



An interview with Lynnette Cassidy, Head of Crossley Heath

GRAYHAM Smith of the Heath Old Boys Association and Michael Denton of the Old Crossleyans Association wanted to know how the school had changed and how it was evolving to meet the challenges of today.

Experience

Lynnette has had a very wide range of experience in the world of education and, apart from a brief dalliance with Natwest Bank's graduate trainee programme, has spent all of her working life in teaching and education. She graduated in geography and taught at Ashton under Lyne for five years after obtaining her PGCE. This was a tough introduction to teaching but she moved on to other challenging schools in Bradford and Batley before moving away from the chalkface into working in advisory education and planning roles with the local authorities of Calderdale and Kirklees. In 2011 she returned to school teaching where her skills and experience proved very effective. Before becoming head of Crossley Heath she was Deputy Head at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School.

Change

We talked about how schools had changed from the days which Grayham and I remember in the 1950s when they were virtually self contained in the sense that they could teach almost what they wanted and how they wanted to teach, provided they didn't break the law. They were not consumed with the tight financial regulation we have today and which has led to a system which is governed by significantly reduced funding over the last few years administered directly through the Department of Education.

As a grammar school, the very academic curriculum is traditional. The curriculum is under regular review; the Head would like to extend the arts and sporting opportunities; however, she sees no likelihood of greater funding to enable this — all of which adds to her, the staff's and the Governors' burden.

Lynnette thinks that in the 1960s there was a growing awareness that the then national system of grammar schools, technical colleges and secondary schools was not the best way to educate children and help them to achieve the best they could.

Friday, 13 September 2019 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, 10 May 2020 (tbc) Russell Smith Memorial Trophy Bowling Challenge
1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

Thursday, 18 June 2020 (tbc) Founder's Day Commemoration
7.30 pm Halifax Minster

Sunday, 21 June 2020 (tbc) HOBA vs Crocs Bowls Competition
1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

Internet Explorer

The website has supported the Internet Explorer web browser since its inception; since this web browser is no longer supported by Microsoft, it is proposed to drop support for it. Please contact the Webmaster, [John R Hudson](#), if you still need to use this web browser to view the website.

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

The eleven plus test divided children into different career paths and social groupings which could govern their whole lives.

This gave rise to what became a tidal wave of reform driven by Government, including the Comprehensive system and the National Curriculum. Some reforms were beneficial, some less so. A number of strategies and reforms were tried, found wanting, but have come round again! Those grammar schools which survived, such as Crossley Heath, have had to adapt to meet these challenges whilst still retaining the core values of a grammar education. Lynnette believes that grammar schools have a place within a mixed economy of school types.

Funding

Lynnette explained that it is the *per capita* funding system which has probably has the greatest influence on how the school has to run nowadays. Each student has a notional sum of money allocated to them by the government for their education and this is the main income source for running the school. There are variations in this *per capita* allowance which is dependent on where the school is situated and the social needs of some of the students. It is government policy that schools must teach certain key subjects, notably STEM subjects which are Science, English and Maths at GCSE. Humanities and Languages are also compulsory subjects at the school as part of the academic grammar school curriculum. This inevitably leaves reduced resources to deliver sports, visual arts and performing arts.

Crossley Heath has very successfully joined an organisation of local schools called C6 whereby sixth form students are taken by taxi to one of the schools in the group which teaches an A level subject which Crossley Heath doesn't currently offer.

The question of sixth form provision is a great cause for concern at Crossley Heath. We remembered the transition from fifth form to sixth form, from being under authority to being in authority, when you were expected to take on responsibilities such as prefect duties, house captains, running school societies, sports captains and coaches. There are still students who wish to take on these roles but the attraction of the new sixth form colleges is becoming more and more tempting. They can offer a wider subject range and up to date facilities for studying. There is also the temptation of wanting to get away from the junior school and associate with your contemporaries. A reduction in the number of sixth form students would reduce the *per capita* income stream and this would place pressure on the financial viability of the sixth form.

The School

The School increased its intake to 180 in 2015 (six classes of 30 per annum) which is seen as a possible life-

line — with consequent additional funding. The school offers the prospect and attraction for A level students of two more years in a well respected and renowned place of learning which is producing a high level of academic success.

Entry to Crossley Heath at age 11 is determined by success in the entrance exams which means that those parents who are able to may make sure that their children are tutored to pass the exam. There are advantages and disadvantages to this for children. For example, a child could be admitted because they passed the exam but might struggle to cope with the wider demands of grammar school life. It also means that children whose parents cannot afford to pay for tuition are at a disadvantage. Lynnette explained that the governors are aware of this and are exploring ways the school can engage with primary schools to see how the problem can be addressed and enable more children of the required ability to have the opportunity to study at Crossley Heath.

This is a taxing problem. Talented children may be overlooked for want of specialist tuition. It is acknowledged as problematical for grammar schools nationally but without a current solution.

Managing Crossley Heath, which is now a business as well as a source of education and opportunity for future generations, requires a leader with a wide range of experience and ability. Lynnette appears to be filling that role admirably.

We had a most enjoyable discussion but before we left we had one final question. What do you do in your spare time. If you have any?

I run 10 Ks and half marathons!

Good luck for your next race, Lynnette!

The School is in the hands of a good settled staff led by an impressive, purposeful Head teacher.

Michael Denton and Grayham Smith [Heath 1952–1959]

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Annual Reunion Dinner

THE Association held its 72nd Annual Reunion Dinner at Heath RUFC at West Vale on Friday, 28th September 2018. The 58 Old Boys and their guests who attended just pipped last year's record number.

The meal was again preceded by the AGM. Our veteran treasurer, Mr J. D. Turner, who has, like Nicholas Parsons (*Just a minute* BBC Radio 4), held office for

longer than anyone can remember, still presents an optimistic, encouraging report. The balance sheet shows financial good health. We continue to flourish. The

fives courts are still in use. We are encouraged to use the website, Facebook, etc. etc. The committee having been re-elected *en masse*, we moved to the real business of the evening.

An excellent meal was offered, consisting of Kings Tomato and basil soup, Queens meat and potato pie, School vegetables and House lemon meringue pie. The Latin grace was authentically read by Andrew Connell, he of the claimed close friendship with a future Prime Minister, no less.

Speeches dotted the proceedings. John Bunch paid a moving tribute to **Tony Edwards**, a stalwart of the diners for many years, who will be greatly missed.

We were delighted to welcome Lynnette Cassidy once again, now in post for a year and three weeks. She explained the scaffolding and ‘Daleks’ which have surrounded the building in recent month. She waxed eloquent about the school’s exam results — we are the ‘second best’ state school in Yorkshire, apparently — and sports results — the school has a young athlete who holds the European record for his age group. Unusually, it must be sadly noted here that one table of drunk young ‘gentlemen’ behaved abominably during the Head’s speech. You know who you are; so don’t let it happen again this year!

Jim Farrell, engaging and witty as ever, outlined the causes the Association has helped this year and urged us to pay our subs!

This year’s guest speaker, Nick Tobin [Heath 1997–1985], lived up to reputation, going from, in his

own words, the ‘academic mediocrity’ of four grade Cs at O level to the higher echelons of the BBC, from failed theatre impressario (twice!) to consorting with the like of Huw Edwards, interspersed with graphic memories of schooldays. This was a *tour de force* which received a standing ovation.

The night ended with uninhibited camaraderie. Thanks go again to all who helped to make it another success for HOBA

Those attending were: Jim Farrell, Jon Hamer, Nick Tobin, Dave Bradley, Lynnette Cassidy, Jas Chatha, Steve Mullen, John Henry, John Henry Senior, John Bunch, Craig Shannon, Dickie Craven, Chris Burnett, Dave Greenwood, Alf Lombardi, Gary Richardson, Craig Lister, John Russell, John Sumner, Tim O’Callaghan, Steve Bull, Andrew Thorpe, Tim Stringer, Mark Baxendale, Chris Tindall, Craig Morley, Denis O’Callaghan, Phil Marrion, Mike Orlic, Ollie Scholefield, John Denwood, Graham Farr, David Broughton, Alan Parker, Gordon Stansfield, John Davey, Andrew Connell, John Charnock, John Greenwood, John Hudson, Rod Eastwood, Grayham Smith, Mike Bingham, Roger Morley, Douglas Pilcher, Terry Ward, Duncan Turner, John Robertshaw, Rob Stollery, Phil Stollery, Dom Potter, Rob Sumner, Steve Greenwood, Alan Ellis, Kevin Ellis, Matt Guest, Steve Maxwell, Eddie Lumb.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

2018 Prize Giving

The 2018 Prize Giving took place on 18 December 2018 when the guest speaker was Dr Sarah Cotterill FRSA.

Among the prizes presented were:

- The Heath Old Boys Athlete’s Prize for Excellence in Sport (Girls): Anna Dickie
- The Heath Old Boys Athlete’s Prize for Excellence in Sport (Boys): Thomas Taylor
- The Heath Old Boys Prize for Chemistry: Hannah Grant
- The Heath Old Boys Prize for Further Mathematics: Caitlin Czuba
- The CE Fox Prize for Head Boy: Matthew Shaw
- The HC Morris Prize for Physics: Jack Meller
- The John Robertshaw Prize for A Level Progress: Reece Anderson
- The George Littlefair Prize for French: Tilly Hutchinson
- The CO Mackley Prize for History: Hannah Shelton

Presentation of Awards	
The Morris Memorial Prize for Head Girl	Sammun Mumtaz
The CE Fox Prize for Head Boy	Matthew Shaw
The Cockerill Prize for Deputy Head Girl	Yasna Ahmad, Riyan Ghafari, Lucy Hamer, Keerthi Koppala, Aneesa Mann, Sabira Sohail, Amreza Zaman
The Cockerill Prize for Deputy Head Boy	Hammad Mahmood
The Heath Old Boys' Association Athlete's Prize for Excellence in Sport (Girls)	Anna Dickie
The Heath Old Boys' Association Athlete's Prize for Excellence in Sport (Boys)	Thomas Taylor
The David Alexander Prize for Sporting Endeavour (Girls)	Sophie Jackson
The David Alexander Prize for Sporting Endeavour (Boys)	Callum Bell
The Sir Isaac Newton Prize for Public Service	Aditya Hartwe
The Miller, Turner & Watson Trophy for Most Improved Student of the Year	Philipp Robinson
The Lambert, Roger & Hunsfield Enterprise Award	Friya Adkinson
The Matthew Roche Prize for Art	Luc Schröder
The Sam Mitchell Prize for Drama	Ali Khan
The Robinson Science Award for GCSE Art	Jahid Jevani
The Sylvia Trenchard Lane Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to King House	Jorden Sutcliffe & Henry Stevens
The Sheila Francis Jackson Memorial Trophy for Poetry	Joss Corne
The Miss Graham Trophy for Outstanding Young Musician	Iris Palmer
The Miss Giddens Prize for Outstanding Contribution to House Activities	Lily Kinnery
The Seven Alices Prize for Participation in Nominations	Chloe Harper
The Cressley Heath School Prize for German	Frida Hoffmann
The Alan Bracey Prize for Economics	Hammad Mahmood
The Cressley Heath School Prize for Design Technology	Louis Graham
The Alan Bracey Prize for English Literature	Indya Ellis
The Cressley Heath School Prize for Business Studies	Reece Anderson
The Heath Old Boys Prize for Chemistry	Hannah Grant
The Steve Eggleston Prize for Biology	Keerthi Koppala
The Roy Ward Prize for Mathematics	Amreza Zaman
The HC Morris Prize for Physics	Jack Meller
The Cressley Heath School Prize for Psychology	Alexandra Gullen
The Roy Ward Prize for Religious Studies	Ruben Skinner
The Cressley Heath School Prize for School Music	Ivy Haley Porteous
The Heath Old Boys Prize for Further Mathematics	Caitlin Czuba
The Cressley Heath School Prize for Food and Nutrition	Imran Lone
The John Robertshaw Prize for A Level Progress	Reece Anderson
The Lambert, Roger & Hunsfield Prize for Information Technology	Sim Houett
The George Littlefair Prize for French	Tilly Hutchinson
The Cressley Heath Association Prize for English	Sara Hunt
The Cressley Heath Association Prize for Geography	Sam Pitts
The Cressley Heath Association Prize for Exceptional Attainment at A Level	Tilly Hutchinson & Jack Meller
The CO Mackley Prize for History	Hannah Shelton

2019 HOBA Bowling Challenge (Russell Smith Memorial Trophy)

On Sunday, 5 May 2019 the thirteenth edition of the esteemed Russell Smith Memorial Trophy match was contested at its spiritual home, Greenroyd Bowling Club.

A draw having been made, the pairs lined up as:

M. Bingham and P. Greenwood A. Waite and R. Dixon
R. Morley and J. Robertshaw B. Shackleton and D. Depledge
K. Campbell and R. Baigent G.P. Smith and J. Farrell; N.A. Small alternated with J. Farrell, so all got to bowl.



The winners

The format was identical to recent years, the score-

board unfathomable to all but its inventor. So, under leaden skies, the contest got under way.

The opening exchanges were tense and skilful with a surprising number of woods arriving in the proximity of their target. Waite and Dixon made a brilliant opening sortie but, as last year, soon faded. Campbell and Baigent won their opening games easily and looked set to be finalists. Morley and Robertshaw had to wait until late in the afternoon for their first success, alas!

The skies cleared, the sun showed up, but veteran arms had become weary. Perhaps the texture of the grass changed with the conditions as the bowling became noticeably wayward. 'It's faster than you'd think,' was heard.

The final, at 4.56 pm, was fought out by surprise element, Bingham and Greenwood, and Campbell and Baigent. The latter stormed into an 8-0 lead after four ends and an unassailable 9-3 lead after seven ends, leaving a dead end! K. Campbell bowled brilliantly.

To round off a pleasant, entertaining afternoon, all repaired to the clubhouse to partake of the excellent buffet provided by John Hudson and to reminisce.

Thanks to John Davey for his annual support and impeccable memory for all things Heathen and to G.P. Smith for organising the event which is now inevitably seen as a warm-up for the real challenge taking place at the Greenroyd on Sunday, 23 June 2019.

Rod Eastwood [1954-1961]

Founder's Day Celebration: Thursday, 20th June 2019

On Thursday 20th June 2019, at 7.30 pm Old Boys, their guests and civic dignitaries assembled at the West End of Halifax Minster to celebrate, for the fifth year of the current revival, the life and work of Dr Favour.

A very successful format has been established for the service, based on evensong, incorporating hymns, contributions from the choir, the traditional readings from Ecclesiasticus and Ephesians, an anthem, usually a short address, three collects and prayers, ending with a chaplet being placed on the bust of the venerable Dr Favour.

So it was that the choir stalls resounded to the strains of 'He who would true valour see' and later to the cunning conflation of 'Lord, behold us with thy blessing' and

'Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing' into one hymn, which those of a certain age will remember singing at the opening and closing school assemblies of the school term. A rousing 'For all the saints' concluded the religious part of the service.

Controversially, there was no address this year, for which some no doubt were thankful whilst others, fewer perhaps in number, regretted the spiritual vacuum left hanging in the air by such an omission.

The Minster Choir, conducted by the Revd Canon Hil-

ary Barber, sang magnificently and indeed played a huge part in the success of the occasion.

The chaplet was duly placed on a startled looking Dr Favour by Head Girl, Zara Ramzan. Jim Farrell read the anonymous couplets inscribed outside the School House, Grayham P. Smith presented a cheque to John Hoggard for the Royal British Legion, being the donations received in respect of the WWI Booklet produced in 2018 (see page 5), and all repaired to the café area of the Minster to enjoy refreshments and chat.

Thanks again to the many people who helped to make

it another memorable Old Boys celebration, the Vicar for hosting us, the curate, Revd Jane Finn, for leading the service, Angie Gallagher, Deputy Mayor and Jim Gallagher, Consort, the Head Girl, Zara Ramzan, and Head Boy, Fabrizio de Vito, the choir, Jim Farrell and the committee and Old Boy, Jas Chatha, for providing the refreshments.

A larger attendance would be welcome; so put Thursday, 18th June 2020 in your diary for next year.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

Heath vs Old Crossleyans Bowls Tournament 2019

IF you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;

— famous lines taken from the nation’s favourite poem and the last thing seen by Wimbledon players as they make their way onto the hallowed grass of Centre Court — equally relevant to those who made their way onto the hallowed grass of Greenroyd Bowling Club at 2 pm on Sunday, 23rd June 2019 to do battle in the sixth episode of the ongoing soap opera that is the Crocs versus Heath Challenge Cup.

For it surely the spirit of the occasion, the taking part, the conviviality that matter more than the mere result. Like heck it is! For Crocs lead 3–2 in the series and Heathen pride is at stake.

The players:

for Crocs: T. and G. Knowles, D. Kaye and B. Reynolds, B. and M. Reynolds, M. Squire (cap) and G. Mitchell, J. Dunn and B. Clayton

for Heath: A. Baigent (cap) and K. Campbell, A. Greenwood and M. Bingham, R. Dixon and A. Waite, C. Gostridge and J. Hunter, B. Shackleton and R. Depledge, N. Small and I. Crossland

It may be noted that Heath fielded an extra pair, always a good idea if you want to win!

So, little need be said about the surprisingly one-sided match. Heath made a great start and never looked back. All those tactical sessions and training camps paid off! By 3.20 pm Heath had amassed enough points, via G.P. Smith’s inhumanly complex scoring system, to put the result beyond doubt: 35–15. ‘You haven’t to take this too seriously,’ was heard.

The diminutive but prestigious trophy was accepted by Mr Baigent whilst Mr Squire was gracious in defeat. Thanks again to Jon Hamer for providing the buffet. The afternoon was enjoyed by all, and with the score now 3–3, next year’s challenge is already much anticipated.

Rod Eastwood [1954–1961]

P.S. The 2020 event is expected to take place on Sunday, 21 June 2020.

Donations

WWI Roll of Honour Publication

To mark the centenary of the end of World War I Grayham P. Smith [Heath 1952–1959], with the assistance of David Millichope, prepared a booklet dedicated to the 58 ‘Heathens’ who fell and those whose lives would never be the same.

This was printed at the Association’s expense and then given away on the promise of a donation to the Royal British Legion. £403 was given to the Association in the form of donations and, following the Founder’s Day Celebration on Thursday, 20th June 2019 at Halifax Minster, Grayham P. Smith presented a cheque for the amount to John Hoggard [Heath 1945–1952] of the Northowram Royal British Legion who received it on behalf of the Royal British Legion.



Figure 1: Cheque presentation

Review

John Thorp: *Three funerals and a wedding*

Three funerals and a wedding by John Thorp [Heath 1967–1974] could be subtitled ‘Don’t blame IT for your management failures.’ In it he takes us through his experiences working in a number of IT departments showing how whether IT was able to ‘add value’ to the organisation depended on management decisions.

He admits at the start that, because IT people like building new systems, they can be swept up in management delusions rather than saying, ‘No, this will not work.’

Following the death of Laura Ashley, the company commissioned a new IT system but was broken up into ‘Strategic Business Units’ in which each CEO sought to make a profit regardless of whether this would make any profit for the company, as a result of which the company went into terminal decline. Of course, Laura Ashley, was not the only organisation to re-organise in this way; the NHS started down the same road shortly afterwards and arguably is heading in much the same direction. As John says,

If you ever come across an internal customer, show

them the door as quickly as possible then change the locks (p. 21). Joining the Burton Group, John was involved in creating a database to replace the spreadsheets being used by most of the group’s high street shops. There was no plan behind the project; they just worked back from the agreed delivery date.

The Group then went through an expansion spree followed by a contraction. So, while the database project was ostensibly successful, it is difficult to see how it ‘added value’ to the Group.

In 2007 John joined Dixons just as it was about to buy the French company, Pixmania, to give it an Internet presence, hopefully to challenge Amazon. However, Dixons’ previous experience of integrating IT systems had gone badly and this case was no different with Dixons eventually disposing of Pixmania two years later having spent at least £500M trying to make the deal work.

John then reflects on the cultural issues involved in an acquisition, not just of language and country but also of the organisation.

Finally he describes the success of the Compass Group in integrating the IT systems of a wide range of companies and in the merger with Granada's catering interests by focusing on simplicity and being prepared to be pragmatic about the levels of integration they could achieve.

He argues that the key to this was understanding how changes in the ways in which you handle data must be integral to any changes in the ways you manage the company.

There are a great many asides into the experiences of other companies and his experiences outside these four companies which make fascinating reading.

The strength of the book is the range of insights into how management decisions impact directly on the suc-

cess of an organisation's IT services. Many managers will not have the access to a similar range of experiences and will benefit from reflecting on John's experiences.

The weakness of the book is the poor copyediting — readers are not led to the key points but have to dig for them. That said, a manager who wants to understand how IT can 'add value' to their organisation will find many examples of how not to achieve this and useful insights into how to do it.

Thorp, J. (2018). *Three funerals and a wedding*. Leicester: Book Guild Publishing.

John R Hudson [Heath 1957–1960; 1962] is John Thorp's cousin and a retired management and IT consultant

Memories

Seven years a Heathen

Introduction

These reflections are the result of coming across a photograph of the pupils and staff of Heath Grammar School taken in May 1939. I'd started at Heath in September 1938 leaving in July 1945. A grammar school education was not usual in my family, though my sister had recently finished at Princess Mary High School. All my cousins left school at 14.

Three boys from Queen's Road Junior School went to Heath, one or two to Crossley & Porter; some girls went to Princess Mary and some to Crossley's, but financial considerations prevented some who had passed the 11+ from taking up a place. A number who didn't pass went to the Modern School and some on to the Junior Technical School. The thought was that you had 'passed' or inevitably 'failed.' The notion of selection for the most appropriate form of secondary schooling had to wait to the 1944 Education Act.

1 Starting

In addition to the intelligence test, prospective pupils were interviewed at the school of their choice. So one afternoon I went to Heath and was seen by a small panel.

We had to take some exercise books. In mine was a composition about Richard the Lionheart. As I'd been asked, 'What do you want to be when you leave school?' and had answered, 'A history master,' I was asked about the king. Maybe what I said clinched my place, for I doubt that I had scored all that heavily in the IQ test.

My first day at Heath was inauspicious, almost disastrous. The new boys were assembled in the gym, seated on benches. Our names were read out in alphabetical order; first those for the A form were read. (We were asked to reply.) My two colleagues with surnames starting C and E were in the A form. I did not hear mine. Then those in the B form. I sat waiting to hear it, having a sinking feeling that I'd failed to answer. Sure enough, when it came, that's what happened and sheepishly I had to go to the master and say, 'Sorry, I missed answering.' Many years later when I was in a position to organise how pupils were organised in groups on starting secondary school, I was determined no-one should face that embarrassment. As building work was still going on, our form room was initially in the library. We were seated in alphabetical order. Our form master was B. S. Fraser [Heath 1937–1940] who taught us history and English.

Secondary, that is, grammar, school education was not free. That had to wait to the 1944 Education Act. For those offered a place, there was a sliding scale of fees dependent on father's income. My father was somewhat put out having to pay a proportion of the fee, for we were by no means well off.

There were additional costs, the blazer and the cap, and not wearing the cap led to getting lines from the prefects. There was PE and games kit and we also had to purchase some text books. We didn't carry large numbers of books around the school. They were kept in our desks, secured by a padlock. The knowledge that our parents were sacrificing was I believe a spur to trying to do well.

When a friend of my mother's heard I was in the B form, she told her, 'He won't do well there; he needs to be in the A form.' I didn't scale the heights of aca-

demic achievement in the first year, partly owing to a prolonged absence in the second term.

In the end of year exams I finished mid table, something like 13 out of 28 or so. When there were some problems with A form and corresponding demotions 1939 was the last time a booklet was printed and distributed to parents showing from the end of year exams the position of every pupil in every subject in every class.

2 Moving up

W. L. Dudley [Heath 1925–1945] was our new form master in the second year and I liked him very much. He taught us Latin and geography of which he was in charge. One recalled maxim was, ‘You can have mountains without rain and rain without mountains.’ Sadly ill health caused his retirement in 1944 and he died in December 1945 aged 60. He had been at Heath since 1925.

For the beginning of the third year we were required to make a subject choice between German, geography or Greek. My preference was for geography; the school proposed Greek. I did German. I did not regret the choice.

The end of Year 2 saw us drop art and woodwork which was no heartache for me. In woodwork I had chosen to make a six hole egg rack. Somehow it took me all year which even with absences was a long time. In the last lesson I nailed it together. We still have it.

The second year saw an improvement in my performance reflected in a higher class position, 5th or 6th I think.

From Year 3 our form master was Arthur Holt [Heath 1930–1966]. My form position improved. I got to 3rd. That gave me a desk in the back row of the form room where we were seated in class position. I held on in Year 4. Being in the B form meant taking five years to School Certificate. The A form was fast tracked in four. Taking five was right for me.

In year 3 we still had music. This was singing. We were taken by a retired teacher who had returned to cover for absence. He also taught Latin. Mr Gornall [Heath 1941–1947] exists still in the memory from one lesson.

Teacher: Hanson, you’re not singing.

Hanson: No, Sir.

Teacher: Why, boy?

Hanson: My voice is breaking.

Teacher: No matter. Sing up.

warbling . . .

Teacher: Hanson, do stop singing if that is what it is supposed to be.

I always struggled with maths. I just didn’t understand Dr Brown [Heath 1934–1945] who taught me in Years 1 and 3, and he couldn’t understand how anyone

could be so dim. It was left to Tom Withycomb [Heath 1931–1947] to get me a pass in School Certificate. This was achieved by a credit in arithmetic and passes in algebra and geometry. How algebra was passed is a mystery. Learning the theorems and getting enough constructions right secured the geometry one. The B form did general science, the A form the three separate sciences. Getting a credit in general science secured matriculation.

In the fifth form I was taught by C. O. Mackley [Heath 1931–1961] for history and English (language and literature), A. Holt for French and German, M. W. Wathams for Latin, T. Withycomb for maths and I think Mr Whorwell [Heath 1939–1943] for general science. I did sufficiently well in School Certificate to enter the sixth form and prepare for higher education.

3 The staff

Nearly all the teachers in the 1939 photo had nicknames. Some were their first names: Tom (Withycomb), Larry (Gain), Harry (Birchall), Ben (Young). Others were obvious: Mustard (Coleman), Whisky (Haigh). The origins of the others were more mysterious: Biddy (Taylor), Tishy (Holt), Oddygrunt (Brown), Tough (Owen), Onky (Peace), Pop (Dudley). Second master Phoenix was known as Bill Stinks (he taught science) and D. J. D. Smith [Heath 1935–1946], the Head, was the Beak. The one who didn’t seem to have a nickname was C. O. Mackley. The 1939 photograph was the last time all these teachers were together at Heath for in September war broke out.

4 The war

From the very first there were changes as staff were called up. One of the first was Harry Birchall [1936–1973] and his replacement, C. H. Place from Crossleys, served for the duration. Others left at regular intervals. The Head seems to have done more teaching; he taught us one year for Latin. For most of the time we were taught in the major subjects by those teachers who remained at the school throughout the period.

1944 saw a major change with the arrival of Mrs Kathleen Newton [Heath 1944–1946] who was the second woman to teach at Heath. I had the pleasure of being taught by her in the second year of the sixth form for general studies. Another in the sixth form was Dr Morel [Heath 1941–1946] who was a refugee from Nazi Europe. He may have had some difficulty in the main school but we appreciated his scholarship.

The impression remains that the war had surprisingly little impact on our education though no doubt we missed out on many extra-curricular activities. For some time we carried gas masks and in the first few

months there were practices to the air raid shelter under the bus garage. We took a lively and intelligent interest in events and the teachers fostered this, helping to develop an objective view. In one English lesson when we were required to prepare and deliver a short talk on 'the thing that most interests me,' one member of the class spoke on 'Propaganda' and a very fruitful discussion followed. As time went on and the war in Europe drew to a conclusion we were particularly interested in events in the Far East, for that was likely to be the theatre of war into which we would go. Then the two atomic bombs were dropped.

One sad reminder of the fact we were at war was when in assembly the Head had to announce the death in action of old boys. At first most of them were names to us but as the hostilities continued there were those who had been in upper forms when we arrived. Their names are recorded by the memorial gates in Free School Lane. From time to time we were assembled to hear a recruiting talk by officers of the armed services. In view of what took place later there was a certain irony in listening to an ex-Colonel extol the virtues of serving in the Indian Army.

School day started with assemblies in the main hall. This was an act of worship with a hymn (from the Public School Hymn Book), a bible reading (by a prefect) and prayers. There was usually a Prayer Book collect which we had to learn by heart and repeat together. For a chapel boy at first this was strange but I've never forgotten them for which I am now grateful. During the war groups went to farm camps. There was potato picking in Lincolnshire. In 1943 I went harvesting to Barrowby Grange near Kirby Overblow. We were still awaiting the results of School Certificate and for those of us contemplating the sixth form there was a hint of changed relationships as, in place of surnames, we were called by our own first names as C. O. Mackley taught a number of us how to play bridge.

Two years later the camp was at Eardisley in Herefordshire. A small group of us were deputed to travel a day in advance of the main party to get things ready and take some equipment

We were not a good choice for when we arrived we realised that the cooking equipment was missing. We had left it at Stockport station platform where we made one of several changes. When we sat down to eat the Head who had travelled by car reminded us in his usual quizzical way that we could have had a hot meal. The equipment turned up next day. We had decided to show we were now 'Old Boys;' cigarettes would be produced and we would light up. However, before we could DJDS produced his cigarette case and offered us all one, to which we all replied, 'No, thank you, Sir.' Mrs Newton [Heath 1944–46] was one staff member in the fortnight I was there. This was fuller evidence of her involvement in all aspects of school life.

We had travelled to Herefordshire on V. J. Day. On the

last lap by train from Hereford we were accompanied by a carriage full of South Wales Borderers who had been celebrating and gave us their version of a number of Welsh hymns. Although the war had ended, there was uncertainty about our future destinations. The camp took place while Higher Certificate results were awaited and we didn't know whether we would be called up or be able to go into higher education.

5 Sixth form

The two years in the sixth form were hugely enjoyable. One reason was, apart from re-sitting any subject from School Certificate, the first year was free from any exams. Choosing to enter the Modern Sixth meant taking two main subjects, History and French, and two subsidiaries, English and German. The syllabus for a subsidiary subject meant it could be covered in one year and the exam was taken in the second. This gave the opportunity to explore them widely and 'Biddy' Taylor took us through a masterful survey of English literature from Saxon times. German was equally stimulating. Dr Morel shared his love of German literature, especially Goethe and Schiller.

History was my chief interest and the history 'boys' sat round a table in the library with C. O. Mackley holding court. The Oxford and Cambridge Board's syllabus covered English history from 1485 to 1914 and European history from 1494 to 1914, plus a special subject on William Pitt, the Elder. This was a good foundation for later study. C. O. Mackley must have thought I was worth persevering with for with a few others on Friday evenings at his 'digs' he introduced us to political philosophy from classical times onwards. Prose and unseen translations and set books of plays and novels meant French was an equally rigorous syllabus. We also took a General Studies paper.

We sat the Higher Certificate exams in an empty school which had broken up for the summer holidays to meet the change in the date of Halifax Wakes. Despite failing English subsidiary through getting the contexts in the *Hamlet* paper wrong, I did OK to proceed to higher education.

And there was the Favour-ites, not teacher's pets, but the sixth form society named after the school's founder. It met on Friday afternoons, starting in school time, for which two periods were set aside, and continuing later. While attendance was expected, it was voluntary. I'm sure any who did not share in it lost out. There were play readings, debates on formal motions, as well as less formal motions pulled from a hat which you had to talk to; there were mock trials and elections. It was an enriching and growth experience giving the opportunity to speak in front of colleagues and thus confidence boosting.

Shove half-penny was a further opportunity to waste time. One day suddenly a figure swept in and swept

everything onto the floor. ‘Gentlemen, you can do better than this,’ said C. O. Mackley.

6 Prefects

As a traditional grammar school of its time Heath had a well-established prefect system. For an eleven year old it was not easy at first to distinguish who were teachers and who were prefects. In these early days many prefects seemed to have a position of authority almost surpassing that of the staff. Many of them, in their plus fours, looked as old as some teachers (there were some new boys who called prefects ‘Sir’) and of course in a short time they were in the armed forces.

As time went on the prefects became almost contemporaries; any vestige of the sense of awe disappeared. Then came the time when one found oneself in the position. While later in the state sector the system either disappeared or was a much less selective one, I confess that this provided a further opportunity to exercise responsibility. From time to time prefects were deputed to sit in with classes when a member of staff was absent.

Not that we always behaved with due decorum. We had been given a small room on the top corridor as a Prefects Room which we decorated. Some of our number used it as a smoking room. There were some high jinks. On one occasion a game of blind man’s buff on the corridor was interrupted by the Head on one of his tours of the school. He was not convinced by the explanation to see if we could find our way in the dark when fire watching.

We had a number of disconnected private study periods which tended to be called ‘free periods.’ Frank Parker [Heath 1938–1945] and I spent a couple going through the more rousing hymns in the Methodist Hymn Book until our singing so disturbed the class next door that a member of staff politely yet firmly requested an end to our devotions.

7 Discipline

Throughout the school this was firm but fair. You quietly discovered or were told who not to play up. On one occasion with some mates I’d been gossiping in an English lesson and was singled out as the ring leader. I was told to stand outside in the corridor. The Head on one of his prowls met me and gave such a wiggling I don’t think I misbehaved in future.

For a time we had a temporary teacher whose discipline was not strong. We had desks with seats attached and in one lesson we played dodgem cars moving the desks around the classroom. Another time there was a mini snowball fight in the room and some hit the blackboard near to which the teacher was standing. Such occurrences were isolated events. For most of the time our ill discipline was reserved for the upper deck of the 29

bus, though this was mainly boisterous, inconveniencing the adult passengers. The conductors were quite capable of dealing with it. In any case most of us were aware that should our parents get to know we would be dealt with.

8 Games

The school day started at 9 am with assembly in the main hall. Morning school lasted to 12.15 with a 15 minute break. Afternoon school was 2 pm to 4.15 pm with no break.

On Saturday mornings school ended at 12.15. As there was Saturday morning school, there were no lessons on Wednesday afternoons. This was to enable games to be played against other schools. Wednesday also gave the opportunity to go to the ‘flicks.’ The best seats in the matinees at the Regal or the Odeon cost 6^d. In my early teens I saw lots of films.

In the early years rugby in games lessons was played on Manor Heath. The school’s rugby ground was Kensington but towards the end of the war we played at Ovenden Park. We played cricket at Spring Hall and also used King Cross ground for cricket fixtures. Crossley & Porter played in Thrum Hall. This was an imaginative move by the clubs and one I’ve been surprised does not seem to have been repeated in my experience.

In the first year sixth I played occasionally for the school 1st and 2nd XV’s. I suspect my father’s assessment on seeing me play was accurate. ‘He’s like Doodles at Blackpool Tower Circus; he runs around and does nothing.’

I performed better at cricket. I gained my 1st XI colours though my debut for the school 2nd XI against Crossleys at Brownfield was an abject failure — caught second ball in the slips for 0. My last innings for the 1st XI at King Cross when I scored 36 not out enabled us to draw a match which had earlier seemed lost. Next day I went down with mumps. I don’t think the two events were linked though it was not good preparation for Higher School Certificate a few weeks away.

As sixth formers we had use of the fives court and, while not all that proficient, it was enjoyable exercise.

In our first year we had swimming at Park Baths. This required a mad dash to and fro, right out of the school site down Heath Road across Well Head into Love Lane and across King Cross Road.

9 Boys

Heath was very much a male society. Apart from Mrs Newton at the end of our careers, Kathleen Place was the only female in the school. Girls for most of us were strange and mysterious creatures. My father firmly believed that for adolescent boys they were a major distraction from work.

At Christmas 1944 the sixth form held a social to which sixth formers from Princess Mary were invited. Afterwards a number of us sang carols alongside Miss Scott's house which did nothing to improve relationships.

At the Eardisley farm camp when a number of us were fancying our chances with the local girls, Mrs Newton gave some positive guidance on relationships as we young men were about to go into the wide world either to college or into the forces. Years later this served as a reminder that in a mixed school the role of women teachers was as, if not more, important for the boys as for the girls.

10 Some individuals

As I have rarely gone back to any organisation once I have left and have not joined old schools associations I'm largely unaware of the achievements of my contemporaries or of the whereabouts of those on the 1939 photo. Three names who were predecessors and who were on the Honours Board in the Entrance Hall had later on real meaning for me.

Harold Eyre [Heath 1928–1935] was an exhibitor at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, but joined the navy and was lost at sea. I later discovered the very high regard in which he was held as an undergraduate.

Roy Belford [Heath 1930–1938], who was a legend to new boys, had won a scholarship to Brasenose College, Oxford. Later when he returned from war service to resume his studies, I had the great pleasure of meeting him and discovering the legend was real.

Donald Hudson [Heath 1926–1935] went to St Catherine's Society, Oxford, in order to train for the Baptist ministry at Regent's Park College. His family lived near us and at the end of the second term my parents recruited him to sort out problems I was having with Latin. This he did and my sudden improvement almost left Larry Gain speechless. Many years later I valued Donald's insights and common sense in Baptist circles.

In my time four 'History Boys' of C. O. Mackley's Modern Sixth became Head Teachers. Tony Barrett [Heath 1934–1944] was in Liverpool. Cedric Kaye [Heath 1942–1945], who came into the sixth from Elland Grammar School, Bernard Wilkinson [Heath 1934–1940] and myself were all in Gloucestershire. Bernie and I shared a platform at an educational forum in the lovely Cotswold village of Painswick and he informed the audience we were both Heathens! I added I believe he was on duty watching those who came for interview as prospective pupils and ushered me into the Head's room as I stood waiting after knocking on the door.

11 Conclusion

Heath was no academic 'hothouse' but it was a good school in the best meaning of that term. It provided for

all its pupils and the implication made by my mother that members of the B form received a second best education was not true. Most of what was offered was sound; it was up to us to take and use it. The possibility of higher education was offered to all and we were glad to have students from the Junior Tech coming into the sixth form and they were totally and quietly integrated and involved.

The Honours Board was a reminder of what was possible and there was pride when the Head in Assembly announced that individuals had won Hastings and Brackenbury scholarships.

Looking back I'm convinced that within the limitations that existed, some resulting from the War, I received as good an education as anyone had a right to expect. Four years after leaving Heath I qualified as a teacher. My intention and inclination was for a post in a boys grammar school. I started teaching in a co-educational comprehensive school which launched me on a very different but hugely enriching career.

Raymond Hanson [Heath 1938–1945]

School photos

1935 School Photo

Andrew Marsh [Heath 1966–1973] writes:

The 1935 school photograph is a photograph that I have looked at many times in my life as my father, Bruce Marsh 1918–1998, is the boy 16th from the right, seated, 3rd row from the front, wearing a sports jacket and dark tie. He always was well built. Someone once said you could have got a yard stick between his shoulders!

He was educated at Queens Road Junior School and then went on to Heath [1929–1935], where he distinguished himself at Rugby Union (playing for the first XV while still a junior) and excelled on the sports field. He held several jumping and throwing records and I have all his silver cups.

The year this photograph was taken he broke the English Schoolboys National Shot Putt record and represented English schools at the White City in London. (In fact, his 12lb shot putt record of 44 feet 10½ inches at Heath has never been beaten. Sadly, when the weight converted to 10kg, the record was not pro-rata converted; so it stands in perpetuity.) In fact, in 1966 the first words Walter Swale said to me were: 'Can you putt the shot like your father?' To which I replied: 'I've never even seen a shot sir.'

Whilst at Heath he was also the Halifax and District Breaststroke Champion from 1933–1935, only relinquishing his title so that he could concentrate on athletics and rugby. He was *victor ludorum* at Heath in 1935 and again at the Halifax Technical College in 1936. He went on to have a distinguished record in the Royal Navy during the war and went into teaching, spending the majority of his career at Warley Road Junior School.

Four along from my father is his best pal, Harold Eyre, who was burnt to death landing his plane during the war. His wife was so upset she committed suicide. Harold's adoptive father, Sir Dryden Brook, later MP for Halifax, knowing they were good pals, gave her wrist watch to my late mother which I still have.

There are several other pupils I can identify and of course some of the masters were still at the school when I was there from 1966 to 1973 and my brother Jonathan [Heath 1970–1976] a few years later.

It's nice to see the old school photographs added to the site, thank you.

1938 School photo

John Stringer [Heath 1963–1968] has kindly sent us a copy of the 1938 School photo taken when his father, Edmund Stringer [Heath 1934–1940], was at the school, complete with names of a number of those in the photograph.

1950 School photo

Roger Crowther [Heath 1940–1951] has kindly sent us names of most of the masters and some of the boys in the 1950 photo. He writes:

I was in the Junior school from 1940 to 1943 when I joined the senior school. School certificate in 1948, Higher in 1950. In the Autumn term of 1950/51 Ralph Best became Head Boy, was awarded a Hastings Scholarship to Queen's College Oxford and left school. I became Head Boy and was captain of the 1st XV which was unbeaten. I also captained the school chess team which played a lot of other schools, particularly those where we also played rugby. I spent much of the year studying Latin which was a must for Cambridge entry. Got a school certificate in Latin and was at St John's College, Cambridge, from 1951–1954 following in the footsteps of Tony Earnshaw and David Wilson.¹ Philip Horrocks-Taylor followed me to St John's.

¹ One person I have for ever failed to find out anything about was David Wilson. Called Dago at school, born about 1930, a member of the 2nd Halifax (Heath) Scouts. Anyone know of him?

1964 and 1968 School photos

John Stringer [Heath 1963–1968] has kindly sent us enhanced versions of the 1964 and 1968 School photos complete with the names of many of the boys and masters and Stephen Readyhough [Heath 1964–1971] has added more names to the 1968 School photo.

History

A history of Heath School

Peter Hand

Read 1 October 1985

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An outline history of Heath School, with questions for further enquiry

This paper has a two-fold purpose; the first, to provide an outline of the school's history, and the second, to raise questions for further enquiry. For although there is probably enough material already in print to put together a reasonably informative narrative history, three

problem areas remain. First, we have very little information about the seventeenth century. Second, the relationship between the school and town needs much more attention, and third, explanations of why particular events occurred are seldom given in the earlier sources of the school's history. These problems will re-emerge throughout the paper.

1585–1731 The birth and re-birth of the 'Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, at Heath, near Halifax'

A charter for the establishing of a free grammar school was obtained by Henry Farrar of Ewood, at his own expense, from Queen Elizabeth in February, 1585. The

first land was given to the school in 1597 by the same Henry Farrar. A corporate seal of the governors of the charity was then made and a subscription opened to raise the money to build a schoolhouse on the two acre gift. The school first opened in 1600 and since Dr. John Favour, Vicar of Halifax, seems to have been the chief instigator of this activity from 1597 to 1600, he is now regarded as the founder.

Why Henry Farrar acquired the charter is nowhere explained, but the following collection of facts could perhaps provide an answer. The Halifax court rolls refer to 'the grammar school' and 'the master' throughout the sixteenth century. The last entry comes in 1571 but in 1587 a more helpful reference is to 'the land on the south side of the parish church on which stood the cottage where the grammar school was housed.' Further evidence for an earlier grammar school seems to come from the list of subscribers to the new building in 1597. Three of them are described as 'former scholars.' Link the existence of the grammar school with the actions of the vicars Ashbourne, father and son, and there may be a solution. Christopher Ashbourne was appointed as the first protestant vicar of Halifax in 1560. He is said to have 'sold much of the church's property.' (What property and to whom?) His son, