



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter Issue 2013

Website: www.heatholdboys.org.uk

NEWS

The Head Teacher's Report for 2013

There is never a dull moment in education, and this year has proven no exception. Every week there are new instructions being issued by the government, more documents to read and demanding targets to meet. But when I feel in danger of being overwhelmed, I step out of the Head's Office and take a walk around my school to remind myself of what really matters. On the way, I meet staff preparing for their lessons or chatting in the staff room. I go into the school office which is a hive of activity. As I write this piece, the ladies are dealing with phone calls from parents wanting to know if school is closing because of the snow. Popping into the dining room, I smell the aroma of balsamic beef and, a popular favourite with the 6th formers, apple crumble. Best of all, I visit classrooms and enjoy for a few minutes the pleasure of witnessing teachers at the top of their game delivering lessons to students which have them thoroughly absorbed and interested. In History, they are learning about the Holocaust, in English they are analysing a non-fiction text and in Maths working out algebraic equations. On my journey, I make sure to visit a Mandarin class which is taught by our Chinese teacher and make a point of giving a Head Teacher's merit to 3 Year 7 students (11 years old) who have gained a distinction in an Oxford University Critical Thinking challenge.

You may have read in the press that Crossley Heath School has now become an academy. This happened on 1 January 2013. As you drive past the school, you may notice a new sign which states The Crossley Heath School Academy Trust but we continue to be known as The Crossley Heath School. Being an academy means that we are completely free from authority control and enjoy some small financial benefits as well. In effect the school has become a company, having established a group of Board Members, consisting of the Head and some governors, who form the Academy Trust. However, our current governing body stays in place and continues to work as it has in the past via a committee structure. The additional money which is coming into school will be spent on student support. I am looking forward to being able to buy in the professional services we require and ensuring it is what our students need. We have to be very mindful of the fact that highly achieving young people such as ours feel under a great deal of pressure and suffer from stress and anxiety. In addition, we are developing plans for a sixth form centre and hope to be successful in our bid for capital funding from the government. If you have visited Crossley Heath recently, you will know that a sixth form social area and more teaching rooms are a real priority for us.

Another achievement this year is that Crossley Heath has been placed as 16th in the national league tables for GCSE results. We have all worked really hard to get to this position and it reflects the fact that the majority of our students got an A or A* grade in their GCSE subjects. The fact that we are placed ahead of institutions such as Eton College is a real cause for celebration. Other significant highlights of the year include the annual Prize-giving Evening which was held for the first time in school. The new sports hall was completely transformed by ambient lighting and we enjoyed a speech and a song from local singer-songwriter, Roger Davies.

It has been a wonderful year. I am truly the fully fledged Head of Crossley Heath, and loving every minute - well, almost! With every good wish for 2013 and I hope to see some of you at the annual reunion on Friday 20th September at Heath RUFC West Vale.

Wendy Moffat

The Crossley Heath School Careers Fund

Any scholar, past or present, can apply to receive a grant from the fund by writing a letter to The Head at the School outlining their reasons for financial assistance. The combined fund generates about £1000 annually which includes the Heath Old Boys Fund which generates about £150 annually. HOBA is represented on the panel by Jon Hamer, present secretary of our proud Association.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was established by a declaration of Trust dated 1 July 1954.

The charity is managed by a Committee of Management which in addition to the trustees consists of The Headmaster/Headmistress of the School, the Chairman of the Schools Parents' Association, the Chairman of the Old Scholars' Association, together with a maximum of 5 members nominated annually by the said Associations.

Members of the Committee of Management hold office for one year and are eligible for reappointment. The Committee of Management appoints a Chairman Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The Committee of Management meets at least once in every year.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the advent of adverse conditions.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the trust is the advancement of the education of boys and girls attending or who have attended the Schools.

The annual income of the fund is used in assisting pupils and former pupils of the school in continuing their education by learning the theory and practice of skilled trades, industries or employments by means of apprenticeship and for that purpose to attend Universities, Technical Colleges or other institutions or classes for the purpose of further education.

