



Introducing Lynnette Cassidy

It is more than a year since my appointment and, over that time, my initial delight and excitement have tempered into a real understanding of the enormous privilege it is to be the Head Teacher of The Crossley Heath School. The story of the school occupies a very special place in the social and educational history of Halifax. That story, like the textiles which made the town, is truly woven into the local fabric and is treasured by all associated with the school.

Since September, I have been busy getting to know staff, students and parents and exploring what makes Crossley Heath the very special place that it is — our family ethos, the deeply held connections to the Crossley and Porter School and The Heath Grammar School, the generations of families who have passed through the doors and, not least, our iconic and historic building, standing proud on the heath. I have found everyone associated with the school to be very warm, welcoming and enthusiastic and I look forward to many exciting times ahead.

As a long-time resident of Huddersfield, I have known Crossley Heath by reputation for many years and my path has crossed with that of the school on occasion. I worked some 16 years ago as a teaching consultant based at the Heath Training Centre and actually visited the school at that time. I can recall admiring the impressive approach to the school and the majesty of the building. I also recall sitting near the front entrance reading a series of plaques naming the school's previous head teachers, little imagining that I might one day join them!

Prior to taking up my new post, I had already enjoyed a long and varied career in education. Most of my teaching has been in schools serving diverse and deprived communities in Ashton-under-Lyne, Bradford and Batley. Most recently, I was Deputy Head at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School. I spent nine years in Local Authorities, firstly here in Calderdale before moving onto Kirklees as a Senior Improvement Officer and School Improvement Partner working in various roles with primary, special and secondary schools.

We started the new school year in September with excitement and celebration when former Year 13 and Year 11 students received their excellent examination results. We were delighted that our Year 13 leavers were able to move on to their chosen universities and it was wonderful to see them all again at our prize giving celebration evening in December.

Friday, 28 September 2018 Reunion Dinner at Heath RUFC, West Vale, Halifax

6.45pm AGM

7 for 7.30pm Reunion Dinner

Dress: Lounge suits/smart casual.

Guests welcome.

£20 per person payable to HOBA via [Jon Hamer^a](#)

Mob: 07770 697176/Duncan Turner.

Sunday, 5 May 2019 Russell Smith Memorial Trophy Bowling Challenge

1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

Thursday, 20 June 2019 Founder's Day Commemoration

7.30 pm Halifax Minster

Sunday, 23 June 2019 HOBA vs Crocs Bowls Competition

1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

^aClick on the [magenta](#) text for the link or email address.

We were pleased to be joined by Wendy Moffat to celebrate with the students and their families. The occasion provided a public opportunity for me to thank Wendy personally for her commitment to the school and for her support in 'handing over' to me as the new head teacher.

We celebrated further success when we were named, in November, as the 5th best northern school in the Sunday Times Parent Power list — an accolade awarded on the basis of both our A level and our GCSE results. Recognition like this is a measure of the hard work of our students, of the commitment to high quality teaching and student support by our staff and of the support that students enjoy from their parents and families.

Commitment

As a newcomer to the school, I have been delighted with the commitment shown by students to the wide ranging and varied activities that we participate in. A

large number of events have taken place, including an exciting House swimming gala, won by Savile, which featured tremendous effort by all, outstanding swimming and some brave, thrilling diving. The culmination of the House Drama competition came in December, won by Kings with an innovative interpretation of Dr Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat*. A multitude of visits have taken place, including a very successful exchange visit to Germany where students were hosted by local families, and a rugby tour to Canada where students not only won both friends and matches, but had the enviable opportunity to watch whales.

Crossley Heath's sporting prowess is very widely known and our reputation was further enhanced over the course of the last year. In tennis the U13 boys and Under 15 girls won their respective Aegon Lawn Tennis Association leagues, in netball the U16 squad won the West Yorkshire Invitation Tournament, and the U19 Squad won the Calderdale Tournament. In rugby, our U15, U16 and U18 teams won their respective County Cups. Our students also continue to achieve individual sporting successes at a very high level.

Charity fundraising has continued to thrive with £7,400 raised in 2017–18, and £3,600 raised so far since September. The generosity of staff, students and parents is fantastic, from the annual Rotary Christmas shoe box appeal, myriad cake sales and non-uniform days, to a collection of presents for local children at Christmas.

Change

This is a time of unprecedented change in education with teachers and students being required to cope with significant changes to exam specifications at A-level and GCSE. Together with developing and delivering these new courses, we have also introduced the new GCSE grades 9–1 system and, at the same time, are embedding the new KS3 'assessment without levels' system.

It has been 30 years since a period of transition on the scale we are currently experiencing was last seen. Students, their parents and staff at school are navigating all of these changes magnificently. Nevertheless, the extent and significance of the changes, their successful implementation and the transition in the mind-set of us all should not be underestimated. Of course education and perpetual change go hand in hand and, as a school, it is our deeply held values which sustain us through change and maintain our character and our purpose, whatever the latest government policy, funding squeeze or fashionable teaching strategy.

Values

Our values are what makes Crossley Heath special and we will continue to believe in and celebrate individuality, holding the highest aspirations for each other and ourselves in everything we do. We will continue to hold our heritage and reputation dear, not as 'the posh school on the Heath,' but as a forward-thinking school which has a role to play in the local community.

Of course, our most marvellous asset, the reason we all get out of bed in the morning and look forward to coming to school, is our terrific students. We are fortunate in having a fantastic body of students who have the capability to go on to become people who will make a genuine difference to those they encounter, to be leaders in their chosen fields and to influence society. Ensuring that they each flourish by nurturing their talents and abilities within and beyond the classroom is at the heart of what we do and is what we are about.

I have enjoyed my first two terms immensely. I am proud to be part of the current Crossley Heath family and feel privileged to contribute, however modestly, to the long and auspicious story of the school. I look forward to exploring that story over the coming years and becoming involved in learning about the lives, experiences and contributions of Heath Old Boys.

