

# The HEATHEN

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The Magazine of  
HEATH SCHOOL

Halifax

1982



**HEADMASTER AND PREFECTS**

*Back Row:*

S. P. Darlington, M. N. Berry, D. Hargreaves, P. M. Smith, A. Mills, A. P. Berry

*Front Row:*

I. Baldwin, A. N. Denton, D. Stollery, The Head Master, P. J. Hoyle, D. Barnes, A. Spencer

# EDITORIAL

"We rejoice to chronicle the news that a project has been mooted, which all those who have the interests of the school at heart have long desired to see carried out."

By 1981, however, the Tercentenary Library had fallen rather into disuse. Many books had become outdated — especially in the History section — several being survivors from the original 1897 stock. Moreover, use of the library, if not discouraged, was by no means enthusiastically encouraged: When a junior member of the school, I certainly had the impression that this seemingly eternally locked room was somehow out of bounds.

In the last few months, however, the wind of change has blown quite fiercely along the top corridor. Obsolete books have been removed and put into storage, some shelving rearranged and some taken out to create more space, and sixth form books have been transferred to the various departmental libraries.

Money raised by Gala Day and other sources has been put to good use, around £800 having been spent so far on Junior Fiction and non-Fiction books. Re-decoration has also helped the regeneration, the library having been repainted and approximately £100 spent on a new carpet and furnishings. More funds are in the pipeline: £200 was raised by a coffee morning organised by Mrs. Darwin and it is expected that the Christmas card and gift scheme, run by Mrs. Stollery, will raise several hundred pounds.

All these improvements would of course be to no avail without greater access to the material in the library. To this end the first five years have each been allocated one lunchtime per week in which to borrow books, and some English lessons for the lower school have been designated as library periods. Books are stamped with a date due for return, fines being exacted on those overdue.

The results of the hard work of various members of staff and of the fifth and lower sixth form librarians is revealed in the table below:

**Number of Books Borrowed from the Library**

| Form * | Aug. 1980—<br>July 1981 | 28th Sept.—<br>30th Nov. 1981 |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1      | —                       | 137                           |
| 2      | 38                      | 209                           |
| 3      | 0                       | 112                           |
| 4      | 2                       | 141                           |
| 5      | 12                      | 19                            |
| L6     | 3                       | 24                            |
| U6     | 39                      | 6                             |

\* As for school year 1981-82. The longish interval between the end of the school year in July 1981 and the publication of the magazine allows the author to record events which properly belong to next year's "Heathen".

Thus the aims of those who originally established the school library in Tercentenary Year have now, to a large extent, been fulfilled. Let us hope that this renewed interest in reading continues, and that the library remains a valuable asset until long after the school's quatercentenary.

**I. R. Sanderson - U6 arts**

# School Notes

The Staff has had a relatively stable year, with only two departures to record, with sadness. At the end of the summer term the Modern Language Department was more than decimated when we said 'au revoir' to Mrs. B. Hewitt and Mlle M.-O. Leconte, after being at Heath for six and a single year respectively. Mrs. Hewitt will be remembered particularly for her outstanding work with the Dramatic Society. A fair proportion of the great success of the productions of the last three years can truthfully be said to have resulted from her real talent for direction and infectious enthusiasm. What time was left over was in large measure devoted to Heath sporting activities - active encouragement from the touchline in winter, willing scorer in summer; but always involved to the full, and unstinting of her time, in whatever capacity. Mrs. Hewitt has departed to teach French at Ampleforth College, a move coincidental with her husband's incumbency as Vicar of Lastingham. We wish them both success and happiness in their new posts.

Mlle. Leconte was with us in the first instance for a year as French assistante, but after a year's grace returned to fill the substantial gap left by the temporary departure of Mr. Stansfield. Contrary to popular rumour, Mr. Stansfield has not been enjoying a year's sabbatical leave in Mexico - studying the effects of high altitude on basketball training. He has been somewhat nearer at hand, gaining an M.Ed. degree at Sheffield University, upon which success we congratulate him.