Since the original establishment of the trust further specific sums have been donated to the trust to be used as follows:

Henderson Fund - courses, etc, in connection with music

Katie Greaves Fund - courses, etc, in connection with adventure and outward bound activities

Heath Old Boys Fund - courses, etc, in connection with sporting endeavours

Achievements and Performance

During the school year grants are paid to individuals. The trust continues to publicise the availability of grants to suitable persons.

H.O.B.A. Invitation Bowls Tournament

"On a dry, mild but blustery afternoon, 30th June 2013, Old Heathens congregated at GreenRoyd Bowling Club, Skircoat Green, to contest the seventh annual bowls tournament, for the coveted Russell Smith Memorial Trophy.

The pairings this year were: J. Hamer and D. Hamer; J. Robertshaw and A. Waite; A. Baigent and J. Farrell; G.P. Smith and J.T. Bunch; M. Baxendale and R. Eastwood; and M. Hynes and Rose White, who gamely agreed to make up the numbers, thus making history as the first woman to participate as a Heath Old Boy.

The format having been agreed upon, the best of seven ends, or the first pair to reach eleven points, winning the game, proceedings got under way. There followed a well-fought contest, which appeared to be level pegging for much of the afternoon. Leaders after the early rounds were the formidable pairing of Bunch and Smith, and the Hamers, always a force to be reckoned with. Baxendale and Eastwood seemed to be the early whipping boys, but improved by leaps and bounds as the afternoon wore on and, after many years of trying actually won a game, soundly drubbing last years' winners.

After the maths was worked out, the final was contested between Messrs Baigent/Farrell and Hynes/Rose White. In this intriguing contest Baigent/Farrell took an early lead, which they held until a brilliant spell of bowling by Mick Hynes levelled the scores at 4-4. A strong wind sprang up which may have affected the trajectory of some woods. Baigent/Farrell mastered the conditions better, and came through to win 7-4. They were duly presented with the trophy in memory of Russell, who founded the tournament several years ago.

Thanks to Rose, who bowled superbly. We were delighted to see Alan Brearley, who turned up to support the event.

It was followed by a buffet and chance to socialise. Thanks to Jon Hamer, for once again organising the event. Alas, the numbers were well down on recent years, several old regulars being missing. Please put it in your diary for next year – a good time is guaranteed.”

Rod Eastwood

HOBA Reunion Dinner 2012



[Photo: The last men standing (sometime after midnight): Jon Hamer, Jim Farrell, Dave Stollery, Rob Stollery, Mike Orlic, Oli Schoefield, Dom Potter.]

The traditional H.O.B.A. dinner took place at West Vale on Friday 21st September 2012 and although the number of Old Boys attending was well down on recent years, an excellent evening was enjoyed by the thirty-two or so who did attend.

The evening began with the now customarily brief A.G.M., which re-elected the committee en masse and considered such weighty matters as whether the old honours boards, apparently languishing in the basement of the

current school, can be reinstated. The Association is still financially in good health and members are kept in touch via the newsletter and the website. Charitable donations have again been made during the year. Others meanwhile lounged at the bar, swapped ancient anecdotes, renewed old acquaintances and made new ones.

There followed the sumptuous banquet to which members have become accustomed - tomato and basil soup; chicken in white wine; fruit pie and cream; coffee and cheese and biscuits. This was introduced by Mr Farrell's unique rendering of the Latin grace, in a style which had never previously been heard. All then participated in Mr Hamer's jovial organisation of the raffle, which raised a large sum of money, followed by the boisterous Heads and Tails game, the occasion of much good-natured ribaldry and heckling, whose complex rules are still not understood by many. The prizes were donated by Mssrs Chatha and Hamer.

Disappointingly, there was no representative of the school present this year, so it fell to the Association President, Mick Orlic, at very short notice, to deliver the keynote speech. Mick spoke inspiringly about his time at school, his early frustrations leading to a realisation that sport could be the key to his ultimate progress and that sport could even make a 'dull' subject such as economics seem fascinating. This was the most thoughtful and thought-provoking speech that many present had ever heard and managed to silence even the most bibulous. It was enthusiastically received.

