



# Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter

## Issue December 2004

Website: [www.heatholdboys.org.uk](http://www.heatholdboys.org.uk)

### A LETTER FROM THE HEAD

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"Another year has flown by in the life of Crossley Heath and everyone associated with the School would probably confirm that we have experienced a mix of emotions during the past twelve months. These have included euphoria, arising from excellent examination results (the best ever!) and outstanding successes achieved once again by Crossley Heath students and staff, and concern resulting from the impact the new Calderdale Coordinated Admissions Scheme has had on parents who might have been considering a grammar school education for their child. The governing body of Crossley Heath School lodged an objection with the Schools Adjudicator, in the interests of these parents. The Chief Adjudicator (Dr Philip Hunter) determined, on 15 October, that he would not uphold this objection. However, his decision was for this year only and he has urged Calderdale Education Authority to consult all parents in advance of next year's round of admissions.

In terms of 14-19 Education, Calderdale's overall Advanced level results and the number of students going on to Higher Education are the lowest across all of the authorities in West Yorkshire. Funding for Post 16 education comes directly from the Learning and Skills Council who are monitoring Calderdale's Post 16 statistics closely. Over the next three years, they will be looking at the cumulative achievement and aspirations of 16-19 year olds across Calderdale to determine whether any improvement is being made. Therefore, we must remain committed to collaborative ways of working with other Post 16 providers in order to raise standards and to demonstrate that, within Calderdale, cost effective education is provided. It is already acknowledged by the authority that the results of Crossley Heath School students make a very real and positive contribution to overall Post 16 standards in Calderdale. However, the Learning and Skills Council will not be looking at individual schools and we recognise, as a lifelong learning environment, that in working collaboratively we can learn from our colleagues in other schools as well as increasing the range of academic and enrichment courses available to our own students.

Reports from parents and other spectators have indicated that the profile of music has been raised during the past twelve months. There are now over eighty members in the choir and new clubs, including ladies and mens' barber shop groups are adding to the already popular string, guitar and folk music groups. The choir have enjoyed a number of successes including being placed in the top 4 in the Yorkshire Schools Christmas Choir of the Year Competition. They sang like angels when they performed in the centre of Leeds last December. The choir and the windband also participated in the Mrs Sutherland and the Music for Youth Regional Festivals.

In sports, the girls' U14 football team were unbeaten in the West Yorkshire League; in Netball, the U15's and the U19's both won the Calderdale league and in Hockey, the U14's and the U19's won their Calderdale leagues. In the English Schools' Cross Country Championships, Katie Empsall was selected to represent West Yorkshire and in the Calderdale Schools Swimming Gala, the School's U16 relay team won the 3 by 50m Relay Shield for the 4th consecutive year, setting a new record in the process.

The Rugby Union season ended on a high with a unique triple. The U14's were selected to represent Yorkshire in the North of England State School Championships in March, which they won convincingly. They also played extremely well in what was a very exciting final of the County Cup, drawing with Bradford Grammar School. The U16's defeated St Wilfred's College in their final, thereby helping to make us the only school ever to win two County finals in the same season. Twenty-eight Year 10 and Year 11 students and five staff went on a highly successful tour to Australia in July. They played fixtures in Perth, the Gold Coast, Sydney and Cairns and the boys won 5 out of 6 matches. Highlights of the trip were victories against Cranbrook School in Sydney, one of the strongest in Australia, and Hale School in Perth who look likely to become the Champions of Western Australia. Crossley Heath boys certainly reinforced the message that British rugby players are to be taken seriously.

Students of all ages, led by the Charity Committee, worked hard to raise funds for a variety of charities. The total for 2003/4 was in excess of £8,500 and various events included Non-Uniform days, Comic Relief, a Mile Run for Sport Relief and Stars in Their Eyes.

The entire school celebrated one year as a Language College on our International Day in July when the normal school timetable was suspended giving our students, and students in our partner schools, an opportunity to take part in several activities including language taster sessions, art, calligraphy, music, dance and sport. There was a demonstration of martial arts including kendo, organised by Post 16 student Laura Mallard, who spent six months living in Japan and who now runs a very successful lunchtime club focusing on various aspects of Japanese culture.

Outside of the classroom students have been developing international awareness and increasing their global citizenship skills. They have visited different parts of the country as well as Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, China and Australia and have represented the school admirably on these occasions. Several members of staff have undertaken Teachers' International Professional Development Opportunities to Helsinki, Italy, Paris and China and we hosted a delegation of 12 teachers from China in July.

We are pleased with the extension to the Languages wing, which was completed in August and is an area of the school that is used daily between 7.30am and 9.30pm by the school and for after school classes. Our skilled team of site staff also completed a great many internal improvements to the school building, including the complete redecoration of the main hall. We are grateful to the various bodies that work hard to raise funds for the school, not least of all **Heath Old Boys' Association**. Without their contributions, some of the work carried out this summer would not have been possible.

Having commuted to work for three years, from the "wrong" side of the Pennines, I am glad to say that I am now making a much shorter journey to and from school each day and, as a result am enjoying developing new friendships in the area. The new term in September got off to a really good start. Staff and students have again worked hard and the atmosphere in school is one of optimism. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy and successful 2005."

Helen Gaunt

## **REPORT FROM THE GOVERNORS**

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The Head Teacher, Helen Gaunt, attended the Old Boys' Dinner at West Vale on 19 November 2004 and gave a good report about the success of the school both in academia and in sport.

The school has just returned another set of highly impressive examination results both at GCSE and AS levels. Local Heathens will have seen the report in the recent Courier that the school is now regarded as one of the leading schools in Yorkshire – because of both its academic and its sporting prowess.

Helen Gaunt was a welcome visitor to the dinner and she was fulsome in her thanks to the Association for its financial support, i.e. as a result of the Millennium Fund and continuing in the provision of prizes.