Simultaneously, we congratulate Mlle Leconte upon her marriage to Mr. G. Heap, whom older readers will remember. Mr. Heap now teaches at Temple Moor School, Leeds, whilst we understand that Mlle. Leconte is on the faculty of Leeds Polytechnic. We wish them both every happiness, whilst wondering whether some new kind of record has been established for Heath staff here. In the same breath, we congratulate and wish every happiness to Mr. Blamires on his recent marriage.

Mrs. Hewitt has been replaced by Mr. M. Bailes, a Lancastrian with enigmatic Volgogradian connections, who comes to us more immediately from Sir John Deane's College, Northwich. We wish him a long and fruitful stay.

The Dramatic and Music Societies were jointly involved in the production of their third 'smash hit' in a row, again aided by the ladies of Princess Mary School. 'Paint Your Wagon', by Lerner & Lowe, transmogrified the Hall on the evenings of April 1st-4th. Mrs. Hewitt both produced and directed, assisted by Chris Lowry. The orchestra was directed by Mr. Blamires, and the choreography was again directed by Sheila Collinge. A full report appears elsewhere.

The annual Prizegiving took place in the Hall on the morning of 30th April. Prizes were presented by Mr. D. Davies, an Old Boy and Governor of the School. It cannot be easy to 'roll 'em in the aisles' at 9.00 a.m., but that is precisely what Mr. Davies contrived to do, introducing many a quip and anecdote into his address. A deeper purpose could, however, be discerned when the school was warned that if it did not work hard it would end up like Mr. Davies. The school, nevertheless, remained unconvinced that this would necessarily be an unpleasant fate. Mr. Davies ended his peroration by presenting the Headmaster with his own prize - a large packet of polo mints! Other prizewinners are listed on a later page.

The 385th Commemoration of Founder's Day was held at the Parish Church on Friday, 5th June. The Service was conducted by Canon R. J. Harries, Vicar of Halifax, and the sermon was given by the Revd. D. C. Ellis. The Exhortation and Prayers were led by the Headmaster, and lessons were read by the Head Boy and Mr. K. Horsfall, President of the O.B.A. The Organist was again Mr. I. Shaw.

The Old Boys' Association held its annual Dinner on 25th September, at Holdsworth House. The Dinner was attended by about sixty Old Boys, and the Guest of Honour was Mr. J. Chislett, himself an Old Boy.

Gala Day, hopefully now an annual event, was again held on Conways and the School environs, on a fine Saturday afternoon in May. At the end of the day, a sum in excess of £600 had been raised by supporters, another fine effort by all concerned. The money has been allocated to the scheme for refurbishing the Library.

The inter-form Cricket Competition at the end of the summer term was won by 3A, who beat 3B in a close and exciting final. The winning run was only smitten in the last over, whereupon Mr. Morton was seen to cut a caper along the boundary edge. Thanks to the excellent handicapping, many games ended closely, none more so than the undeserved, first-round defeat of the much-fancied Staff team in the opening round by the Sixth, off the last ball of the game. The Young Cricketer of the Year award went to N. Burnett of the losing finalists, for his fine all-round performances.

The Heathen regrets the recent news of the demise of the 2nd Halifax (Heath) Scout Group, inaugurated as long ago as 1909. Mr. J. Hartley, the Group Leader for many years, has kindly written to explain the reasons behind the sadly necessary decision to terminate the Group. So, yet another link with the past disappears.

Once again Heathens have returned from far-away places. Mr. Hand and Mr. Rule returned from Moscow with their ideologies and, more importantly, their parties, intact; Mr. Capelin returned from the Nursery Slopes with his limbs, and again, those of his party, intact. We have gleaned subjective reports of both these escapades. Looking to the future Mr. Capelin is venturing forth at Easter to the same venue, whilst Dr. Walls is going 'down to the sea in ships' with divers of the Upper School.