Lynnette Cassidy

Head Teacher

Annual Reunion Dinner

THE Association held its seventy-first annual dinner at the Heath R.U.F.C. at West Vale on Friday, 22nd September 2017. It was attended by a record 57 old boys and their guests and, as usual, was preceded by the A.G.M. Our treasurer, Mr J.D. Turner, has, unbelievably, held office since 1965 and was able to report a 'year of consolidation.' The Association has rallied to 136 members; the website is flourishing; we are apparently on something called 'Facebook,' etc., etc.

Most Old Boys are well into their cups and reminiscences by this time; so on to the splendid meal, chicken and Yorkshire pudding with all the trimmings and, by overwhelming demand following last year's grievous omission, a pudding was added to the menu.

We were delighted to welcome a guest from the school this year, namely the current Head, Mrs Lynnette Cassidy. Having been in post for only three weeks, she was still finding her feet but spoke engagingly of her early life and made a memorable joke, saying that she worked in theatre design, but 'left without making a scene.' Having spoken of benefactors to the school, such as Lord Somerleyton, and emphasising that the legacy of Heath was continuing strongly, she sat down to rapturous applause.

Mr G.P. Smith, the retiring President, next addressed us in his voice of thunder. He felt that his two years in office had been a productive period. He had tried to reach out to members, and praised the committee for their unstinting efforts; Founder's Day in particular had become a great success. He reminded us also that this year was the 30th anniversary of the tragic crash, and that a service had been held at the memorial seat in Manor Heath. Finally he welcomed Mr J.S. Robertshaw, our new President, who has long been a vital part of the Association.

We usually greet Andrew Connell [Heath 1958–1965] in his role as distinguished reader of the Latin grace but this year he had been dragooned into being the 'key-note' speaker. Mr Connell made a peripatetic speech, which held his audience rapt as we wondered in what part of the room he was going to pop up next. He indulged in shameless name-dropping, hoping we would be impressed by his claim to be friends with Paddy Ashdown, Prince Charles and MP Rory Stewart. Andrew's

speech was larded with memorable, thought-provoking lines such as that Heath as a school was not 'up itself' and the undoubted truth that 'though it was a happy school, not everyone there was happy.'

Memories of scout trips, school plays, Favour-ites debates and mock elections that went wrong all helped to bring 'order out of chaos' and went down well. Most memorably Andrew, who is reputed to have some musical talent, got us to join him in a rendition of 'This could be the last time' and 'Only the lonely.' Magic. Thanks, Andrew.

The evening ended, as ever, with uninhibited camaraderie. On a personal note it was great to meet up again with long-lost classmates and colleagues such as David Adams and Fred Rule.

The raffle, with prizes generously donated by Jas Chatta and Jon Hamer, raised £450 for the Association funds, and thanks go once again to Jim Farrell for MC-ing the event in his inimitable style, to Jon Hamer and all who helped to make it another successful event.

Those attending were: J Farrell L Cassidy A Connell J Hamer J Chatta G Whitaker J Henry I Downsborough J Bunch J Hudson T Ward J Davey J Charnock J Greenwood J Hoggard K Tidswell A Parker D Adams S Lum G Smith J Robertshaw R Dixon R Crosland D Turner M Bingham M Denton J Morley G Ward M Squire M Baxendale C Tindal D O'Callaghan T Stringer M Orlic C Morley O Schofield H Reilly D Harrison C Piper D Potter R Stollery P Stollery N Tobin R Eastwood G Richardson K Gillespie J Travis E Broughton G Parr M Ennis J Denwood J Russell G Stansfield T Edwards F Rule P Keenan J Hoyle and three Guests.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

Albert Coward honoured in Open Water Swimming

Don Hargreaves [Heath 1953–1958] has drawn attention to the induction of Albert Coward [Heath 1951–1958] into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

After beginning open water swimming in the Lake Dis-

trict in the 1970s, Albert moved to Italy in 1978 where he established a number of firsts and became a regular open water swimmer in the Bay of Naples.

There is an interview with Albert on the [Open Water Swimming website](#).

Landscaping the front of the school

The area in front of the school has been having a makeover. The photograph on the following page, courtesy of Jim Farrell, shows the work completed.



Figure 1: Landscaping completed

2018 HOBA Bowling Challenge (Russell Smith Memorial Trophy)

The Tour de Yorkshire may have been taking place elsewhere in Halifax, but on Sunday, 6 May 2018 the place to be was definitely Greenroyd bowling club, the venue for the twelfth annual tussle for the coveted Russell Smith Memorial Trophy.

Once again the weather smiled upon us, the green was for once in pristine condition, Old Boys turned out in respectable numbers, the usual format was agreed upon and all was set for a ding-dong event.

The pairings, and how they fared, with more or less accuracy, lined up as follows:

- T. Roper and T. Depledge, won 5 and lost 2 of their rubbers, but just missed out on the final;
- K. Campbell and J. Robertshaw won 4, but fell short of their high hopes;
- J. Farrell and A. Hobson had a wealth of experience, but were found wanting;
- P. Greenwood and M. Bingham sank without trace;
- However, A. Baigent, he of the gloved fist, and the evergreen G.P. Smith carried all before them;
- R. Sumner and C. Gostridge had probably had happier afternoons;
- B. Shackleton and J. Hamer after a slow start came through strongly; and
- A. Waite and R. Dixon with every advantage of an early 11–1 win, faded away.

The afternoon wore on. John Hudson arrived with the buffet. The standard of bowling did not seem as inspired as in some years. ‘He’s thrown a few off today,

has John,’ was heard, along with, ‘It gets right heavy in that corner.’

The final, however, contested between Hamer/Shackleton and Smith/Baigent, was worthy of its name. The score was 1–1 after two ends, and 4–4 after four ends. The unerring accuracy and gimlet eye of G.P. Smith, ably assisted by his partner, carried the day. Unprecedentedly, the rule book had to be introduced near the end, to validate the legality of a delivery, but all ended amicably. The whereabouts of the runners-up cup having been discussed at length, the trophy was presented, speeches made and all retired to partake of the buffet.