Russell Smith, the Secretary of the Association until recently, is spending a fair amount of time each week at the school attending to the archiving of HGS material. That work is regarded as highly valuable by the school and, on appropriate appointment, can be seen at the school.

The school now has Foundation Status so that it exercises an appreciable amount of autonomy in relation to admissions, funding, premises and policy. The body responsible in law for these functions is the governors and HGS is now well represented on the Governing body.

David Armitage (1951-1957) continues in his capacity as the Chairman of the Staff and Personnel Committee giving of his considerable relevant experience with ICI. He, with Grayham Smith, has been responsible for setting objectives for and reviewing the performance of the Head Teacher. Grayham Smith, having undertaken this role for 3 years, has now had to vacate the post but he continues to serve on the marketing committee and subject to availability as a result of full-time work, the Finance Committee.

The august body is in the hands of Chairman John Robertshaw (1958-1965) and thus has oversight of a budget well over £2 million.

Rod Atkinson (1946-1952) continues as the Chairman of the Premises Committee.

That is very busy at the moment because work has recently started on the Technology Block extension. Apart from new work, the building is extensive and the programme of renewal and refurbishment continues to present regular problems. Rod is well equipped to deal with such matters as a result of his years of experience as Borough Architect at Huddersfield CBC/Kirklees MBC.

Gordon Stansfield (a teacher at school before the amalgamation) is now one of the staff governors along with Steve Donlan who both attended school (1979-1986) and has taught there since 1995 in his main line subject of history but is also taking a prime interest in the school's rugby team.

Heathens will be aware that the school has now taken on the special mantle as a language college. This certainly does not mean that any other subject has been abandoned in favour of languages but it does mean that the facilities for teaching languages has, on the back of Government money which goes with the adoption of that status, improved its teaching facilities and has also provided a facility to teach languages in the community of Calderdale.

Heathens will be interested to know that, apart from maintaining the expected links in Europe, there is now an active and growing link between the school and a school in Beijing.

Enquiries about the language college and possible enrolment to the evening classes can be directed to John Morton, Assistant Head and another teacher from the days at HGS.

G. P. Smith  
January 2005

## NEWS

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### Advance Notice – For Your Diary

The A.G.M. and pie and pea supper will be held at Heath R.U.F.C., West Vale, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The A.G.M. commences at 7pm and the entertainment at 7.30pm. A good evening is guaranteed – so be there!

### Heath Old Boys' Dinner, RUFC, Halifax. 19 November 2004.



The Annual Dinner, held at West Vale on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2004, was enjoyed by about 50 Old Boys. Mr A N Connell said the school grace, and the loyal toast was proposed by Mr. J R Farrell. The response was given by the Head Teacher, Miss H J Gaunt, who entertained and flattered us, and spoke eloquently about the academic and social progress of the school.

The guest speaker was Mr D J Potter, who seemed to have changed little since his wayward schooldays. The meal was excellent and a good time was had by all.

Mr J Hamer organised the now obligatory silly game, which raised over £200.

Mr R Smith spoke about the archives housed at school, which still need much sorting, and are always available to consult or browse through.

## Congratulations

Professor Judith W. George was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in the 2004 New Year Honours List.

Judith, who now lives in Edinburgh, is the daughter of the late Mr. Arthur Holt, one time head of Modern Languages at Heath. She attended the sixth form at Heath for three years from 1956-59 studying Classics. She was welcomed as our first lady member of Heath Old Boys' Association in the December 1999 issue of the Newsletter, which gives details of her outstanding career in higher education, particularly in Scotland.

## A Note from the Archive

The school used to own a good deal of land & property stretching back from Todmorden to Northowram, which provided income for the school to provide a free education. The letter dated August 17, 1837 [typed exactly below] was noticed among the correspondence and was written by Joseph Medley, who rented a farm at Ovenden Cross and failed to pay the rent. The governors were anxious to draw the arrears and set their agent to get them. He, J Patchett, describes Medley as 'slovenly, idle fellow and I should say, the sooner the governors get quit of him as tenant the better'.

*August 17. 1837*

*To the Governer's of the free Grammer scholl heath Gentle men. I write to you a few lines of my situation when i took the farm I had a hundred Pounds in Mr Haighs hands wich I laid out in that place and for six years i worked Day and Night nearly i did my work at Cropping in the Night and worked in the Land in the day time for all That I did Not make twenty pounds a year one with another I have had very bad Crops 8 years out this time and now To see the Distress my family is thrown into Seven Children some without father and mother bringing with tears in theirs eyes, Grandfather where must we sleep, I have no where to lay my head nor yours, Now Gentlemen hath toiled To ~~toiled to~~ get the land in good order and now is Deprived of home and habitation and if I had my wright that I have laid out I should not owe you one halfpenny witnes To all my Neighbours but now I am willing to liver up On fair terms but not as I was Gered at the Election To agree with me one day and make Distress Another I hope you will Consider my Situation no where to ly my head  
I remain your Petitioner*

*Jopseh Medley*

## Dr. Favour Appears in Novel

2004 saw the publication of the latest novel by highly regarded Irish novelist Ronan Bennett. Entitled 'Havoc, In Its Third Year'; it is set in Halifax in 1630, according to the author a year of social havoc and religious ferment.

Dr. Favour has a strong presence in the novel, not, alas, as a benevolent gentleman and educator, but as a religious fanatic and persecutor. He is one of a council of Protestant fundamentalists who are determined to root out papism and generally 'clean up' the town. In a sermon he advocates no mercy for anyone who transgresses in any way.

It is a grim, brutal story, but excellently written and worth a read. The novel's contemporary relevance is obvious.

## Andrew Watson – the last word?

In last year's newsletter certain misinformation was given about Andrew Watson, Heath Old Boy and Scottish football captain.