Following this, Old Boys yarned deep into the night, reliving the 'happiest days of our lives'.

Those attending were: J Robertshaw, J Greenwood, Stones, D Wilson, H Brearley, G P Smith, P Marrion, Easton, M Orlic, O Scholefield, J Wasiliw, R Stollery, D Stollery, J Davey, T Ward, I Freeman, J Hamer, R Sumner, D Potter, J Farrell, J Rowell, J Charnock, W Shackleton, R Morley, M Baxendale, A Lombardi, M Westaway, T O'Callaghan, D Bottomley, M Fee, Bingham and R Eastwood.

Those who didn't manage to get there please try to attend next year, as you are guaranteed an enjoyable evening. The dinner and the bowls tournament in June are the only two annual functions now, so it is vital they are well attended if the memory of Heath is to be kept alive.

Rod Eastwood

[This year's HOBA Reunion Dinner will be held in the brand new clubhouse of HEATH RUFC, West Vale, Halifax on Friday 20th September 2013]

School Prize Giving Awards 2012

CE Fox Memorial Prize - Vigneswaran Kandasamay (Head Boy)
Heath Old Boys' Association Athlete's Prize for Excellence in Sport (Boys) - Isaac Kaye
Heath Old Boys' Association Athlete's Prize for Excellence in Sport (Girls) - Amy Hunt-Brown

MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

R CARTER [Heath 62-66]

I have just this day found the Heath Old Boys web site, and though not officially an Old Boy, I am an old boy who attended Heath from first to fourth forms departing in 1966 for Canada (just in time to escape the dreaded O Levels!). My family emigrated in October 1966 and I have been in Canada ever since, returning to Halifax once in 1972 and again in the mid-nineties.

I do declare my memories of Heath were a little shaken when I saw the black railings in the nineties but I will never forget my time spent under the brow of "King". I write mainly to see whether or not anyone remembers the grace that was said at the end of lunch, as I see that the grace on the site is (as I sometimes repeat at family Christmas dinners) just as I remember it. I shall attempt to reproduce the post-meal grace and beg forgiveness in advance, as it has been more than forty-five years since my ears were last blessed with any form of Latin verse. The following may be mainly phonetic but I trust it will suffice.

Pro his donis quibus fructi summus et omnia erga nos favori, laudatur et benedicatur, sanctissimum dei nomen, in sicilo sicilorum, amen.

The last part, sicilo sicilorum, is completely phonetic but I can hear it as plain as day being read by my table head after we had pinched the card from the designated table and slipped it in front of him after a suitable silence had ensued after the scraping of chairs had subsided one lunch hour.

I shall attempt to scan my school picture from the early sixties, which still hangs in my office, and forward it along. I attended from 1962 to 1966, my older brother John Carter, from 1960 to 1966.

Now that I have the web site I shall certainly visit more often.

I am planning a trip to London to visit my daughter and shall attempt to get my family up to Halifax. The town certainly looks a lot browner than I remember; it was almost all black when we left!

Sincerely,
R Carter

LYNDON MALLINSON [Heath 81-86]

"When I was 9, my parents moved from Pye Nest to Southowram, so I had to change junior schools, Copley to Southowram Withinfields. To my amazement, and that of teachers and definitely my parents, I passed my 11+ with a high percentage, enabling me to go to my first choice of Heath Grammar School.

First day, I was amazed to see 3 former friends in my same year from Copley J & I School, Paul Hall, (?) Garside and Andrew McParland. This helped me greatly with the daunting prospect of starting BIG school. Day 1 was a real adventure, being instructed from every teacher, on how to back a book using wallpaper (the white side) or brown paper to preserve it prosperity. We even had a games lesson on the first day across the road opposite the school, no doubt for Mr Capelin to see who showed any potential to play rugby, be an athlete or possessed any other physical potential. Making our way back across the road to change, one pupil ran out into the road and was hit by a car, luckily unscathed but severely ridiculed.