#### **The Heathen wishes to congratulate the following:**

I. Sanderson upon being awarded a place to read Modern and Medieval Languages at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

J. Pickles on being chosen to play for the Yorkshire Schools' cricket team, and on being invited to the England Schools' nets.

S. Donlan on becoming Calderdale Schoolboy Swimming Champion.

Last, but not least, Mr. M. Capelin on his successful marathon debut at Manchester, in the outstanding time of 4 hours 4 minutes, a personal record which he hopes to shatter in the forthcoming London marathon. **Watch this space!**

The Editor has been visibly perturbed that so little has been received from the Old Boys' section this year, in spite of considerable expenditure of time and money on his part.

We hope that they can put their house in order, and put up a better show this year. On the credit side, however, we are pleased to publish a lengthy letter from an ex-Heathen who has had experience of University life both in this country and abroad. Until recent years there was a strong tradition of 'Letters from University' in the back pages of the magazine. We would seriously like to see a resurgence of this, both for the contact and the invaluable information about University life which such letters used to contain. Undergraduates who read this, please note.

Sadly, we close with a tragic event which took place in October, with the sudden death of Robert Collins, of the Lower Sixth. A member of his form writes:

'The year 1981 was concluded tragically with the death of a valuable member of the form and a dear personal friend, Bobby Collins, at the very young age of sixteen. Bobby was always a cheerful personality, who added bounce and colour to the form. He was popular and had many friends throughout the school. His presence is missed by all of us who knew him, no matter how little. We extend our sympathy to his family, especially to his mother, brothers and sisters. They have lost a loving family member, and the form has lost a great asset and a great friend.'

## **РОССИЯ 1981r**

The latest weapon of the West, consisting of thirty young men and women plus organisers, set off for Gatwick Airport at 6.30 a.m. Their final destination was the major Eastern capital, Moscow. After a brief tour of London, courtesy of Mark "We'll follow you anywhere" the coach driver, we caught our Aeroflot plane to Moscow.

We arrived in Moscow at about 1 a.m. to a welcoming party of around twenty armed soldiers and a cold and empty airport. The passport and customs officials were less than speedy, taking as much time as possible over our more shady-looking characters. After a tedious hour getting through customs we were greeted by our guide, called Natasha, who told us that we could get up at 8.30 instead of 8.00 seeing that we would be in bed by 3.00.

The breakfast did absolutely nothing to help the party recover from a poor night's sleep when they were confronted with fried eggs, iced water and gherkins. We were then treated to a very good tour of the city by a different guide called Julia (one of the few good-looking and happy Russians we met). The afternoon was taken up by a visit to a museum.

On day two we visited a local school, a massive open-air museum and in the evening we visited the famous "The one behind the Bolshoi" Ballet. The rest of the evening was fairly uneventful, since most people were forced into their rooms by large, overpowering Russian women!

Day three: After a hearty breakfast of iced water and gherkins, we visited the Kremlin. This was the most serious place we visited, but proved to be irresistible for many people who behaved with less than a modicum of civilization wherever possible. In the afternoon we raided a shop full of dolls and bears, visited the Metro and finally departed to the railway station to catch the overnight train. Our party took up one coach complete with a drunken guard who spent most of the night in and out of the girls' rooms with a brief visit to one boy's room, which we don't talk about.



We arrived in Leningrad on the morning of day four, and after we were settled in our hotel rooms we set off on a coach tour of the city. Roger Willett missed most of this owing to being asleep on the back seat (must have been up to something on the train). The afternoon was free, but the evening started with a trip to see some strange folk dances which included the whole knives and swords bit. Afterwards we roamed the hotel and checked out the bars.

Day five started with a visit to the Peter and Paul fortress, followed by the Hermitage museum in the afternoon. This was the day when Dom Potter spent most of his time checking out his vocal chords for most of the time ashamed of being British. The evening was probably the most eventful with the appearance of a group of Swedish and Italian people in the bar. A good night (and early morning) was had by all who could afford it. (For male Swedish pen-friends see Gill and Linda, for female Swedish pen-friends see any male over 16, and for Italian pen-friends see Mr. Rule).