His story is a fascinating and mysterious one. The documentary programme made about his life in 2003 has now been shown on BBC4 and BBC2. A video of the programme is in the Resource Centre at school and can be viewed by anyone interested.

Suffice to say that Watson lived in Halifax from 1864-70, when he boarded at Crossley's and attended Heath during the day, before going to public school in London.

## MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

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### The Judiciary.

By GP Smith

Beveridge started it all in 1948. That is the Welfare State. Since then there has been an ever increasing, ever changing and ever more complex set of rules and regulations to prescribe the circumstances in which, and the amounts which, can be awarded to claimants for benefit.

Probably Beveridge could never have contemplated the annual budget administered now by the Department of Work and Pensions (formerly the DSS, formerly the DHSS etc.).

In essence the system is simple. People become ill and can't work; people are unemployed; people achieve pension age; people become disabled and infirm; people have accidents at work and people with children fall out.

In each of those cases (and many more) the State has machinery to help.

If a claimant believes that he is entitled, he must make a claim and if his expectations and hopes are fulfilled, benefit will be awarded.

That however is not always the case! Common circumstances, other than meeting the claim in full, are that (a) the claim is not met in full, (b) the claim is not met at all and (c) after the event, it is found that the claim has been "over-met" and there is money [*sic*] back to the State.

In each of those situations, for example, there may be reasons which it is considered justify registering a protest against the decision which has been made by the Secretary of State.

To meet those kind of circumstances, the Appeals Service exists nationwide to hear appeals – it is hoped quickly and without the great, possibly terrifying, procedures which have to be faced in the Courts system.

The hope is that the issues can be identified, heard before a Tribunal specially constituted to deal with the problem in question and a decision made within 3 months.

The appellants are not subject to cross-examination although searching questions will no doubt be asked but within the relatively informal atmosphere of the Tribunal, whose task is to find as much out about the situation, find facts and apply the law.

The procedure is aimed at enabling the appellant to make as much of his case as he can without the fear of costs being awarded against him or her should the appeal be dismissed.

Four Heathens are, or have been, engaged in dispensing justice within the system over the last several years.

First, and the one retiree, is **Mr John Shoesmith** who was at school in the 1930s and still is a regular attender at the Old Boys' Dinners. John was an accomplished rugby footballer at school and went on to represent Yorkshire as a centre-three-quarter during his medical training. He came to the Appeals Service in his capacity as a general surgeon at Leeds General Infirmary and served on the Tribunals with great distinction until his retirement.

Consultants of his status were required when adjudicating upon Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, which required, apart from hearing the appeal with a lawyer, a medical examination and an assessment by the Tribunal of the degree of disablement following an accident at work.

**Dr Brian Whitaker** was at school from 1943 to 1951 before he also embarked upon his medical training at Leeds University and the teaching hospitals there. Brian has now been a member of the Appeals Service since 1992 and because of an age-bar will shortly be ending a period of valuable service.

He has sat on Tribunals which deal with appeals about Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance – primarily in the Wakefield venue but his abilities are such that his talents have been sought over a far wider field.

He is well known and has endeared himself to other Tribunal members by providing bags of delightful doughnuts every time he sits.

Brian is also a regular attender at the Old Boys' Dinners.

**Mr Richard Crosland** (1957 to 1964) is a chartered accountant in Halifax and is a regular member of the Heath Old Boys' Walking Group, which meets every first Saturday in the month.

His consummate talents have been recognised for the purposes of dealing with appeals from that notoriously complex and troubled area of Child Support.

Not every such case required the assistance of a financially qualified panel member but Richard is enlisted where questions are likely to arise from complicated self-employed accounts or from the accounts of private limited companies. Richard serves mainly in Leeds but again his talents have taken him to such far-flung venues as Carlisle, Newcastle and Hull.

**Mr Grayham Smith** (1952-1959) having been a partner in the Halifax firm of solicitors Rice Jones and Smith for 25 years and having served as a part-time chairman of Tribunals from 1989, became a full-time district chairman in 1993. Lawyers take the chair in all Tribunals and Grayham sometimes sits alone, with consultant medical members, with GPs (like Brian Whitaker) and with financially qualified panel members, i.e. Richard Crosland and his ilk. He chairs Tribunals in the whole range of Social Security and allied appeals and is now a district chairman, jointly with another, for Leeds, Bradford and Keighley, an area which also incorporates the whole of Calderdale for appeals purposes.

John Shoesmith is now retired but the other three remain very active and it can be safely said that all have and do derive great enjoyment from the work as a result of the intellectual stimulus provided by the never-ending challenges presented by diverse appellants from all walks of life, each one presenting their own story, their misfortunes and their needs.

- and, by association, **Beáta Connell**, the wife of **Andrew Connell** (1958-1966) who is also a District Chairman, having been educated in the Kossuth Gimnasium, Budapest (1967-71) and at Budapest University (1971-76). She qualified as a solicitor in the UK in 1982 and now lives with Andrew and their three children in Appleby.

## **Where are they now...?**

David Bottomley [1946-50] wonders if anyone has any knowledge of the whereabouts of two of his school friends of that period. They are W.A. (Bill) Terrington, who at that time lived in Holden Street, St. James's Road and Geoffrey Holdsworth who lived in Forest Avenue, Illingworth.

He also recalls an encounter when working in advertising in London on the 1957/58 period when Langley ("Bob") Brown, who at that time was in the London Office in Fleet Street of the *Bristol Evening Post*. Bob and David soon discovered they both came from Halifax and had been to Heath, although they did not know each other at school. Does anyone know anything about "Bob" Brown - when he was at school, and what happened to him?

*If you can help, please contact the Newsletter Editor (details in the contact section) who will pass on your letters.*

## **COPY OF THE RESOLUTIONS**

### **Passed by the Governors as to the Management of Heath School**

[Taken from the history of the school written by Thomas Cox, who was headmaster in the late 19th century.]

