



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter Issue 2011

Website: www.heatholdboys.org.uk

NEWS

Heath Old Boys Association Reunion Dinner 2010 - Another Good Do!

Forty-five Old Boys and staff turned in for the reunion at West Vale and enjoyed another excellent do. Old Heathens who schooled in the 1930s mixed with those who schooled in the 1980s with every decade represented throughout.

Following a swift AGM former pupils socialised before sitting down to a tremendous five-course banquet washed down by a vast array of drinks (drinking alcohol is not compulsory!)

Master of Ceremonies Jon Hamer introduced the evening's speakers, which consisted of re-elected Chairman Mick Hynes, Crossley Heath Head Helen Gaunt and 62-69 Old Boy John Henry. All speakers were well received with their short and humorous speeches, as was the usual bingo and raffle 'prize fest'.

The formal part of the evening concluded at 11pm with many ex scholars staying on to socialise well into the early hours.

This year's 'lifting the box with your teeth' game was won by Phil Stollery who was pushed hard all the way by the likes of his brothers Rob and Dave as well as Hamer, Reilly, and Orlic.

Those in attendance included:

H Brearley, J Davey, T Ward, K Fawthrop, R Sumner, D Burge, A Connell,
A Brearley, W Shackleton, J Shoemith, D Bottomley, A Robinson,
J Greenwood, R Eastwood, T Kershaw, M Kershaw, G Smith, P Marrion,
D North, P Stollery, R Stollery, D Stollery, J Charnock, J Hamer, J Henry,
M Hynes, D Potter, M Orlic, O Scholefield, J Bunch, H Reilly, T Edwards,
P Keenan, J Chatta, H Gaunt, J Russell, I Freeman, D Bingham,
J Hudson, M Baxendale, N Holden, D Murgatroyd, J Wood, J Hoyle and B Singh.

Look out for next year's Reunion Dinner date which is likely to be Friday 14th September 2011 - spread the word and come along - you will not be disappointed!

Sticky Fingers Play Group, Copley Junior School

On Tuesday, 19th July 2011, following an invitation from the "Sticky Fingers" Play Group, based at Copley Junior School, John Davey attended a simple ceremony at which a plaque was unveiled, on which a series of palm prints listed those who had made donations towards the cost of conversion of outbuildings.

The finished rooms are of a high standard, and will improve facilities for the children and staff alike.

The donation made by the H.O.B.A. was clearly much appreciated.

HOBA Invitation Bowling 2011

In an interesting example of role reversal, your Secretary has required me to produce an essay on the above event, thus neatly getting his revenge for occasions in the 1980's when your correspondent required many essays from him. He should note that any attempt on his part to pass critical comment on what follows could result in the full publication of his essay grades for the relevant period.

Sunday 26 th June dawned fine, with a promise of a very warm day, as contestants made their way to Greenroyd Bowling Club from many parts of the kingdom to participate in the annual test of skill and stamina which is the HOBA Bowls Day.

Those who arrived for the official start time of 1.30 pm were greeted by the spectacle of last year's Champions, Grayham Smith and John Henry, earnestly practising for the defence of their title – professionalism or a lack of confidence?

Some new figures graced the greensward, including Alistair Baigent who had been undertaking altitude training at Sowerby and Richard Firth, with Keith Fawthrop making the journey from Chesterfield to take part.

Partners were picked, generally at random, although, ominously, Jonathan Hamer had again secured the services of his father, John, after the latter's absence last year. In the early exchanges, your correspondent and his partner, the redoubtable John Hoggard, appearing as the "Champion of Northowram", clocked up three comfortable wins. Yet, there were threatening signs from the smooth progress of Hamer and Hamer who were recovering well from an early reverse against Chris Gostridge and Phil Solan, enjoying their home advantage.