I was never academic but having an excellent, semi photographic, memory I found lessons very boring indeed. This led to me becoming a bit of lad and was always in trouble for disrupting class. I remember my parents once receiving a letter from Mr Bunch advising that "Due to a backlog of detentions, Lyndon will be attending dentation for the rest of this week and also the following week". Somehow, I managed to drift through the years avoiding suspension or expulsion, maybe down to the fact my parents were fundraisers for the school and my mother, who worked in the Halifax Library, donated dozens of boxes of books to the Heath library.

I look back at my days at school with fondness and although being a drifter, I have become somewhat successful after spending the past 26 years in the IT industry. Living in Australia since 1988, I enjoy regularly reading what is happening on the Heath Old Boys website. A few years ago, I dug out a couple of old year books and scanned them and you can find them on the HOB website, under the Heath History section, along with some of DRA Morton's cartoons. Here are some of my memories of teachers:

Mr Geoff Kay Loved his rugby and by the size of him, also his food.

Mr (Chogley) Hogley Formerly lived in Kenya and when in a rare state of joviality, regaled us with colonial tales and talking randomly in Swahili!

Mr (Moggy) Morton "Gentlemen, stop pi.... around" and when working with clay, "You have to manipulate it to get the required results" and "Please gentlemen, no phallic symbols"

Mr Newton When windy, would be seen in the playground always trying to restore his "comb over" back in place.

Mr Blamires I remembered him also being a music teacher at Copley J & I and when he was at Heath, once tapped me up for a cigarette.

Mr Capelin Famously broke his leg on the Krypton Factor obstacle course. Once had a boxing match with a gobby 5th former. Loved his golf and also introduced me to the sport with lessons on the rugby pitch in his lunchtimes, even giving me my first club, a nice 3 wood that I still own.

Mr Bristow "Come on in, settle down, stop messing around". What was really under that beard and also, on sunny days, drove to work in his MG Midget.

Rasputin Once escorted by him out of class to the headmaster's office, he told me to stand under the clock whence I told him "f... off". The result was the cane, well deserved but well worth it at the time.

Mr John Bunch Genuinely one of the nicest people I have had the pleasure of knowing. He was firm but fair and very patient."

News from a Swiss Old Boy: David LISTER [Heath 60-67]

"I had the good fortune to run into my old friend and colleague from Heath and Oxford John Feather over the weekend. He tipped me off about the website and the Association. Given that I have just retired it may seem a little late to join but better late than never, as they say.

My name is J. D. Lister (David) and I was at Heath from 1960 to 1967 and now live in Switzerland.

My two brothers also attended Heath. Philip Lister is still alive and lives in East Grinstead. Peter, the youngest of the siblings, passed away in 1996 after a long fight against MS. I used to play a lot of Rugby Fives and if I am not mistaken the Association Treasurer is a former star at the sport and may remember me.

Kind regards,
David"

Can you help trace Christopher Zupnik?

"I am trying to trace the whereabouts of Christopher Zupnik who, I believe, attended at Heath in / around the 60's. He will probably be aged in his mid 60's at present.

I have an original oil painting by his father, the late Lawrence Zupnik, who was a Polish airman in WWII, and came to live in Southowram, where I was born. He married a lady from the village and I remember Christopher, their son. The painting may have no more than sentimental value for Christopher but I would like to pass it on to him rather than dispose of it in any other way.

It was rumoured that the Zupnik family may have moved to the South of England, possibly to the Reading area but this is far from certain. Christopher's present whereabouts, or indeed any other useful information to trace him will be greatly appreciated.

I can be contacted via bandsshackleton@gmail.com.

Thank you in anticipation of whatever help you can offer in helping me to trace Christopher, and re-unite him with his father's painting.

Yours sincerely,
Brandon Shackleton"

Christopher Zupnik Traced!