**That** the School-year be divided into three terms:- Michaelmas Term to commence on or about the 15th September, Lent Term on or about the 14th January, Midsummer Term on or about the 14th of April.

**That** the fees for Boys in the Senior Department be £12 per annum, and for the Boys in the Junior Department £8, until the School can be re-modelled, and that afterwards the Fees be raised.

**That** the Registration Fee shall be 2s. 6d., and that no entrance fee shall be charged at present, and that the registration shall be managed by the Secretaries.

**That** the Easter Holidays be from the Thursday before Easter to the Easter Tuesday morning, and that the other Holidays during the terms be left to the discretion of the Head Master.

**That** the religious instruction in the School be restricted to Lessons in the Bible, as by the Scheme exemptions from attendance at prayers, and from any religious lesson can be claimed on written notice thereof being given to the Head Master, but that provision be made for the teaching of the Book of Common Prayer (as a voluntary subject) to any Scholar whose parent may express a desire that he should be taught the same.

**That** the Head Money allowed to the Master be at present £5 for every Boy in the School.

**That** a Mathematical and Science Master be appointed after Christmas at a salary of about £150, and that Mr. Cox engage a French Master for Lessons upon the best terms that he can.

**That** every Boy who is already in the School may remain without examination, if his parents will pay the extra Fees, and that any Boy already in the School may remain in the Junior Department until the age of Fifteen, instead of Fourteen, as stated in the Scheme.

**That** the Examinations be held in July.

### **Geoffrey Dawrant [?-1948]**

Geoffrey Dawrant writes via email on 19 October 2004:

"I have happy memories of my years at Heath, and especially my several years involvement in scouting.

I've practised medicine (now just two days a week and with a special interest in hypnotherapy) in Edmonton, Alberta, for the past 37 years. Canada has been a good place to live and work. I get over to the 'old country' from time to time. My family now live in Harrogate and Exeter. I plan to visit the UK in February 2005. If I get over to Halifax I'll let you know and arrange to visit Heath and see what changes have taken place since I left in 1948 -- to do my national service and then go up to Cambridge.

Mr. Swale was headmaster at that time and Mr. Phoenix Science Master. COM was a fine history teacher, I recall. I'm trying to remember the name of the Latin teacher who was a great help to me. I had given up that subject early on, but of course needed Latin to get into Cambridge and he gave me a cram course when in the science sixth form (1946 - 48) for which I shall always be grateful. Is Latin still a requirement for admission to Oxford/Cambridge?

I'm happy to say that Latin is still taught in a number of Edmonton schools, including Tempo -- an excellent private school near where we live and where all our four children attended. They have a website - **[www.temposchool.org](http://www.temposchool.org)**

All best wishes

Geoffrey Dawrant "

Email: [gadawrant@hotmail.com](mailto:gadawrant@hotmail.com)

## The Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth AT HEATH, NEAR HALIFAX

[Taken from the history of the school written by Thomas Cox, who was headmaster in the late 19th century.]

On the back of the document, written in Thomas Cox's own hand, is:

For Day Boys  
The Terms & Objects of the Heath School - 1864  
Revd. Thos Cox  
Headmaster

MASTER.....REV. THOS. COX, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.  
(Formerly Pupil of the Dean of Lincoln and of the Bishop of Manchester, and a First-Class Man.)

USHER OR SECOND MASTER, REV. W.C. WHITEHEAD, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

ASSISTANT-MASTER....Mr. W. J. BROOKES, of the London Univeristy.

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This School was founded by Royal Charter, dated 1585, for the instruction of Boys in "the Greek and Latin Languages, and the "grounds of Religion;" and for such purposes it is *Free* to "the Children "of Parents permanently resident in, the Parish and Vicarage "of Halifax." These Boys are also, on payment of *One Guinea per Quarter*, receive instruction in "Writing, Arithmetic, Mathematics, English Composition," and similar subjects.

The number of such Boys is limited to *Sixty*, and they must be, at the time of their admission, "not under the age of Seven Years or "over the age of Fourteen, or unable to read English."

All boys, beyond this number or exceeding this age, are admitted only on the Master's own terms, and may be refused, if not coming up to a certain standard.

Each boy, according to his position in the School, receives accurate training in Writing, English Grammar and Composition; in General Geography; in the Political and Literary History of England and its Constitution and Literature; in the Facts contained in the Old and New Testaments; in the Prayer-book and Catechism of the Church of England; and in Arithmetic, Geometry, and Algebra. If intended for a University, he learns everything requisite for obtaining the highest position in Classics or Mathematics. Every boy however must, in accordance with the Statutes, learn Latin, and his position in the School is chiefly determined by the progress which he makes in it: and, when promoted to the Second Class, he must commence Greek.

There is an examination every month in the principal subjects; and a general examination (partly oral, and partly written) at the end of the Half-year, when there are Prizes given to the most deserving.

The School, as now conducted, has for its object the education of boys on sound and liberal principles, so that they may have their minds well instructed, and may find no difficulty in adapting themselves to any particular profession or pursuit on leaving school.

The School-hours are from 9 o'clock to 12, and from 2 to 5, except on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when there is no school in the afternoon. Every boy must be punctual and regular in his attendance; and, when he returns after absence, he must bring a note from a parent or guardian, stating that such absence was with permission. The only *sufficient* excuse is ill-health.

The fixed holidays are 6 weeks at Midsummer, commencing about 20th of June, and 5 at Christmas, commencing about the 20th of December. There are also a few days at Easter and at Michaelmas.

There is a payment of about *eight shillings* per annum for the use of Pens, Ink, Examination papers, Coal and Gas. And all damage done to the School Property must be made good by the Parents.

Those boys, who are admissible only on the Master's own terms, have to pay from *Two to Four Guineas* extra, according to their position in the School.