A late-entering "dark horse" partnership of Mark Baxendale and Rodney Eastwood eventually took to the green after the former had popped back home for pieces of personal Heath memorabilia. These included a prefect's immaculate gold-braided maroon blazer; a picture of what those who featured on it were pleased to call the "greatest Heath GS 1 st XV ever" and various swimming and athletic certificates. These items, unfortunately, did not provide a big enough boost to the pair's morale and they struggled to just one win in their six "round-robin" games. This, however, was one win more than the pairing of Richard Firth and Mick Hynes

By now the watching throng had been augmented by the arrival of John Davey with a fund of anecdotes about Heath in the 1950s and a brief appearance on his bike of David Robinson, a Heathen in his eighties. They were able to witness a sound performance by Baigent and Fawthrop which brought them three wins and a draw, the extra point taking them above Bunch and Hoggard, who could not improve on their initial three victories. Smith and Henry's defence of the title was gallant, given a recent Smith injury incurred at a veteran athletic contest and Henry's thankful recovery from recent serious illness. Their four victories left them eliminated from securing a place in the final.

This titanic struggle brought back together the rivals of the first round, Hamer and Son against Gostridge and Solan, The match was truly an exhibition of bowling skill of a high order. Long ends were mixed with short and the lead see-sawed back and forth in a match which took half an hour to decide. In the end, the father-and-son team just sneaked their collective nose in front to win 11-8.

While all this had been going on, former HOBA Chairman Jim Farrell had appeared with his wife and a wonderful tea-time spread of delicacies and delights designed to appeal to the discerning palates of Old Heathens. After the trophy presentations of the gleaming silver cup for the winners and a dubious black-hand-with-gold-fingernails for the runners-up, all adjourned for this appetising tea. There the conversation flowed, ranging freely over past and present.

The event again proved itself a worthy example of what the Association is all about - good fellowship based on shared experience, good humour and respect for each other.

Russell Smith, who died just before the 2010 contest, would surely have enjoyed himself in the competition that now carries his name. Anyone reading this who has yet to take part should make a resolution to join us next year and share in the occasion.

Thanks must go to Messrs Hamer, Hynes and Farrell for their organisation before and during the event and to its hosts, Greenroyd Bowling Club.

John Bunch



Bowling athletes: J Hoggard, G Smith, J Davey, J Henry, J Bunch, A Baigent, K Fawthrop, J Farrell, R Firth, R Eastwood.



Finalists in Action.



Finalists Hamer, Solan, Gostridge, Hamer.



John Bunch with John Hoggard and Keith Fawthrop looking on

MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

Richard Davidson [Heath 1951-57]

“For some reason yesterday it occurred to me that it would be 60 years since I became a pupil at Heath in September 1951, in class 1B. A Google search produced the Old Boys Association website and Rodney Collins' piece of nostalgia. His memories did not quite accord with mine, in that Walter Swale ran the school on military lines of rigid rules and discipline, at least that was my impression, and for whatever reason it did not suit me. I left the school in March 1957, emigrated to Australia with my parents and sister in 1959 and have enjoyed a generally good life since then.

Nostalgia tends to kick in with age and I am no exception. I have wondered from time to time how my fellow students were, particularly Raymond Crossley and Raymond Aspinall, both of whom were at the Mixenden primary school with me. I would like to subscribe to the Association

Richard Davidson

Ray Crossley [1951-1959]

"I have only recently discovered the H.O.B.A. website and I want to say how much I have enjoyed the information it gives and particularly the history of Heath through the decades.

May I, before it is too late, add my tribute to C.O. Mackley and Eric Taylor whose memory I revere both for the personal kindness they showed me and for the perceptive monitoring of my modest progress through History and English 'A' levels. Their criticisms were sometimes devastating, but always expressed in the gentlest way and always absolutely justified.

In 1956 or 1957 COM, Bidy and I appeared together in the Victorian melodrama *Maria Martin and the Red Barn*. It was the second half of a double bill and followed *Antigone*. At one performance the pistol Bidy used to shoot me failed to go off at the crucial moment. With the presence of mind of a true professional he turned the pistol round and, to heartless cheers and laughter from the audience (which by then also included all the cast of *Antigone*), bludgeoned me to death instead. COM's sanctimonious lamentations as my father and Archie Littlefair's pathetic resignation as my mother, comforting herself in a rocking chair by the fire, had a similar vociferous reception.