"Hi John,

The system works!! You very kindly publicised the fact that I was trying to trace the Zupnik family whom I believed had been former HOB pupils.

I have just returned home this evening to find a telephone message on the answerphone from Christopher, who has also sent me e-mail with contact details.

It appears that his son, Lawrence, who now lives in Norway, saw your message re my request for contact details. It was also seen by him on the Angmering, (near Worthing), Community Centre website, where the full details surrounding the background story to my request were published. The Zupnik family had lived in that area but moved away about 12 years ago.

You may recall that I was directed to the HOB web site almost 12 months ago as a means of tracing the Zupnik family by John Robertshaw, who remembered the name from his days at HGS. Now that contact has been made, it will only be a question of time before the painting is back in the Zupnik household.

Further to my enquiry referred to above, I have had the additional benefit of a contact with Steve Readyhough, who now lives in Dorset. For quite a few years, he and his wife, Steph, lived next door to me in Central Park before he had to move in connection with his work into the Buckinghamshire area. Since then we lost contact but, thanks to the Zupnik story, which Steve read, he has now been in touch and our friendship can now be re-established.

Very many thanks to the HOB web site and Newsletter. The system has worked a treat. And thank you, John, for your help in bringing this about.

My kindest regards,
Brandon Shackleton."

David BOLTON [Heath 61-69]

"I visit the HOBA website at clearly infrequent intervals and notice there have been questions raised about the Latin grace which have remained unanswered for some time. Having lingered far too long in the sixth form, I read out the grace many times and think I can recall it:

Before dinner:

GRATIAS MAXIMAS NOS TIBI, DOMINE, PROPTER HAEC ET OMNIA TUA BENEFICIA AGIMUS. QUI E FAVORE TUO HAEC TUA DONA IAM SUMPTURI SUMUS. HUNC CIBUM ORAMUS UT BENEDICAS IN USUM NOSTRUM ET NOS IN OFFICIUM TUUM; PER IESUM CHRISTUM SALVATOREM NOSTRUM.
AMEN.

After dinner:

PRO HIS DONIS QUIBUS FRUCTI SUMUS ET OMNI ERGA NOS FAVORE, LAUDETUR ET BENEDICATUR SANCTISSIMUM DEI NOMEN IN SAECULA SAECULORUM.
AMEN."

John BENTLEY [Heath 80-85]

A memory from the stage school of Heath.

"I attended Heath Grammar School from 1980 to 1985, and in December 1981 I played the part of Clara Grummett in the school play.

Today I was lucky enough to receive an original copy of the programme for this show in the post, from a friend who saw the performance and had saved her copy [see below].

I think it is also worth noting the list of cast and crew. While I was playing the part of Clara Grummett, if you look at the "stage" section you will notice the name Paul Opacic.

Mr Opacic is now, as I am sure you are aware, a famous actor. He has had major roles in Only Fools and Horses, Hollyoaks, Coronation Street, Emmerdale... the list goes on and on.

I, on the other hand, currently put my crust on the table by teaching English in companies in Barcelona, and when I am lucky enough I get the odd part in a TV commercial or voiceover.

So, while I am not a famous actor myself, I can at least boast that in the play where Paul Opacic was just a stage hand, I was the leading lady.

I hope this item is of interest.

Best regards, John Bentley"

KIDNAPPED AT CHRISTMAS
BY
WILLIS HALL



C A S T

CONVICT GILBERT	ANDREW SPARKES	STAGE -	ROBERT STOLLERY
CONVICT CROSBY	NICK TOBIN		BRYAN BUTTERTWORTH
WARDER MULLINS	TIM O'CALLAGHAN		PAUL OPACIC
WARDER MacBAIN	ALFONSO LOMBARDI		MICHAEL PRIESTLEY
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GRUMMETT	PETER KIRSHAW	LIGHTS -	PHILIP STOLLERY
CLARA GRUMMETT (His wife)	JOHN BENTLEY		MARK WHIPPY
ALEXANDER GRUMMETT (His son)	MARK RICHARDSON	SCAFFOLDING by	C. SHANNON (DECORATORS) LTD
WYDDEBIE DOHERTY	ROBERT CURDISHLEY	COSTUMES by	HOLMBURGS of LEEDS
FRANKELSTEIN'S MONSTER	JOHN MORAYTON		

There will be one interval of twenty minutes when refreshments will be served.
INTERVAL MUSIC BY HEATH SCHOOL BAND.

