

OLD BUCKWELLIANS NEWS



November 2000

Hugh Colgate 1920 – 2000



HUGH COLGATE, Headmaster at BHCHS from 1966 until 1985, died suddenly at the age of 79 on 28th September.

Born in Hove, he read History at Kings College London. Following his MA he took his teaching qualification. He saw active service in the Royal Navy during the war and then joined Sir George Monoux School to teach history. After becoming Head of the History Department at Monoux he moved to become Headmaster of the London Nautical School before his appointment to succeed Mr JH Taylor as Headmaster at BHCHS.

Hugh Colgate was a man with diverse interests – all of which he pursued with great enthusiasm. Early in his career he wrote history text books, and during his time at BHCHS became involved in the training of aspiring head teachers. For this and his other many contributions to education he was awarded an OBE in

1981. He was also active in community work locally, and had a great love of music and the arts, foreign travel and sport. As well as all this, Hugh retained his links with academia throughout his retirement, being a visiting fellow at London University.

In June this year, Hugh organised the fifth in the series of reunions for former staff. More than fifty attended this event. Hugh commented afterwards: “not bad after eleven years since the school closed.”

A great supporter of the Old Buckwellians Association, Hugh had been looking forward to attending the annual dinner, as usual, and to celebrating his eightieth birthday a few days later.

Hugh’s two children both qualified as doctors. His son Stephen was tragically killed in an accident five years ago. He leaves his wife, Peggy, his daughter Margaret and six grandchildren.

JOHN WHALER, who was a colleague of Hugh’s for many years, has written the following appreciation....

I first met Hugh Colgate at Sir George Monoux School where my own teaching career started. It was clear to me from these early inexperienced days that Hugh was a man of special kindness and example as a teacher, colleague and friend. In every

branch of school life he spared neither himself nor his time. Hugh was brave, understanding, firm, apparently indefatigable, totally loyal and committed – qualities which all who ever worked with him would recognise and admire.

Hugh and his predecessor – two giants of their profession – were to lead the school for 48 of its 51 years. Hugh was devoted to his family and relished his wide range of interests, yet always seemed available. I felt he was as buoyant when faced with challenge or adversity as when reviewing the school’s many triumphs. Ever courageous, helpful and appreciative of the particular strengths of his staff, Hugh was an innovator, taking in his colleagues carefully along new and often challenging paths in methodology, organisation or management. We all recall how close he was to school and staff activities – as interested spectator or eager participant – and proudly, with Peggy at his side, never failed to support any public display of the school’s mighty accomplishments. He was to lead Buckhurst Hill CHS in its continued distinguished grammar school days through to bilateral, then comprehensive reorganisation. He enjoyed his job. “It has above all been great fun”, Hugh told the school in his farewell speech.

After the closure of Buckhurst Hill CHS it was Hugh

Inside this issue

Editorial	2
Competition time	3
Ninety not out!	3
Election Fever	3
Soccer & Golf	4
School Books	4
Old Bucks – a tribute	5
Datafile	5
Profile – Terrence Hardiman	6
Rape of the Clots	7
The Lodge	7
Computer Pioneer	8
Closing Time	9
Small World	9
Where are they now?	10
Obituary	24

who kept things together. He held a vast and precise knowledge of Old Buckwellians and their lives after leaving the school and kept the scattered staff in touch at our reunions. Former colleagues, past pupils and their parents will always remember Hugh with unqualified respect and affection.

We have lost a fine man and a true friend.