I think COM enjoyed from time to time shedding his gravitas and formidable discipline in favour of self-mockery. For most productions he took on the thankless, and unseen, task of prompter. In a production of *The Knight of the Burning Pestal*, however, he fulfilled the same role but on stage in full Elizabethan costume. Smoking a churchwarden pipe he played up well to Derrick Whatmough's diatribe against people 'who make chimneys of your faces'.

And it isn't entirely true that the many impersonations of COM were never done in his presence. At one Favorite meeting over which, as usual, he presided, I was given 'Yoga' as a topic to speak on impromptu for 2 minutes. It came to me that I could use as spoof yoga movements some of COM's well-known mannerisms such as standing on tiptoe whilst clutching the lectern and stroking his left temple with his right hand stretched over the top of his head. This cheekiness was, of course, well received and afterwards COM complimented me on a *tour de force*. I have to believe that he was sincere and not offended by my getting a cheap laugh at his expense.

Another meeting of the Favorites which sticks in my mind, was one addressed by Walter Swale on, I suppose, the challenges of adulthood. Amongst other things he advised us not to have sex before marriage as this would take away some of the joy of the wedding night. The advice was conventional enough (and for a gay pupil like myself largely academic) but I thought then as I think now that it was a progressive talk for a northern grammar school headmaster to give in the 50s when any mention of sex of any kind was officially unknown.

Another piece of advice he gave was that we should not have all our teeth taken out and replaced by false teeth unless it was absolutely necessary. The surprise and shock of hearing that anyone would even contemplate such a course of action has stayed with me and it is advice with I have followed to the letter.

Although I was put on Daily Report in my second year I never found Walter quite as fierce as his reputation and he could be amusingly dry. After an unsuccessful application for admission to Cambridge I went to his study and announced in all seriousness 'I have had a letter from Jesus, sir'. Walter looked flatly at me for a moment and then, with considerable comic timing, turned away saying 'Now come, come Crossley'.

His Headmaster's Comments on my end of year reports could be to the point, too. He was undoubtedly right to warn 'He must learn that he will not get everywhere by charm'. He must have been a little bit susceptible to it though because he invited me in 1960 to propose the toast to the four distinguished guests at that year's Old Boys' Dinner.

All good wishes
Ray Crossley"

William Henry Hampson [1913-1918]

"I am busy researching my family history and discovered that my father attended your school for five years, very possibly from approximately 1913 or perhaps a year or two later. I have no idea if you have records which go back that far, but if you do have any information at all, it would be most gratefully received.

My father's name was William Henry Hampson, son of Lewis G.C. Hampson and Edith Annie Hampson. He was born in Northowram on 28 March 1908 and he went on to further his education at Heath Grammar School, as it was known back then. I am most anxious to find out if anyone knew anything at all about my grandfather, Lewis, who seems to have disappeared at some stage after he and my grandmother divorced. It occurs to me that perhaps other Hampsons attended your school, so this is really a shot in the dark.

For your information, William Henry Hampson duly moved to South Africa and married Georgina, my mother. He returned to London at some stage and qualified in Electrical, Mechanical, Automobile and Aeronautical Engineering. In 1943 he joined the South African Air Force and travelled the country lecturing for the Instructional Film Section. He later became an audiologist in Durban, South Africa and invented a machine which helped stutterers. He made quite a name for himself. He was also, like his father, a magnificent pianist and entertainer, though he never did that professionally. He died in 1974 in Durban and sadly most of the family history died with him.

I realize that this is not really what an old boy's Club deals with, but if you have any ideas or suggestions at all, I'd be most delighted to receive them. I live in Colorado, US (naturalized citizen, born in South Africa) so it is not an option to visit Yorkshire at this point.