ACT ONE - A PRISON CELL
OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALL
THE GRUMMETTS' LIVING ROOM

ACT TWO - A POLICE STATION
ANOTHER WALL
A SPOOKY GREEN CELLAR
A PRISON CELL

A HEATH SCHOOL DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRODUCTION

Nigel SHIELDS [Heath 70-77]

"Just been reading the stuff on the website.

One of my abiding memories of Heath was the way the register was called and the seating of classes in register order round the room - very regimental.

I tried to remember it but got as far as;

Ancliife, Arculisz, Barker, Barton, Bedford, Blagborough, ...Halstead, Heppenstall, Kent, Kershaw,Rogers, Shields NA (me), Shields NB, Taylor, Ward, Werritt

Not a very good attempt, but if anyone out there in the B form can remember - apart from Nicholas who probably can!"

Nigel Shields, now living at Blaydon

Hymns Ancient and Modern

"I had a memory from my time at Heath – 1954-61 – of singing a hymn at the first assembly of every term, whose last line was

'Those returning, those returning, make more faithful than before'

We sang this hymn to the tune of *'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven'*.

Recently I was wondering whether this hymn could possibly have been written by a member of staff, specially for use by the school. However, a friend directed me to the old *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, where there is a section entitled 'FOR School and College Use'. Here, hymn 458, St. Raphael, End of Term, I found, *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing*, the very hymn. Some of the lines now sound deliciously ironic – *'Help us selfish lures to flee'* – or impossibly idealistic – *'Seek we ever Knowledge pure and love unfeigned'*.

Even better, on the facing page, is a hymn for the beginning of term, no. 457. I have no specific memory of singing this at school. But the words seem so familiar that I can only assume that we sang this on the first day of term, *'Lord, behold us with thy blessing, Once again assembled here'*

Again, the irony – *'keep us safe from sloth and sensual snare'* – would that we had taken note. Nevertheless these are moving hymns which I doubt are much sung today. But did every school in the country sing them half a century ago? The author of these Victorian masterpieces was one H.J. Bucknoll, about whom I know nothing. Any offers?"

Rod Eastwood

OBITUARIES

Dr David Anthony EARNSHAW : ? - 19 January 2012

"I have just read in the magazine of St John's College, Cambridge that Dr David Anthony (Tony) Earnshaw died on 19 January 2012, aged 81.

Tony went to Cambridge in 1949, from Heath. He read medicine."

Submitted by Roger Crowther

Roger KNOWLES: ?-2013

Roger Knowles, who has died aged 80, was at Heath in the 1940s. He emigrated to Canada in 1957, where he has been a Professor of microbiology. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Russell ATKINSON: ? – 14 March 2013 [Heath 1959-66]

“Sadly I report the untimely and sudden death in Madrid on 14th March 2013 of a good friend Russell Atkinson who attended Heath from 1959 until 1966.

After qualifying as a chartered accountant Russell moved to Spain to work for Price Waterhouse in Madrid. He met his wife Ursula at work in 1977 and they were married in November 1981 in Madrid where they have lived ever since. They had a son Paul and a daughter Diana and Diana wrote to me to say that her dad was "a very happy person and always enjoyed having a laugh. He loved sport, especially cricket. He played cricket in Madrid since 1975. He had a break and then could not stay away from his favourite game so took up the challenge once again. He also loved travelling down to Benidorm. It was his little England here in Spain. He enjoyed eating his full English breakfast plus fish and chips in Benidorm and went there to buy his bacon and pies etc from the English supermarket".