Day six was accompanied by snow and a biting cold wind. Visits were to St. Isaac's Cathedral and a Pioneer Palace - a sort of communist manufacturing place — i.e. Young Idealist goes in - Raving Red Commy comes out. The evening visit was to the circus, followed by a party in Room 435 which had the only fridge available. Mr. Rule kindly bribed the Russian woman in charge of our floor, and Mr. Hand allowed a can of beer for each person present. The party lasted well into the night and for the latter half of its duration was attended by two people, a few empty cans and a broken bed. The party eventually wrapped up at about 6.00 a.m., after a 5.30 walk around Leningrad, (possibly the coldest and strangest thing done all week, on reflection). We awoke two hours later to pack up and leave for the airport. The customs let everybody out much quicker than they let them in except for Mr. Rule, whose beard, sunglasses, black trench-coat, trilby and machine gun made him eligible for a full search. It was thought that Stead would have to be quarantined after catching the Roubles, but the disease was traced to a couple of Pectopahs hiding in his socks. The tired group arrived back at Halifax at about midnight and were shipped off to their homes to be debriefed.

A final word must be said for Mr. Rule and Mr. & Mrs. Hand who were very fair with their organisation, and allowed just enough fun to be mixed in with the educational side of the trip. It can be confidently said that everybody enjoyed all of the seven days (except the man from York).

**Comrade DMS'SKI**  
**(D. M. Stollery, Heath 74-81)**

## **Music Society Report**

The A.G.M. was held on 22nd October at the start of a very energetic year. Here a slide show of all the choir's holidays was presented, and Mr. Appleton surprised the majority of people present by announcing his unexpected departure at the end of term.

Probably the highlight of the year was the performance on Sunday, 14th December with John Hanson at the Civic Theatre. Here the choir sang festive carols and were warmly received by the audience, along with the Highlands School Choir and Concert Band.

A return visit to St. Paul's, King Cross, heralded the performance of the sparkling 'Gloria' by Vivaldi. The unforeseen interruption caused by a fuse in the middle of this piece did nothing to detract from what was a splendid recital. In addition, the choir sang a further selection of carols, making the evening an altogether memorable occasion.

The new year saw the arrival of Mr. Blamires, whose stay we trust will be a long and enjoyable one. He arrived in time to take charge of the musical side of 'Paint Your Wagon', of which a full account can be found elsewhere.

Since there was no choir holiday this year, the choir's final performance was at the Founder's Day Service in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Heads of Music on behalf of the choir for all their devotion and hard work.

M. E. Haigh, U6A

## The School Council 1980-81

During the last year only one Council meeting has been held, although this had to be extended owing to the length of the agenda and shortage of time. Various issues were raised, mainly from the lower school.

It was suggested that the installation of a 'Space Invaders' machine could well prove to be a 'money-spinner'. However, since the Computer is capable of playing such a game, the idea was rejected. Fears were also expressed that such an innovation might prove to be a distraction from the educational use of the Computer.

Similarly a proposal for a drinks vending machine was not pursued since it was felt that more information was needed before the installation of this type of machine could be fully discussed.

The idea of a School football team was intimated, though this too had to be discarded, owing to its lack of efficaciousness in a school of our size and the ever-escalating costs of equipment.

Other suggestions included: a non-uniform day; a disco for the lower school, and rugby teas for visiting teams. Although, with the exception of the latter, these were consented to, no further endeavour has been made to put them into practice — *(Ed.'s note: the former has probably already taken place).*

The only constructive agreement which emerged from the meeting was the allowance of the lower sixth to take an early lunch - though, the meeting did also confirm that Gala Day would be held.

In view of the lack of meetings, and constructive, or rather feasible, ideas emanating, one cannot help wondering to what extent - if any - the Council is beneficial to the well-being of the school.

M. Haigh U6A