Many thanks,
Sincerely
(Mrs) Maraday Wahlborg"
Email: maraday@ecentral.com

David Andrew WILSON [Heath 1944-51]

Harry Wilson is desperate to trace his half-brother, David Andrew Wilson, who attended Heath from 1944 to 1951 and who lived at Lingroyd Avenue, Pellon, Halifax. His father was J H Wilson and his mother's maiden name was Jean Dennison.

Any information regarding his life, career or current whereabouts would be greatly appreciated.

Harry's phone number is 0033 555 683758 and his email is harry.wilson1932@orange.fr.

OBITUARIES

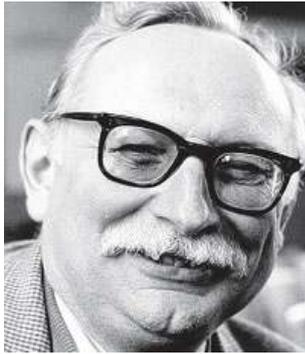
Antony Chisslett : 1947-2010

Antony Chisslett was born 13 May 1947 and died 28 August 2010. Younger son of Milner and Phyllis Chisslett of Rufford Villas, Halifax.

Our condolences go out to the family.

Alan Guy, 84, the last Latin teacher at Heath

By Ruth Mosalski, Halifax Evening Courier 03/08/2010



The last Latin teacher to teach at the former Heath Grammar School has died aged 84. Alan Guy was the last person to teach the subject at the school in Free School Lane, Halifax. After he retired aged 55 in April 1982, a replacement was not hired to teach the subject.

Mr Guy, who lived at St Bevan's Road, Skircoat Green, Halifax, was also the school's head of classics when it still taught Greek and ancient history and also the school's librarian. As his final farewell to the school he reclassified hundreds of books.

Former colleague Andrew Connell - who was also taught by Mr Guy in his schooldays said: "He was a very capable and able classics teacher. He was a man without an enemy and was known to everyone as very kind-hearted."

After his retirement he followed his passion for cricket to his member's seat at Yorkshire Cricket Club. During his 30 years at Heath Grammar School he ran the school's junior team, finding many of the school's star players. "He had a good eye for spotting good players," said Mr Connell.

Mr Guy was born in London and went on to read classics at Oxford University's Hertford College.

He began his teaching career in Wolverhampton and also taught at Abbot's Holme School in Derbyshire. He outlived his wife Margaret and son Richard.

His funeral was on August 10th at All Saints Church, Skircoat Green with plenty of Old Heathens in attendance.

Bernard WILKINSON: 28.10.1921 - 18.02.2011

Bernard Wilkinson was born on 28 Oct 1921 at Mytholmroyd, near Halifax.

He Attended Heath Grammar School in the 1930s and continued his education at Oxford reading History.

He was a navigator in the RAF in the war and married Jean in 1948.

His first teaching post was at Tavistock School in Devon, second was at Cotham Grammar School, Bristol. He became Headmaster of Welwyn Garden City Grammar School from 1961 -1971 then became Head of Cheltenham Boys' Grammar School (now Pate's) from 1971 until retirement in 1982.

Gloucestershire Echo, Tuesday, March 1, 2011

www.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk

ECH-E01-S2

Ex-teacher was a man of intellect and good humour

BY LAURA VICKERS
EDUCATION REPORTER

AN academic who took a leading role in shaping the lives of Cheltenham pupils in the 1970s has died.

Bernard Wilkinson was head teacher at Cheltenham Grammar School for Boys, now Pate's Grammar School, from 1971 to 1983. He died on February 18 at the age of 89.

His daughter, Anne Barnett, said: "He was a man of integrity, intellect and good humour."

"He was a loving and supportive husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his fam-

ily and friends."

Mr Wilkinson was born in 1921 in west Yorkshire and excelled academically, gaining a scholarship to Oxford University to read history.

His studies were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II when he became a navigator with the RAF.

He returned to Oxford to finish his course before taking up his first teaching job in Tavistock, Devon.