As often, the real history was being made behind the scenes. We were delighted to meet P.G. Smith whose memory went back to his first day at school, which coincided with the first day of W.R. Swale as Head, and covered the post-war years. Two of the long photos were produced, for 1935 and 1950, and widely scrutinised. A day of competition and nostalgia was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the committee for organising yet another successful event.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

P.S. The 2019 event will take place on Sunday, 5 May 2019.

Founder's Day Celebration: Thursday, 14th June 2018

ON Thursday 14th June 2018, at 7.30 pm., Old Boys, their guests and civic dignitaries assembled at the west end of Halifax Minster to celebrate, for the fourth year in the current revival, the life and work of Dr Favour.

A very successful format has been found for the service, based on evensong, with hymns, contributions from the choir, the traditional readings from Ecclesiasticus and Ephesians, an anthem, the address, the three collects and prayers, ending with the floral tribute laid on the bust of the venerable founder.



Placing the chaplet

We were delighted to welcome this year the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft [Heath 1968–1975] to lead the service. In his address he reminded us that he had been a vicar in Halifax for nine years. He focused on the challenges facing young people today, with the mixed messages they are bombarded with from all sides. He advocated some of the old-fashioned Christian virtues as a possible antidote to the frenzy of modern life.

The Minster chamber choir, conducted by the Revd Canon Hilary Barber, sang magnificently throughout.

Thanks once again to the many people who helped to make the occasion such a highlight in the Old Boys calendar: the Bishop, the vicar for hosting us, the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale for attending, the Head Girl and Head Boy of the school, the choir, Jim Farrell and the HOBA committee for all their hard work and Jon Hamer and colleagues for organising the buffet.

The attendance may have been slightly down on last year but everyone who attended finds it a memorable, uplifting occasion, a mix of gravitas and conviviality. Long may it continue.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

P.S. Put Thursday, 20 June 2019 in your diary.

Heath vs Old Crossleyans Bowls Tournament 2018

REVENGE is a kind of wild justice, which the more a man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out.

Francis Bacon (1561–1662)

Retentive readers may recall that a year ago to the day Heath administered a historic drubbing to the Old Crocs, thus drawing level 2–2 in the series and making this year's clash of major significance.

So it was that on a sun-drenched Sunday afternoon, the 24th June 2018, many veteran yet highly-trained sportsmen and women rocked up at Greenroyd to do battle for the diminutive, elusive trophy.

The teams did not differ greatly from last year. For Crocs the absence of Mr and Mrs Knowles meant that there were occasional silences between games, whilst for Heath the absence of Mr Farrell meant slightly less controversy than usual.

Crocs featured: B. Reynolds and Mrs M. Reynolds; J. Ingham (captain) and Mrs J. Dunn; Mrs Clayton and M. Denton; M. Squire and D. Reynolds; D. Kaye and C. Hodgson.

Heath were: J. Robertshaw and T. Depledge; T. Roper and P. Greenwood; A. Hobson and C. Gostridge; A. Waite and B. Shackleton; A. Baigent and G.P. Smith (captain).

The match proved to be somewhat the reverse of last year, without any of the drama. Heath took an early lead, with Roper and Greenwood outstanding in the early exchanges. This proved to be illusory, as the Crocs adapted far better to the dry conditions; 'It's



Figure 2: Heath vs Crocs group photograph

running fast this year,' was heard. Too many Heathen bowls were finding the gutter. To cut a long rather dull story short, by 3.30 Crocs were home and dry, winning easily by 31–19. 'Oh, it's a thrashing,' was heard.

The trophy having been located somewhere in Roger Dixon's cupboard, and having been presented to John Ingham, the speeches of regret and glee having been made, there only remained the excellent buffet and socialising deep into the balmy afternoon.

Thanks to John Ingham and Grayham Smith for mustering the teams, to Mrs Dixon and Mrs Hamer for keeping the score and to Jon Hamer for organising the buffet.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

P.S. The 2019 event will take place on Sunday, 23 June 2019.

Memories

School photos

Andrew Waite [Heath 1957–1964] has kindly sent us a copy of the 1958 School photo, while John S. Robertshaw [Heath 1958–1965] has provided the one for 1961 and has passed on two others, for 1935 and 1950, from Roger Dixon [Heath 1957–1965]. The 1935 School photo confirms that the science buildings were complete by 1935.

Obviously all are too big to be able to see the detail on anything other than a monstrous monitor. So we have placed versions in PDF format on the website to which we can add names if people send the details to the Editor.

Peter Rawson

Peter Rawson has shared a number of documents his parents received when he was offered a place at the school in 1961.

- The letter from the LEA offering him a place in either Crossley and Porter or Heath Grammar Schools.
- The letter from W.R. Swale to Peter's parents.
- A page on school discipline from W.R. Swale.
- Other miscellaneous information from W.R. Swale.
- A staff list with notes of who would be teaching what subjects to the first form.

Three schoolmasters

Heathens of a certain age still talk with a mixture of respect and awe about the schoolmasters of their time, men of distinction who individually gave 30–40 years' service to the school, albeit in many cases with time out for war service.

What may not always be realised is that Heathens of a younger vintage were also the beneficiaries of long and

devoted service by the masters of their generation. The last twelve months have seen the passing of three such men: Malcolm Blythe (who began teaching at Heath in 1959), Tony Edwards (1971) and Michael Newton (1973). Thus collectively they spent 42 years at Heath and then continued into the successor school — Crossley Heath — to make a rough total of 100 years so that they can be said to have averaged over 30 years' service each.

Malcolm Blythe died in June 2017 at the age of 80. He started at Heath in 1959, having been educated at Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury, and at Durham University. As a teacher of Chemistry he established himself as one of the major teaching assets of the school. He was in total control of his subject and in total control of his pupils, who regarded him with the greatest of respect and no little affection. His watchword 'Gerrit learned' was almost the second motto of the school during his time. The phrase 'firm but fair' could have been invented for him. His talents were employed for the school's benefit in many directions — taking charge of Cross Country teams, acting as Secretary of the Parents-Teachers' Association, Business Manager for the Dramatic Society and so on. In the 'interregnum' of 1984–85, before the amalgamation of the schools, he served as Acting Deputy Head.