Thank you Diana and I would like to thank you and your mother and father for the very happy time I spent with you at your home in Madrid when on my cycle ride down to Lopera to see my Uncle Ralph's memorial for when he was killed in the Spanish Civil War at the battle there. Also thank you for the tremendous help you gave me in helping organise the logistics for this cycling pilgrimage on behalf of myself and the Fox family. All this came about due to my Uncle Ralph's and our attendance at Heath Grammar School many years ago and the common bond we Old Heathens have together.

We offer our sincere condolences to Russell's wife Ursula and Paul and Diana.”

Gavin FOX [Heath 47-52]

David GEE: 1962-2013 [Heath 1974-81]

“It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that David Gee passed away on Monday 21 January 2013.

From a personal perspective, I have known David since school days, although he was in the year above me. From an early age he enjoyed sports and played in the school rugby and cricket teams. His contribution to school team sports was acknowledged when he was awarded the Victor Ludorum trophy at Heath Grammar School and his name was added to the roll of honour in the school main hall.

He had a great passion for music, particularly opera, and was a member of the Huddersfield Choral Society and this interest in music was also apparent in his school years. He was a member of the Heath School Choir during its heyday under Michael Hampshire, and often sang solo parts. The school choir recorded a programme for Pennine Radio in the 1970s and I remember David being interviewed during the programme. His singing talent landed him the role of Oliver in the mid 1970s in the Halifax Light Opera production of the musical which was performed at the Victoria Theatre, Halifax.

David studied modern languages at Liverpool University and after that worked at the Halifax Building Society as an Internal Auditor.

I came into contact again with David in the late 1980s though the Calderdale Tennis League and we played in the same team for the best part of 25 years. Although he played in the league last year, David was diagnosed with cancer towards the end of the season. He remained positive throughout his treatment, even into the last week. When telling me of his diagnosis he commented "Don't worry, I don't intend to croak it without a big fight!", a remark typical of his determination and fighting spirit. Sadly his positive attitude was not enough and he suffered complications during his treatment.

Those who met David on the tennis court may remember him as being very competitive. He was not afraid to speak his mind, but was always fair and showed appreciation for his opponents' tennis ability. As a friend and tennis team mate he will be sadly missed.”

Eulogy by Martin Haigh [Heath 75-82]

E. D. BARKER: 1930-2012 [Heath 1941-48]

“Born 6 June 1930, died May 2012 age 81 in Exmouth, Devon where he had lived for the past 20+ years.”

From David Connelly [Heath 41-48]

John MORTON: ?-2013 [Heath 1982-2009]

“John joined the modern languages staff at Heath Grammar School in 1982. He immediately proved popular with both pupils and staff. He was an excellent replacement for Alan Guy in the staff quiz team and provided a daily challenge to see whether I could fight through the traffic from Huddersfield before he weaved through on his bike. I usually just beat him homeward up the Ainleys.

On the amalgamation of the school with Crossley and Porter School in 1985, he was appointed Head of General Studies, a post for which his wide range of knowledge and interests perfectly suited him. His talents were such that he was appointed, successively, Head of Sixth Form and then Deputy Head in the year 2000. His ill health forced him to give up teaching in 2009.

His expertise in and enthusiasm for his subject meant that he was a skilled professional teacher and one who added much more to his work with the young people in his care. His warm personality and great good humour endeared him in equal measure to his colleagues and to those of whom he taught. He was unstuffy and had a ready wit. On one occasion, I (John) had to introduce him (John) to a visitor (John) and his first remark was to comment on how unimaginative our parents had been in the choice of names. As Head, I would encounter grumbles from staff, parents and pupils but John never grumbled and, moreover, was never the subject of anyone else's grumble. I can truly say that I cannot ever remember a bad word being said against him.