Later, Mr Wilkinson became head teacher at Welwyn Garden City Grammar School. In 1948 he married Jean and the couple had four children, Anne, Helen, Paul and Catherine. The family

moved to Cheltenham in 1971 when he was appointed headmaster at Cheltenham Grammar School for Boys, succeeding Arthur Bell who had held the position for 19 years.

Pate's head teacher Shaun Fenton said he was a "fine head master" whose picture still hangs in pride of place in the Pate's Foundation Boardroom.

He added: "Generations of staff and students from Cheltenham's Grammar School owe him a debt. Thirty years since he retired, some teachers remain here at Pate's and all remember him fondly. We build on his work, the work of

a respected, liked and good man." Mr Wilkinson oversaw the scrapping of the time-honoured, but out-dated, six house-system. They were replaced by four houses - Bell, Heawood, Dobson and Frankland - named after the previous headmasters.

He also introduced forms based on houses, rather than on academic streaming.

In 1972 he saw the admittance of the first girl to the boys' school sixth form.

Two years later the school celebrated its quatercentenary. He stepped down in 1983.

In the years following his retirement he walked a number of long distance paths and

once walked from Cheltenham to west Yorkshire. He was also a keen traveller who had a particular affinity with France and Italy. Mr Wilkinson was a church warden at St Mary's in Charlton Kings between 1984 and 1987.

The Rev Michael Garland said: "Bernard has been a faithful and loyal member of the church. He was a highly respected church warden."

"He and Jean made a wonderful couple and I have valued their commitment and friendship enormously."

Mr Wilkinson's funeral will be held at St Mary's Church in Charlton Kings on March 7, at 12.30pm.



Bernard Wilkinson

Kenneth Gifford McGILL: 24.08.1927 - 22.04.2011

Kenneth Gifford was born on 24th August 1927 to Thomas Douglas and Mary McGill. He was their second son of four – Doug, Ken, Neville and Ray.

From the beginning he was a fine sportsman. This became apparent at junior school when he regularly swept the board at the Annual Swimming Gala, being an excellent swimmer and a diver without fear. During his teens at Heath School in Halifax he also excelled at cricket and football and in 1944 he was a Yorkshire schoolboy finalist at rugby union.

Leaving Heath he joined the Fleet Air Arm serving in the Arctic Circle on HMS Vengeance for some time. In 1945 he was thrilled to be chosen to go to Pensicola in the United States to do his Pilot's training. The war ended a little too soon for him to achieve his ambition as a few weeks before he was due to start training Peace was declared and the course was cancelled. This remained a big regret throughout his life. However in 1946 he was chosen to play soccer for The Royal Navy.

On demobilisation he returned to Huddersfield and went into one of his father's business.

He married Julienne Russell in 1955. Fiona was born in 1958 followed by Holly in 1961 and Katie in 1962. The family were brought up at The Howroyde, in Barkisland.

In the fifties Ken joined Proctor and Gamble. This American soap producer ran a tight ship and it was whilst with them that Ken learnt the importance of self-motivation – a lesson which would last him for the rest of his life. Mesmerised by large machinery he later went to Chaseside who manufactured loading shovels. Construction industry equipment was his life until retirement.

All this time there was THE SPORT! He played cricket in the summer with the Almondbury Casuals and represented Woodsome Hall Golf Club in their inter club matches playing to a handicap of 2 at his peak. The Huddersfield AFC was one of the great loves of his life and he turned out weekly to play with, and often captain, the first team at home, or travelled to Shrewsbury School, Repton, The Chester Nomads, Manchester Trojans and the legendary Liverpool Ramblers where the Easter Festival was an annual event.

He always found time for rally driving – another obsession - and regularly won the obstacle course race in his open MG TA sports car BTF72 – a number well known to Inspector Reg Foster who regularly handed out speeding tickets to Ken.

Since his retirement his greatest pleasure has been visiting his daughters and his two grandchildren, Edward and Abigail.

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YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU

Any memories of your Heath School Days? - Pals, teachers, achievements, highs, lows, onward progression into adult life?

Write them down for inclusion on the web and in our next newsletter – send them to your HOBA secretary Jon Hamer now (contact details above).