There is also an extra charge for such boys as learn French.



It is desirable that notice should be given before the removal of a boy from School. Any boy, who is absent for a Quarter, will be considered to have left, and will not be again admitted without paying the Fee for such Quarters as he was absent.

The Books and Stationery used in the School are to be had at the School.  
Boys may dine with the Master and his Family at Twelve guineas per annum.

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Boys, who have been at this School two years, are admissible with those educated at Leeds and Heversham Schools, as Candidates for the Milner Scholarships at Magdalene College, Cambridge, which are worth about £70 per annum.

## **Reminiscences of Heath in the 1950s [Rod Collins]**

Walking about 10 miles in a group which includes Grayham Smith (1952-1959) on the first Saturday of each month allows him the time (we don't walk all that quickly!) to apply considerable pressure upon one to contribute to this rag. Reminiscences of Heath in the 50s is what he's after so to get him off my back, here goes!

1951's 1B had Syd Fox as form master. He was keen on his Ancient History of the Middle East and on Latin and he was inspirational in these subjects. I remember him caressing brand new text books in which there were photographs of reliefs in stone of bearded Assyrians. He made us feel proud to be the books' first users and privileged to be about to embark upon Ancient History. He had us rolling our Rs in Latin to impart a true Roman accent in to our puerile utterings. He was so enthusiastic. At the end of that first year of mine at Heath he left to take up a post at Bingley where I am told he had a successful career. It was Heath's loss.

One day in 2B neither the quiet Archie Littlefair nor Tishy Holt as a stand-in could take our French lesson so the prefect Douggie Gillett (also a fearsome wing forward) was sent to take the class. Like Syd Fox who had tried to give us Roman accents so Douggie tried to give the lads of West Yorkshire a French accent by having us repeat over and over again something that became fixed in my memory even to this day - 'avez vous vu mon canard'.

Then there was Music with yet another possessed individual, Mr Pilcher. How did he maintain such enthusiasm in the face of tone deaf pupils such as us. I recall, in perhaps 3B when voices were beginning to break, the poor man spending countless lessons trying to get us to sing the light and fast moving 'Trout'. The result was never better than awful.

Swimming lessons at Park Road baths produced some incidents. The master taking us for the period before swimming had to allow us out 10 minutes early and the one who would be taking us after swimming had to allow us back 10 minutes late. For some reason this was always done grudgingly - if I had been one of the masters I would happily have had less time in front of such as 3B or 4B. With the two concessions this provided an hour to run the prescribed route (up to St Jude's, around Bell Hall and along Arden Road to the baths), undress, swim, dress and run back. The things which went on in that hour!

Macho guys raced to be first in the pool. This involved using illicit routes through the streets behind St Jude's. However, there were some for whom swimming was scary and the last thing on earth they wished to do. Their journey to Park Road was always beset with twisted ankles and helping old ladies across the road to ensure the minimum of time in the pool. The return journey had its own diversions. An enjoyable illicit smoke (usually those who had raced to be first there), the delights of the shops behind St Jude's which at break times were strictly out of bounds and therefore must sell forbidden fruit. Interestingly, those slowest to the pool were amongst the earliest to the shops with their twisted ankles. For some, including myself, St Jude's shops were too far away to satisfy the raging hunger of a quick swim at Park Road. We went for total route non-compliance and headed out of the baths down West Parade to a small bakery where currant teacakes, hot out of the oven, could be bought.

Lack of time made it impossible to race back up to Park Road and return to school by the prescribed route. So, taking care to avoid being seen by the headmaster of Trinity Junior Boys' whose study window overlooked the bakery and we believed he would report us to Walter Swale seeing that we were not on the prescribed route (paranoia for a teacake!), we quickly made tracks, eating as we went. Along South Street, The Boulevard, Love Lane, Well Head Fields (ignoring the easier route to Sparrow Park as it would have us approaching school up Freeschool Lane instead of downwards and masters may be watching!), The Cat Steps and alongside the Infirmary's maternity ward to rejoin our classmates in Freeschool Lane.

Some swimmers for the foregoing or other reasons, were late for their next period. All masters protested about the lateness but Bill Charlton used it as another excuse to chastise us.

Heath in the 50s was fortunate to have such a wonderful array of masters. C O Mackley (COM) the perfect gentleman who actually addressed us as gentlemen! He was respected by everyone. Larry Owen who with his erect presence and booming voice, should have been speaking in debates in ancient Athens or Rome rather than teaching us Greek and Latin. Alan Carter had youth and still played rugby so he tended to be accepted as 'one of the boys'. Polly Hallowes' enthusiasm for maths would send his voice in to falsetto every lesson - or was it our misbehaviour? Biddy Taylor managed somehow in his quiet and gentle way to get some interest in poetry and Shakespeare. Then there was the excitement of turning halfpennies in to shillings in mercury solutions behind 'Kettle's' back. I'll never know how that seemingly frail man, Hewson, had the guts to stand in a laboratory all day with form after form determined to set fire to the place with Bunsen burners or to blow it up with illegal experiments, 'Nuffer' Morris in his faltering style, could make physics so easily grasped that one felt an understanding of the Universe was possible. Placing one foot carefully after the other whilst wearing his waterproof Weldschoen and walking and speaking rather slowly but purposefully was clearly part of Harry Birchall's method of commanding one's attention. That he did this is patently obvious from his outstanding record at Ilkley 7s in the 50s and 60s.

To have such an array of inspirational and dedicated masters could not be a fluke, it had to have all to do with the most inspirational of them all, the head, Walter Swale. He led the masters and the pupils magnificently by personal example and made us all proud to be Heathens.

