I had rather a posh accent, thanks Harlow, they were fascinated...especially the girls.

Then to the new school after the first term and I had settled in came the first different thing. The school children had to choose firstly the House captains then the football and cricket captains and netball etc.

I was chosen to be house captain for my new house-Russell and School football captain. I was also opening bowler for the school cricket team so you can see Harlow College had given me something (I still couldn't see it though).

Does any one remember the fire at Harlow College in about 1963/1964. I remember most of the partly damaged books being put in that empty building used for indoor football, etc. opposite the Science Lab. My loft at home stank for years of burnt books.

Any way after leaving school for good this time, I started work as a cost clerk, trainee accountant. I did this for two or three years in two or three different establishments and then I met Lynn. I knew it was serious because I went to my boss and asked him how much I was likely to be earning in the next three years - I obviously didn't like the answer and went home and told my parents and my girlfriend that I had given my notice in - they were shocked. Next day I went to work and actually gave it in.

A couple of months later I joined Bedfordshire Fire Service, where I gained the rank of Sub Officer and served over 28 years until I was retired on ill health grounds.

Today we are living in the very pleasant town of March in Cambridgeshire, swimming most days and visiting our children, Sarah and Christopher who are both still living in Bedford, Sarah having just bought a flat and Christopher,

having married five years ago now has a daughter- Alessia and one due next month?

My home phone number is 01354 654527 and am quite happy to take calls, I don't think it will be overused.

My illness is multiple sclerosis and although I am able to walk, I only manage a few steps and am mainly in a wheelchair.

I have fond memories though and do hope to meet up again in the near future.

Sadly, Derek Hogg passed away in 2011