For many years while Malcolm ruled over the Chemistry Labs, his opposite number in the Physics Labs was Michael Newton who died just a month before Malcolm in May 2017. Michael was a native of Hebden Bridge and so was very much the local man. He replaced Herbert Morris in January 1973. Physics is a subject of which the ideas and methods have probably changed more over recent decades than any other; yet Michael stayed fully abreast of developments and ensured that his pupils did as well. One notable feature of his work which may have passed largely unseen by pupils was

his mentoring of young teachers embarking on their careers in Physics teaching — Lawrence Palmer, Roger Dyer, John Sykes and Clive Briscoe — as well as others in his years at Crossley Heath. Many of these, with Michael's backing, went on to be in charge of Physics Departments of their own.

Tony Edwards' loss was the most recent, in February 2018. He came to Heath in 1971, having taught at Churcher's College, Petersfield, after being educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Within two years, he was deservedly appointed Head of Modern Languages in succession to George Littlefair and brought expertise in both French and German to the post. His enthusiasm for his subject saw him lead innumerable excursions abroad, always meticulously planned and overseen with his unique blend of good humour, friendliness and common sense. Many Heathens owed their first experience abroad to his good offices. The same qualities were brought to his involvement in school sport — chiefly Rugby and Cricket — and he can be seen pictured alongside many teams in the photographs of the 70s and 80s. He shared enthusiastically in the supervision of the inter-form cricket competition on Conways which will be fondly remembered by many in the days before 'health and safety.'

I feel that I was privileged to have worked with these three colleagues. Heath Grammar School and Crossley Heath School were also privileged to have had the loyal service of these men for so long. I know that they appreciated the chance to spend their professional careers in the company of generations of Halifax youngsters with their independent spirits, lively minds and cheerful dispositions. They are truly fit to take their places in the pantheon of distinguished Heath masters of the past. *Digni Erant Favore.*

John T Bunch [1972–1985]

Quatercentenary Plate 1985

In 1985 a limited edition plate (figure 3) was produced to mark the 400th anniversary of the granting of the charter. The inscription on the underside (figure 4) says:

The Free Grammar School at Heath, near Halifax was founded by a charter granted by Elizabeth I in 1585. The first land was given to the charity by Henry Farrar in 1597. The Trustees of the charity then had their corporate seal made bearing the same date.

The Vicar of Halifax, Dr John Favour energised his parish into greater donations, which established the school properly and he is now regarded as its founder.

In 1727, the charity had fallen on 'hard times' and a Charter of Confirmation from George II was required to re-establish it.

Rebuilding of the school and enlargement of the master's house plus a more professional management of its estates from 1777 further invigorated the charity.

A series of changes in the charter and statutes between 1873 and 1903 and a larger new building in 1879 ensured its very successful entry into the 20th century.



Figure 3: Quatercentenary Plate

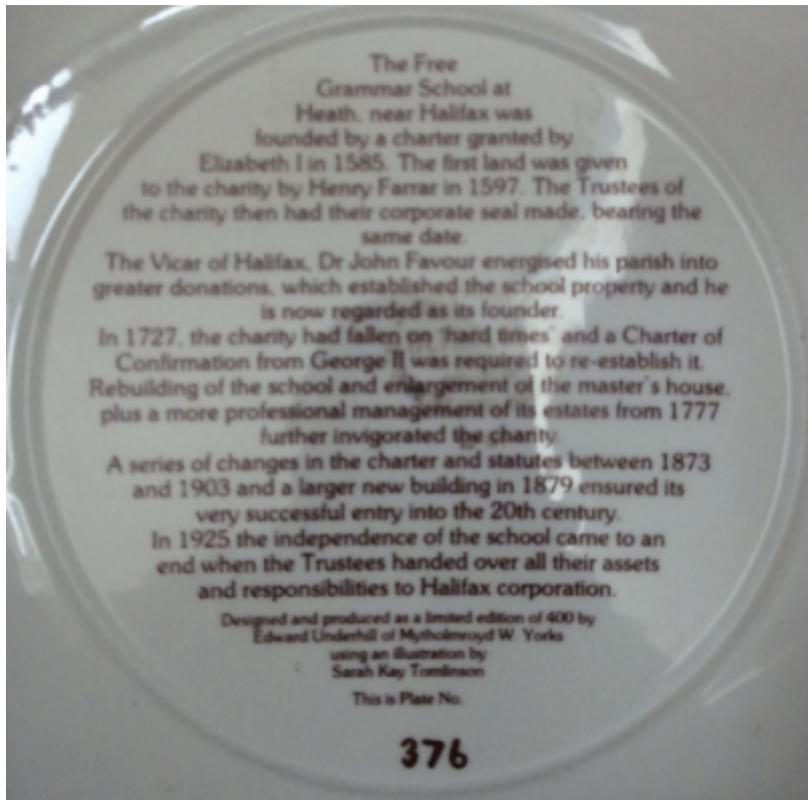


Figure 4: Underside of Quatercentenary Plate

In 1925 the independence of the school came to an end when the Trustees handed over all their assets and responsibilities to Halifax corporation.

Designed and produced as a limited edition of 400 by Edward Underhill of Mytholmroyd W Yorks using an illustration by Sarah Kay Tomlinson.

This is Plate No
376

History

The seal



Though a charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1585, it was only in 1597 when the Farrars of Midgley gave the Trustees two acres of land that they needed a common seal. This one was attached to a document of 1634.

The inscription reads:

SIGIL[UM] · LIBE[RAE] · GRAM[MATIC-
ALIS] · SCHOL[AE] · R[EGINA] ·
ELIZ[ABETHAE] · VICARIAT[US] ·
HALIFAX[ENSIS]

The words on the open book are understood to be:

*Qui mihi discipulus, Puer, es, cupis et
[doceri]*

the first line of an exhortation to young people in William Lily's *Latin Grammar* (published in the early 1500s).

Heathens at the Battle of Waireka 1860

Graeme Kenyon from New Zealand has been in touch recently about the involvement of a couple of Heath Old Boys and others from Halifax in the **Battle of Waireka** between settlers and local Maoris which took place on 28 March 1860.

James Hirst entered the school in 1843 and Robert Chisenhall Hammerton in 1848; we do not know when either of them left but the family of **Holden Hammer-ton** left Halifax in 1854 to settle in New Plymouth. By 1860, they were both living in New Plymouth and volunteered for the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles. A month after the battle, James wrote a letter to his family in Halifax which they shared with the *Halifax Guardian* who published it on 14 July 1860. Other former Halifax residents involved in the events surrounding the battle include **John Kenyon**, **Francis Ullathorn Gledhill** and **Thomas Gledhill**.

The letter has been included in Graeme Kenyon's book *The Battle of Waireka 1860: an anthology of first hand accounts* published by Lone Gull, Auckland 2018 which was launched on 28 March 2018 at the Puke Ariki Museum in New Plymouth.

Graeme suggests that, as the letter was written a month after the battle, it has probably been contaminated by what he heard from others and by overestimates of the number of casualties.

But it still provides a unique viewpoint because Hirst and his volunteers first ascended a knoll to the left with the Taranaki Militia (see **these photographs** of the site today) and then left them to cross a gulley to a position occupied by **Harry Atkinson**, another officer of the Taranaki Volunteer Rifles, who also provided an account of the battle.

Taranaki, April 29th, 1860

My Dear William, — I have not written to you for some time, and I had almost given up the idea of writing, as I never receive any letters, but mamma made me promise to write to you a full account of the recent battle of Waireka, fought on the 28th of March, 1860. Well, my station is at the Hua block-house, with Lieutenant Morrison

and 50 men, but I was invalided into town for a few days.

While I was in town a messenger came in from Omata, with intelligence that five men and boys had been murdered by the natives. Omata, you must know, is about five miles south, and the Hua about the same distance north, of the town. The messenger also brought word that the Rev. Brown, with his own and five other families, were cut off by the enemy. You can imagine better than I can describe, the excitement that pervaded the town, when the news came in of their disasters. People who lived a short distance out of town, and who had considered themselves safe, came in town as quickly as they could, carrying bedding and things with them. Mr. Devenish [brother-in-law of the writer] had gone out to his farm and had not returned at dusk, and what made matters worse, news came that a number of the enemy had been seen on the road leading out there. Mary was in a very precarious state of health at the time, so I told Annie to stay, and if possible prevent anyone coming to alarm her, and I took my sword and revolver and went out on the road to meet Mr. D., I should say, I crawled on the road. I had got about a mile and a half when I heard a noise in front of me, and stooping down, saw two men in front, armed with guns. I got under cover, and waited till they got near enough, when I covered one with my revolver and challenged them. The answer was "friend" and I found them to be two men who were looking for their brother, who was with Devenish. The three of us went on together till we met the party, and returned safe to town.

The next day at noon, or rather at 11 a.m., volunteers were called for to go and fetch in the missing families from Omata. . . . Soon after this we started, and as Capt. Watt stayed in town I had command of his company, and I assure you I was not a little proud of it. Anyway we went by the beach, 100 of the 65th going the inland road, accompanied by about twenty or twenty five seamen and marines of the H.M.S. Niger.

We marched about two and a half miles at a good smart pace, when we saw the enemy's scouts on a hill in front of us. . . . Shortly after this we halted, and advanced again in skirmishing order. We had to scale some cliffs, so steep that the men had to catch the scrub and flax, and pull themselves up

by it. We got up and reformed, when No. 2 Rifles under Captain H. Atkinson, went to their front, and No. 1, under me, took to the left front, the militia, under Captain Brown, being in the rear as a reserve, Captain Stapp having command of the whole. Lieut C. Hammerton was at first with me, but afterwards joined No. 1. I held my first position some little time, but seeing No. 1 almost overpowered, I went with my company and joined them, leaving the militia to hold the position which I first took. I was only just in time, as the enemy were pouring in shot like hail; but when the two companies were united we drove the enemy back with tidy slaughter.

I found Lieut C. Hammerton badly wounded, a bullet having gone clean through his thigh just above the knee, as he was rallying a few men to fetch in a wounded comrade. At this time there were three men of ours wounded, Hammerton, Rawson (son of Dr Rawson), through the thigh smashing the bone, and Inch, in the breast. The last named, a splendid shot, before he was wounded killed one, and afterwards killed or wounded two other natives.

The wounded were under cover of an oat stack, which protected them from the fire of an enemy. About this time, or something like an hour after the action commenced, the 65th, with a rocket tube, came in sight of us to our extreme left, and, although they did not do much fighting, caused a diversion in our favour.

The naval brigade, under Lieut Blake, took the position that I first held, and it was there that Blake fell, seriously wounded; a sergeant of militia was also killed about the same time. After this had gone on till the sun was going down, to our extreme surprise and disgust we saw the troops marching off to town at a smart pace, with the exception of a corporal and eight men, who joined us and remained with us to the end of the battle. Four men of the naval brigade also joined us. One was afterward mortally wounded, and died the same night. At this time we had a good number of our men wounded, but none killed, and only one dangerously. We could not believe that the troops had really left us for some time, and had no means of ascertaining, as when the soldiers retired the enemy took possession of their position and completely cut off our communication with the town; and what

made matters worse, we had no doctor, and were almost out of ammunition.

We have since ascertained that there were about 550 of the enemy, against which we had about 100 rifles and 40 militia. I assure you it was a trying time for all of us. . . . When I could spare a minute I spent it with C. Hammerton. I took him some water but the hero would not drink till he knew the other wounded had had some. He told me to fight hard for the honour of Heath school, as we were both from there; and as we expected to be all killed, I promised to be with him if possible when the tomahawk was to do its work. . . .

About 8 p.m. we held a council of war, and determined when the moon had set to march on the Omata Stockade, about 1½ miles from us on the road to town. . . .

As we moved very slowly I had the opportunity of examining the line of march, and saw several of the enemy lying dead by the side of the road.

We reached the stockade without any interruptions whatever, at about half past nine, all safe so far. . . . When we came near our outlying picket, we were challenged, and when the guard knew it was us there was a hearty cheer, or a succession of cheers, which was heard in town. . . .

So you see the stuff volunteers are made of. I will say no more of myself than that the bullets were all around me; but I was not touched, and we were in action about 5½ hours, and under fire all that time. Mamma and papa will give you a more particular account when they arrive, and I will conclude by saying that I stand high with my comrades and am satisfied with myself. Give my love to all enquiring friends. Perhaps I shall write you another sheet tomorrow; and so goodbye.

I have the honour &c. JAMES HIRST, 1st Lieutenant Taranaki Volunteer Rifles.

World War I Roll of Honour

WE are grateful to David Millichope for assisting us in preparing this Roll of Honour to mark the centenary of World War I.

We understand that fifty Heath Old Boys gave their lives during the war. We hope over time to provide information on all of them. If you have any information on these or any other old boys who gave their lives during the war, please contact [the Editor](#).

Charles Clarkson 1879–1917

After studying at Heath, he went up to New College, Oxford, and then joined his father as a solicitor. He joined up at the outbreak of the war and became an instructor, only being sent to the front in early 1917 where he died of septicaemia shortly after arriving at the trenches.

George Clewer 1896–1915

After studying at Heath, he became an apprentice worsted spinner but moved to Bradford where he became a clerk. He enlisted on 17 August 1915 and was sent to Gallipoli but was landed in Malta with dysentery where he died on 15 November 1915.

Carl Dixon 1898–1917

After studying at Heath, he became an apprentice gas fitter and probably did not enlist until conscription when his engineering skills probably fitted him for the Royal Flying Corps. But he saw little service before dying from wounds on 25 October 1917.

Richard Feather 1882–1916

After studying at Heath he appears to have joined the family worsted spinning business of which he was a director at the time of the war. He appears to have had some military experience before enlisting in 1915 but his health does not appear to have been good and he died after being wounded in the battle of the Somme on the first day when tanks were deployed.

Frederick Fleming 1896–1915

After studying at Heath, he took a job as a dyer and enlisted at the outbreak of war, ending up near Ypres where he was a victim of the first gas attack in December 1915 and died the next day.

Charles Greenwood 1893–1918

After studying at Heath, he enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps on his 22nd birthday, went out to France but then returned to undertake training and be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Returning to the front, he was gassed but won a military cross for an act of gallantry. He died in the final months of the war when a shell hit the mess where he was sleeping.

Edgar Howarth 1893–1916

After studying at Heath, he went into teaching training and enlisted as soon as he had qualified, joining the Public Schools Battalion which was involved in the

first day of the Battle of the Somme when it lost 524 killed, missing or wounded. The best guess is that he was captured already wounded and died the same day.

George Johnston 1897–1917

After studying at Heath, he became an articled clerk and enlisted shortly before his 19th birthday but appears to have seen no action, being listed as missing, presumed drowned, following the sinking of HMS Transylvania on its way to Egypt.

Alan Ostler 1885–1918

After studying at Heath, Alan became a journalist eventually specialising in war journalism which took him to North and East Africa, the Balkans and Russia before enlisting and being sent to Gallipoli where he caught enteric fever and then to the Western front where he was awarded the Military Cross for his actions in the Battle of the Somme. He joined the newly formed Royal Air Force and died from wounds he suffered.

Thomas Ostler 1894–1917

After studying at Heath, he worked in a bank before enlisting in a 'Pals' regiment at the start of the war. Commissioned the following year, he served on the Western front and was killed in action in the Battle of Messines.

Roland Siddall 1894–1918

After studying at Heath, he became a junior clerk and enlisted at the start of the war but was disappointed that, for health reasons, he was assigned office jobs. Eventually, he resigned his post and enlisted in a fighting regiment, being killed on his very first day of active service.

John Tillotson 1884–1918

After studying at Heath, he spent time with the Natal Police but was working as a gas inspector in London at the outbreak of the war when he enlisted. He went to France the following year and was wounded in 1917 but returned to the front and died as a result of a gun shot wound to his chest.

Obituaries

OLD boys are invited to supplement the information in these obituaries with both facts about and memories of an old boy. Please send any such material to [the Editor](#).

Peter Michael Baigent: 6 February 1946–1 October 2017 [Heath 1957–1965]

Peter died in Stony Brook Hospital, Long Island, New York, USA, on Sunday 1st October 2017.

Andrew Watson 24 May 1856–8 March 1921 [Heath 1866–1871]

The information provided in the [2016 Newsletter](#) has been updated as a result of the work of the [Legacies of British Slave-ownership](#) project which says that Andrew's father was Peter Miller Watson who was born in Kiltarn, 16/06/1805 and died in Surrey, 22/04/1869 and that

Peter Miller Watson returned to Britain and bought a property in Weylea, near Guildford, where he died in 1869. He left £35,000, mostly to his illegitimate son, Andrew [1856–1921], and to provide for his illegitimate daughter, Annetta, both children of Hannah Rose in Georgetown, Demerara.

John Harrup Shoemith: 1 July 1925–6 November 2017 [Heath 1934–1942]

He studied medicine at Leeds University and developed a special interest in thoracic surgery. He was a junior member of the team which pioneered open heart surgery in Britain and was involved in the development of the heart lung machine. He was a General/Vascular surgeon at Leeds General Infirmary for 28 years until his retirement in 1989.

As a young man he had played rugby for Yorkshire but a leg injury brought an end to this. He met his wife, Irene, who died in 2016, when he was doing national service at Millbank and they married in 1952.

Our condolences to his sons, David and Michael.

Thanks to David Shoemith for this information.

John Michael Siddall: 5 June 1926–8 January 2018 [Heath 1935–1939]

John Siddall died peacefully at St James Hospital, Leeds on 8 January 2018. The grandson of the founder of what became the Siddall and Hilton group of com-

panies, he was educated at Heath Grammar School and elsewhere before serving in the Army in India.

He then joined the family firm, becoming Managing Director of Standard Wire in Copley and rising to become Chair of the Siddall and Hilton group of companies and also serving as Chair of the UK Wire Association.

A keen hockey player, he played for Halifax, became secretary of the Yorkshire Hockey Association and also became an umpire. He was a keen swimmer.

He leaves a wife, Pamela, and three sons, Martin, Jeremy and Clive. Our condolences to the family.

Kenneth Rex Hodkinson: 17 May 1927–9 January 2018 [Heath 1938–1943]

One of the last surviving member of the successful Halifax RUFC team of the early fifties, Ken Hodkinson, died peacefully in Halifax Royal Hospital on 9th January, aged 90.

Ken was brought up in Boothtown and attended Heath Grammar School; he then lived his entire adult life in Brighouse.

After leaving school he played briefly for Heath Old Boys before joining Halifax RUFC in 1945 aged 17. Compulsory National Service in the navy interrupted his promising start at the club, but he was able to re-join the club in 1948 and was an integral part of the Yorkshire Cup winning side, which achieved back-to-back wins against Wakefield in 1950 and Morley in 1951.

Ken played full-back and fly-half for Halifax through most of the 1950's and, despite his diminutive stature, was renowned for his courageous defence and clever distribution of the ball. One of his favourite memories was getting the opportunity to play opposite Cliff Morgan, the then Cardiff, Wales and British Lions fly-half, whilst touring South Wales with Halifax.

A service to celebrate Ken Hodkinson's life was held at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland on Thursday 1st February 2018.

Jerry Hodkinson

Anthony V Edwards: ?–February 2018 [Heath 1971–1985]

Tony Edwards' funeral was held on Friday, 16 March 2018 at Macclesfield Crematorium.

The following extracts are from the tribute paid by Nick Edwards, his son:

I posted on my Dad's Facebook memorial page a couple of weeks ago some words

to the effect that no-one forgets a good teacher.

In retrospect I was only half right; he wasn't just a good teacher; he was a great teacher, and more importantly an inspirational man.

My Dad is probably best described as what he called an 'Old Fashioned School Master,' that is to say someone who saw it as his responsibility not just to teach his subject, but to ensure his pupils had the opportunities and experiences outside the classroom to ready them for their next steps in their lives after school.

Whether organising school trips around Europe, coaching rugby teams or lending a helping hand or encouraging word, he was generous with his time and happy to help out behind the scenes, never seeking personal reward or the recognition of others.



Tony Edwards

Teaching was his vocation. He never thought his responsibility ending when the school bell rang, and if he'd taught you he'd retain a personal interest in what you were doing and the direction your life had taken. His enthusiasm and interest in others was reciprocated by those he had taught.

Reading the cards and letters we have received over the past month, a common theme has been how he inspired people both in and out of the classroom.

Inspiration is something we all need. Each of us has role models and mentors in our lives who influence and inspire us.

I read with some poignancy this week in Stephen Hawking's obituary that he attributed much of the greatness he achieved to the influence of a former school teacher.

In my Dad's case, a great influence in his life was his junior school teacher, Mr Reed,

whose enthusiasm fired young imaginations and inspired my Dad's life long love of learning.

When he arrived at the Kings School, he discovered he had, amongst other things an aptitude for languages. This might have ended up as an interesting footnote in his life story — something to impress his friends with when ordering a round of drinks on holiday — had it not again been for the inspiration of his another good teacher, in this case a Mr Dickie Hairside.

Suitably inspired to pursue a career in teaching, and through his own hard work and dedication he excelled at school, eventually winning a place at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, becoming the first person in his family to go on to higher education.

At around the same time he also became the first member of his family to travel abroad in peacetime, attending a language course in Geneva at the tender age of 16. Quite an achievement for someone who'd barely left Macclesfield at this point.

Life at Cambridge was tough, and he never shied away from the fact he needed to work much harder than some of his more naturally gifted contemporaries.

But once more, his determination saw him through and after graduation he set out to follow his vocation in to the teaching profession, which led him, via Petersfield, to Halifax where he taught for 31 years up to his retirement.

He taught with good humour and enthusiasm and his classes were always known for being fun. A good friend of mine summed this up recently. He said, 'I hated German, but I loved your Dad's lessons.'

Though blessed with a keen intellect, and having had the opportunity to study in the ivory towers of Cambridge, he remained down to earth and true to himself.

He was equally comfortable discussing the nuances of Nineteenth Century French literature, as he was discussing the nuances of *Coronation Street* and the *X Factor*. He held no airs and graces, and was comfortable in his own skin.

...

My Dad had itchy feet from an early age. For example, in the mid 60s he, along with my Mum and couple of friends, took an unusual decision to embark on three week road

trip to Francoist Spain. He organised numerous school trips and family holidays to France, Germany and Austria. I lost count of the number of times I'd been up the Eiffel Tower by the age of 10.

When Simon and I left home, and he found himself somewhat better off financially, he began to embark on adventures further afield: to the Mediterranean, Middle East, Scandinavia, Japan, the United States, South Africa four times and to Australia six times.

...

I take great comfort in knowing that in the same way that sixty five years later my Dad never forgot Mr Reed, somewhere in the distant future, someone will be sitting down and telling their grandson or granddaughter what a wonderful teacher Mr Edwards was, and how he had inspired them to achieve something with their lives.

What a fitting legacy to the man that will be.

Nick Edwards, son of Tony Edwards

Christopher John Gornall 31 December 1969–12 May 2018 [Heath 1973–1978]

Christopher Gornall passed away on 12 May 2018 after a long illness, surrounded by his loving family. A beloved partner to Pat, a dear son to Brenda and the late Alan, a devoted dad, grandad, brother and a good friend to many.

The funeral service was at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland on Monday, 4 June 2018. Donations may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Donald Drake 23 June 1923–15 May 2018 [Heath 1934–1939]

Donald Drake passed away on 15 May 2018, dearly loved husband of the late Gladys and the late Margaret, much loved dad of Ruth and John. a dear stepdad, father-in-law, grandad, great-grandad and friend to many.

There was a private cremation, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at 11 am on Tuesday, 5 June 2018 at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Salterhebble, HX3 0AT.

Donations may be made to Candlelighters & Overgate Hospice.

He was active with Heath Scouts until his callup in 1941.

Requests for information

Bottomley Prizes

Don Hargreaves [Heath 1953–1958] writes:

Whilst perusing some of my old text books I came across one “presented” to me which said I had been awarded a “Bottomley Prize.” I couldn’t think what I had done to deserve this or even what it meant. As I had left Heath to go into the Merchant Navy, I had missed any prize-giving; so how it came to me I have no idea.

I have trawled your excellent website and downloaded relevant copies of *The Heathen* but am no wiser. Could somebody please enlighten me?

Terry Rees [Heath 1953–1960] very quickly responded to the request on the website:

I too have one of these. It was awarded to those who had not received a form prize or subject prize but in the view of the teaching staff deserved something.

The strange case of Robert Hemblys-Scales

Robert Victor Hemblys-Scales appears once in the Heath archives and, after he left Christ’s College, Cambridge, the next thirty years of his life as an intelligence officer and minor diplomat are very well documented.

But we have nothing about his early life or later life. Any information about these will be gratefully received.

Robert Victor Hemblys-Scales: c1921–? [Heath ?–1939]

Robert Victor Hemblys-Scales appears once in the Heath archives when his departure from Heath Grammar School in 1939 to Christ’s College, Cambridge from which he graduated from with honours in Classics and Philosophy is mentioned. We do not know when he was born or when he entered Heath.

However, the next thirty years of his life as an intelligence officer and minor diplomat are very well documented because his wife deposited the family papers including his personal diaries and photographs with the [National Library of Australia](#) in 1984. But after he and his wife separated in the early 1970s, there is nothing except a tantalising contact with Christ’s College in 2003.

On 29 October 1943 he is listed as a member of the Intelligence Corps and served as a Staff Officer with

the Planning Group for the invasion of N.W. Europe as well as on Field Marshal Montgomery’s staff with the Third U.S. Army. In 1945 he participated in the investigation of Dr Allan Nunn May.

In 1947 he was commissioned to write a report on Soviet espionage with Michael Serpell. Much of the information was drawn from papers seized from the Gestapo in Paris when Henri Robinson was arrested in 1942.

In 1948, following reports that a KGB agent had infiltrated Australian government offices, he was posted to Australia for eight months to advise on the creation of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. There he met Tania Virginia Teppema, the only child of Peter and Carmen Teppema, who had been born in 1925 in Sydney but had moved to Buenos Aires with her parents in 1932 where she lived until 1944, when she enrolled at Smith College, Northampton MA. In 1947 she moved to Canberra with her parents and accompanied her father on his diplomatic missions in America and Europe before getting a job at the Commonwealth National Library.

The wedding announcement says that, after marrying in Canberra in early 1949 (a wedding report appears in the 19 February 1949 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*), the couple expected to settle in the UK after a honeymoon in Australia. But in 1949 the Hemblys-Scales were posted to Ismailia in the Suez Canal Zone and in 1950 Robert transferred from MI5 to MI6. In 1951 he was appointed to Singapore and in 1952 to Bangkok from where they visited Japan. In 1955 they visited Malaya and he was involved in the preparations for the SEATO conference in Bangkok.

They returned to London in 1955 before Robert was appointed to Munich as British Vice-Consul, returning to London in 1959. Tania’s mother died in New York that year and her father the following year. This year they had various holidays in Europe before Robert was posted to Lima in 1961 as Consul to the Republic of Peru. In 1965 Robert left the British Foreign Service, possibly because of a health problem, and went into business. They then moved to Buenos Aires, where Robert suffered severe business difficulties involving heavy financial loss.

After separating from her husband, Tania reverted to her maiden name, living in Punta del Este, a resort town on the Uruguayan coast. They had no children.

Catherine Twilley, Fellow & Development Director at Christ’s College, Cambridge, kindly let us know that Robert was in touch with the college in 2003 to say that he was a retired diplomat now living in Rio de Janeiro.

Subscriptions

Your Association needs you NOW

New subscription rates were agreed at the AGM on 26 September 2015.

- *For subscribing members:* Voluntary increase in your annual subscriptions from £5 pa. to £10 pa.
- *For new members:* Start paying subscriptions of £10 pa. and/or make a donation to cover your 'missing' years.
- *For 'Life Members':* Our records have got hazy over time and you have had exceptional value for money; so please consider recommitting to £10 pa.

Why do we need your subscriptions?

So we can maintain and improve our level of support and giving.

The Association does all it can to help and support the Crossley Heath School. We provide four prizes annually — for Excellence in Sport girls/boys, A level Textiles and Further Maths. Periodically we make donations to the school, most recently in November 2015 with a cheque for £500 towards the new sixth form centre.

The Association also does all it can to help and support Savile Park Primary School which officially moved into the historic Heath Grammar School building in October 2015. We provide prizes to the school for academic and outstanding achievements and made a donation to the school in November 2015 of £500 towards the school's refurbishment.

The Association donates to a variety of local good causes and charities, most recently to the [Young Minds Charitable Trust](#).

The Association also maintains its website, keeping Old Boys connected, with news and events. The annual events include a reunion dinner, a Founder's Day celebration and Bowling competitions.

The Association also sends out an annual newsletter, by post, to Old Boys not connected to the World Wide Web.

What do you need to do?

Sort out your subs now.

- *Existing members:* Simply contact your bank to increase your subs to £10 pa.
- *New members:* Simply contact our treasurer Duncan Turner to arrange setting up your annual subs/donations:
Mr J D Turner
18 Newlands Road
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The views presented in this Newsletter are the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the HOBA.

[Crossley Heath School](#)

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