The 5th form concentrated the mind on 'O' levels and the great release from studies was playing rugby and aspiring to follow in famous footsteps to success at Ilkley. I had to wait until a second year in the upper 6th, going for better grades at 'A' level a second time around, to have the honour of seeing my name on the red ink team sheet posted by Harry Birchall. The biggest disappointment I had at school was not the receipt of notices of failures at 'O' level which put a place in the 6th form in jeopardy, but to be injured in the final 7s practice at Kensington in 1959 and not to be able to play on the great day when yet another success was achieved.

### **A Letter From Russell Sunderland CB FCILT**

"Many thanks for letting me have Geoffrey Shearing's details. Last year's newsletter included a reference to me by Geoff which prompted me to make contact. Having had no communication with him since we left school in the mid-fifties, I think the value of HOBA has once again been emphatically demonstrated.

Geoff has now retired from his post at Newcastle University and found time to give me a quick tour of the wonders of that city - between reminiscences, of course. We discovered that we had both retained the capacity to recite the 2A form-list (Allingham, Bake, Braim, Chisholm...) in 14 seconds flat, and shared similar views on the quality of our teachers. Our common non-curricular interest was the school chess team which seemed to be locked permanently in deadly combat with Huddersfield College. However, in these days of oddball research projects, somebody might like to explore why a mathematician should remember incidents which have totally escaped the memory-bank of a linguist and vice versa.

While I am writing, may I offer a contribution on the topic of staff nick-names? Unless I missed something in an earlier newsletter, the origin of 'Larry' as the name by which Norman Gain was known, remains a mystery to current members of the Association. An obituary in the Times recently recorded the passing of one Larry Gaine (sic) who made his name in the mid-thirties with an epic solo flight to Australia. That event must have coincided approximately with Norman Gain's arrival at Heath. I did incidentally visit him in his retirement home in Liverpool a year or two before his death, where he seemed very happy and revealed another of his many talents by presenting me with a collection of poems that he had written at various stages of his life.

Assuming your membership list is now computerised, would it be possible to record the year of entry to the school (university-style) so that a year-group can readily be identified? (And can you make sure the Data Protection Act doesn't get in the way of members' use of the information?)

I won't take up more than my fair share of your valuable pages by giving you an account of life in what are regarded (often inaccurately) as the corridors of power. However, for the record I too am retired and still living in Surrey where I enjoy occasional meetings with Barry Edwards (as it happens, a former colleague of Geoff Shearing at Manchester University).

Keep up the good work. All good wishes."

## Remove Class of 1944

Here is a photograph of the Remove Class of 1944 supplied by Andrew Jackson, via Ken Binks. Ken has stated that he can supply names, which will be posted here as we get them.

If you are one of the boys in the picture - or know any of them - then please **get in touch** with your memories so they can be recorded.



- Identification kindly supplied by Ken Binks
- |                    |                |                     |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mr Hewson       | 11. McGill     | 21. Wintersgill     |
| 2. E F Heppenstall | 12. J M Hardy  | 22. I Wood          |
| 3. Rushworth       | 13. D Jackson  | 23. Baldwin         |
| 4. Welsh           | 14. K Binks    | 24. J Rothera       |
| 5. N J Berry       | 15. J Pickles  | 25. Greenwood       |
| 6. Bond            | 16. G F Stocks | 26. Sparrow         |
| 7. J Morley        | 17. T Speak    | 27. Jack Richardson |
| 8. E F Wood        | 18. J Eastwood | 28. Crossley        |
| 9. G Cowper        | 19. Gilliat    | 29. Dr Brown (Oddy) |
| 10. J B Homer      | 20. J T Riley  |                     |

## Change of Address

Harold & Heather Gilmour write on 30th June 2004:

"We are off on our travels again, and have sold up here in Halifax. We are setting off to New Zealand in early July with the intention of re-settling there again. We expect to have made the move by the end of July.

We have not settled in Halifax, and originally thought that moving into a new apartment would give us a peaceful way of life.

"That has most certainly not been the case, and we know that apartment life is not for us. All the residents in this new development have had untold problems with the Developer, and getting him to correct errors is a nightmare. Of course, once he has your money, you have no hold over him. Also, living in such close proximity to 23 other residents, and being able to hear just about every time they open a door or sneeze, is no way to live. Enough of that.

We really want to be nearer to our daughter, Melissa, and know that if we do not move now, we will move there in the near future, so it might as well be now.

We will be staying with Melissa for a very short time, then look for somewhere to rent before deciding on our future home, wherever that might be.

**We will let everyone know when a more permanent address is sorted out."**

## All Aboard for a Back-Stage Rendez-Vous

*David Bottomley, who was at Heath from 1946 to 1950, writes about meetings with one of his old school friends, Barrie Ingham, the actor.*

Over forty years ago, I recall that I met up with one of my best friends at school - Barrie Ingham. The venue was back-stage at a Dublin theatre. I was in the Irish capital on business, and had been out to dinner with a colleague when I noticed a poster for a show at a theatre. The name of the star immediately caught my eye, as it was Barrie Ingham. I therefore got my colleague to drop me off after dinner at the theatre, and when the audience started to come out, I approached the stage door in the hope that I might be able to catch Barrie before he had changed and left. I was fortunate and we had a short chat, and when he was ready to leave, he invited me back with him to the house where his wife, Tarne, and very young daughter, Katherine, were staying. It was a lovely end to what in effect had been a chance meeting. It was the first time I had seen Barrie for about five or six years, which had also been back stage at the theatre in Barnsley where he was performing in twice-nightly rep.



When I left the house in the south of Dublin that evening, little did I realise that I would not see him - apart from on television, where I particularly remember him playing the part of Robin Hood - for another forty years! I had tried keeping in contact, but actors are by the nature of their job peripatetic, and it was difficult. In 1979, when I was Chairman of Heath Old Boys' Association for the first time, I made a great effort to contact him to see if he would be our guest speaker at the Annual Dinner, and with the help of 'Spotlight', the stage directory of actors and actresses, I contacted his agent who kindly forwarded my letter to him. However when the reply came from the appropriately named "Robin Hood Trail" in Austin, Texas, I realised that I was not going to be successful. The letter, which was written by Tarne, as Barrie was heavily involved in Ibsen's "The Doll's House" and also his own one-man show, suggested that they might settle in the States, so I thought we might not meet up again.