His commitment went well beyond the confines of the classroom. His enjoyment of the natural world around him, linked with his zest for travel, meant that he undertook innumerable trips and expeditions. Tony Edwards, his long-standing colleague in modern languages, calculates that they must have undertaken at least 30 school visits to Europe together. In addition, he regularly volunteered to join visits associated with other subjects. He organised much of the field studies work during the weeks at Harlech, which will be fondly remembered by students of the 80s and 90s. It was he who conspired with Richard Fleming to get a rather uncooperative boy to carry a packet of so-called “concentrated water crystals” up Snowdon, explaining that when they reached the summit they would only have to add water to provide a refreshing drink for everyone. He planned and carried out the Millennium Mediterranean Expedition in 2000. On all these journeys, he devoted himself tirelessly to the welfare of those for whom he so carefully took responsibility. He was truly an “all rounder” with a breadth of intelligence, knowledge and interest that impressed all who knew him.

In helping to run the school, John ensured that he was the one who usually identified solutions rather than the one who came up with the problems. He was a skilful timetabler who always had an eye to the future and what needed to be developed rather than relying on how things had always been. He unhesitatingly put himself forward to lead in major projects such as the school's “Beacon School” programme and in acquiring the status of a specialist language school. His management of the senior students was patient and sympathetic, leaving all with the feeling that he cared personally about them.

His death after a long and valiant struggle is a sad loss and the heartfelt sympathies of all who worked with John go to Lynne And Robert and Rachel.

Heath and Crossley Heath were fortunate indeed to have had the long-term services of such a teacher as John Morton.”

John Bunch

John FLETCHER: 1924-2013 [Heath 1936-43]

“With the passing of John Fletcher in April, Heath lost one of our most loyal Old Boys. John was born in 1924, and attended Heath from 1936 until 1943, the era evoked so well by John in his article that can be read in the 2010 newsletter.

After leaving school John's first job was at Mackintosh's, but he soon left to join the R.A.F. where he served on radar operations in Iceland and the Outer Hebrides. Continuing his academic studies after the war, he took an external first class honours degree in Chemistry from London University, at the then Technical High, later going on to gain a Ph.D. from London University, for whom he later acted as an examiner. John spent his entire post-war working life with W.I.R.A. – the Wool Industry Research Association – in Leeds, retiring in 1984.

A man of wide interests, John was a keen botanist, hardly missing a meeting of the Halifax SCIENTIFIC Society for many years. He was also an accomplished pianist, with a deep knowledge of the French classical composers.

John retained a great affection for Heath and a very sharp memory of his school life. He often remarked that he wished that he had never had to leave! It may be a cliché, but his school days really were happy ones.

Our sympathy goes to Marjorie, his family and many friends.”

Rod Eastwood

Malcolm BAKE: ?-2013

Malcolm Bake left Heath at 15 to work as an apprentice fitter at John Stirks. He had a distinguished career of public service in Halifax, including a year as Deputy Mayor, and as a councillor and magistrate. Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Major Keith McDONALD: 1929-2012

Keith McDonald, who died last year aged 83, had a distinguished record of public service. He had links for well over half a century with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Halifax R.U.F.C., the Halifax Conservative Association, was Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and a magistrate. Keith was also Chairman of the school governors from 1974-82, when he always had the best interests of the school at heart. *The Courier* headline read 'T.A. Major was devoted to the Dukes, to sport and to the Calderdale community', a good summing up of his character and achievements.

Hugh Arnold Freeman DUDLEY CBE MB 1947 ChM FRCSE FRACS:

In Aberlour, 28 June 2011, aged 85, was educated at Heath Grammar School, Halifax. He served in the RAMC during WWII in the Rhine Army. He became a lecturer in surgery at Edinburgh University in 1954 before moving to Aberdeen as senior lecturer at Aberdeen University. He then moved to Melbourne, Australia where he became Foundation Professor of Surgery at the new Monash University where he established departments of surgery and medicine. During the Vietnam War he joined the volunteer civilian surgical team. He returned to the UK in 1973 to take the post as professor of surgery at St Mary's Hospital, London, remaining there until 1988. He wrote many articles and books and was associate editor of the *British Medical Journal* and edited and contributed to the classic UK textbook *Operative Surgery*.

YOUR COMMITTEE

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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).