After that I lost contact with Barrie and Tarne completely. I heard of "sightings" of him on television, and also on stage in London, but nothing that I was able to follow up. It was therefore a great surprise and pleasure when last November my wife, Irene, drew my attention to a crit in the Daily Telegraph of "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter at The Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, starring none other than Heath's very own Barrie Ingham! We decided there and then that we would make the effort to go to London and see the show. Having made the travel arrangements, and booked tickets for the show, I decided to contact Barrie via the Theatre, and was highly delighted when he rang me up to fix a meeting. Again, back stage, of course, but this time it was between the matinée and the evening performance, which we were attending, as Barrie said he would have to leave very promptly after that show to get the last train back to his home in Surrey.



It was great to see him again. He was much as I remembered him, and in the time we were together, about an hour, we had to do a lot of reminiscing - about how we had joined the army together in October 1950 and our previous back stage meetings and of course our school days - and catching up - about our families, Barrie's four daughters, and our son and two daughters; where we had lived and what we had done in the meantime.

However, we found time for a conducted tour by Barrie himself of the Theatre (the oldest in London), seeing not only the star's dressing room, allocated to Barrie in deference to his age, he told us modestly, but also the room where Richard Brinsley Sheridan had been locked up with pen and paper and food and wine, and told to write a new play!

The outcome was "The Rivals", which Barrie recalled he had played in when it was chosen as the school play one year. We also ventured on the stage and had our photos taken by Irene alongside the set, which is a magnificent representation of a between-the-wars passenger liner called the SS American. Saying 'good-bye' to Barrie, Irene and I then went and had a drink at the Globe Inn next to the theatre, before joining the crowds to see "Anything Goes" - a truly great show. The songs will doubtless be recalled by many readers - "I get a kick out of you", "You're the top", and "Its de-lovely" to name three. Barrie was excellent playing the part of Elisha Whitney, an elderly tycoon. It was a wonderful weekend of which the highlight was undoubtedly the chat with Barrie in his dressing room, coupled with a superb evening's entertainment.

Webmaster's Note: Barrie has his own website at [www.barrieingham.com/](http://www.barrieingham.com/)

## Michael Grave [1958-1965]

"I was at Heath 1958 - 1965 and my late father John Highley Grave was President of HOBA at one time. The information concerns my winning the Jan Runermark award from the Young Generation Network of the European Nuclear Society.

I enclose a Mitsui Babcock Energy Ltd press release and some additional information about my background from which you can cut and paste should you wish to mention this award.

Regards, Michael Grave."  
Email: [mgrave@mitsuibabcock.com](mailto:mgrave@mitsuibabcock.com)

### Mitsui Babcock - Press Release - July 2004

#### **Mitsui Babcock helps attract new talent into nuclear industry Michael Grave from Halifax and resident Wickham in Gateshead**

#### LOCAL INTEREST DETAILS

##### HALIFAX

Michael Grave (57) was born in Halifax and attended Heath Grammar School before obtaining an honours degree in Chemical Engineering at Leeds University. He is a former chorister of St Hildas' and Halifax Parish Churches. He returned to Halifax Parish Church several years ago to give an organ recital. He left Halifax to take up his first appointment with ICI on Teesside and then moved to Tyneside to work for his present company, Mitsui Babcock Energy Ltd.

##### TYNESIDE

Michael Grave works for Mitsui Babcock Energy Ltd, Nuclear & Decommissioning Services in Gateshead. He joined Clarke Chapman in 1973, which subsequently became Northern Engineering Industries and Rolls Royce before Mitsui Babcock acquired the nuclear site services activities. He is a resident of Wickham where he is also Organist & Choirmaster of the Parish Church. He has many other interests on Tyneside including:-

- Lead Interviewer for Institution of Chemical Engineers for prospective corporate members.
- Founder member of the recently formed British Nuclear Energy Society Northeast Branch.
- Former Group Leader of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Newcastle Members group.
- Former Chairman of Governors of Wickham C of E Parochial Primary School.
- Former Education and Training Officer for Royal School of Church Music, Durham Area.
- Alto Lay Clerk at St Nicholas Cathedral Choir, Newcastle.

#### **Oliver - circa. 1978**

Here is a photograph of a school production of 'Oliver' circa. 1978, which appeared in the Halifax Evening Courier.

**If you are one of the boys in the picture - or know any of them - then please get in touch with your memories.**



## OBITUARIES

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### **Alan DIXON : 1951-2003 [Heath 1962-66/67]**

Roger Dixon writes to inform us about the sudden death last year of his brother, Alan Dixon, known to several of his friends as "Fred". Alan was born on 6 July 1951 and entered Heath Grammar School in the Autumn of 1962. He left after the 5th form and went to work at the Halifax Building Society, initially at the Commercial Street HQ and then King Cross branch. To gain promotion, he moved to Peterborough, Corby and finally to Morecambe as Assistant Manager. In the re-organisation following the merger with "the Leeds", he took early retirement.

Alan had always been a devoted fan of Halifax Town Football Club, making regular visits to Halifax and venues all over the country, to give the club his full support. Whilst he was in Halifax, he was a keen tennis player with Elland tennis club and together with his friend Michael Chew, won the Calderdale Mens Doubles Tournament.

From an early age he was also very interested in railways and was a member of the Halifax Rail Fans and Jubilee Rail Fans.

Alan died suddenly on the 8 August 2003 whilst on holiday in Llandudno. He was just 52. He had been married briefly years before, but had no children.

*We extend our condolences to Roger and his family.*

### **Leslie Rayner RAYNER GAIMSTER [1914-2002]**

A possible Old Boy? Taken from the 2003 Methodist Directory of Ministers [Obituaries].

Born Halifax 7th October 1914.

Left school aged 18, joined Crossley Carpets and worked in the laboratory.

Became a Local Preacher in his 'teens.

Handsworth Methodist College, Birmingham.

Missionary in China - interned there.

Involved in the twinning of Halifax with Aachen.

Served in the following Methodist Circuits:- Halifax, Todmorden, Bolton, Durham and St Neot's.

Never drove, but cycled everywhere.

Died 4th February 2002, aged 87.

The Submitter notes:

*"I have no idea whether he attended Heath or not, but as he left school at 18 it must have been either Heath or Crossleys (or I suppose possible Hipperholme). Maybe someone else might know. I certainly remember his name from when I was living in the Halifax area."*

### **Douglas JACKSON : 1928-2003 [Heath 1939-46]**

Ken Binks has written to say that he has heard from Andrew Jackson that his father, Douglas Jackson, died on 12 December 2003.

He was at Heath from 1939 to 1946, and following Cambridge University he taught Latin and R.E. at schools in the west of England.

The funeral was held at South Street Baptist Church, Exeter, where he was a member. He is survived by his wife and family, to whom we extend our condolences.

*[Ken Binks had kept in touch with Andrew through the Friends Reunited website.]*

## Obituary by G H Boocock

Douglas Jackson became a pupil at Heath Grammar School in September 1939 at the beginning of World War Two. He quickly showed his versatility in both academic study and games, eventually gaining a regular place in both the Rugby First XV and in the Cricket first eleven. His academic studies were on the classical side and he had the good fortune to be taught and encouraged by the Headmaster, D.J.D. Smith. He it was who tutored Douglas in Latin and Greek and thereby created a path for Douglas to gain a place at Pembroke College Cambridge to study for a Classical Degree. This led Douglas into a career in teaching, and his first appointment was to Glossop Grammar School. However, lung problems caused him to seek relief and he moved to a milder climate in Devon where he remained for the rest of his life, first teaching Classics at Bideford Grammar School. It was at this time that he began to fear for the gradual demise of Classics in the Grammar School curriculum, and decided to undertake a further degree course, an exceedingly difficult achievement before the advent of the Open University. It meant several years of study in his own time to achieve a BD from London University, whilst continuing to run the Classics Department at Bideford. He was again successful in this arduous task and it led to his eventual appointment as Head of Religious Studies at Queen Elizabeth School, Crediton, where he remained until illness forced him to take an early retirement.

He was a man of exceptional determination who had to come to terms with partial paralysis, a burden which he bore with fortitude and without bitterness for 34 years. After his forced retirement, he continued to devote himself to the work of the Baptist Church in Exeter, providing pastoral care and theological support to the wider community.

He leaves a wife, son and daughter and four grandchildren.

## Dr. Malcolm BAMFORTH: 1931-2003

"Malcolm, Bammie to those who knew him at Heath Grammar School, died on 1st November 2003. His death arrived all too quickly and unexpectedly and it is typical of the man that he had paid for a ticket and expected to attend the Old Boy's Annual Dinner in October. Sadly he was too ill to attend on the day.

Had he been in the club house at Heath RUFC on that evening he would have been standing on a floor he helped to construct when the first stage of the building was in hand. He played rugby for the Old Boys' and was a lifelong supporter and committee member of HOBA, who could be relied upon cheerfully to fulfill a task and lend support in any way.

Whilst at Heath he was a prominent athlete who could sprint quite rapidly and in those early days before he left for Aberdeen University to study medicine he was prominent in All Saints Youth Club where he showed his entrepreneurial talents by arranging, with others, a variety of concerts where he himself played the piano and sang in a fine tenor voice.

His musical talent also led him to play the organ at Stainland Church and St Thomas's, Claremount.

Following graduation he began general practice in Boothtown but in 1966 moved to Esher where he took up a variety of posts in the world of pharmaceuticals and medicine. However, the siren call of Halifax was strong and he returned to general practice in Clare Road in 1972. Characteristically he immersed himself in the Round Table, Halifax Rotary Club, Victory Lodge of Freemasons and Stafford Bowling Club.

After his retirement in 1992, he and his wife Rita enjoyed motor caravanning in France where they regularly disappeared into France profonde.

Malcolm, with his good humour, cheerful smile, "can do" attitude and meritable quiff is much missed by all who knew him."

Russell Smith

## John Alan BARKER: 1932-2003

"John Alan Barker died in October 2003 after a long and debilitating illness.

At school he was a renowned high jumper and played rugby for the first XV and afterwards for Heath OB RUFC. He was always a man for joining in and he and his wife Marie were instrumental in making Nahum's Mill canteen available for whist and beetle drives and raise funds for the club.

Alan went to Leeds University and earned a BSc Honours degree in Work Study.

During National Service he attained the rank of major in the Royal Ordnance Corps. Thereafter he became work study manager for Ladybird in Maidenhead, followed by a stint in the grocery trade in Preston. He then returned to work study with Initial Towel Services in Lytham.

Some years later his eldest son Nicholas emigrated to South Africa to be followed 2 years later by Alan and his wife Marie and where he was work study manager for Rex Trueform, manufacturers of clothing for Boston's. There followed a period at Bally Shoes until he retired.

He was diagnosed with cancer in his neck for which he was treated surgically. Sadly he was destined to be confined to a wheelchair and returned to the UK in 1999 where after much physiotherapy he could manage to walk a few paces with the aid of sticks.

He died at the age of 71 in a nursing home. He leaves three sons and a daughter, his wife Marie having died in 2000."

Russell Smith

## YOUR COMMITTEE

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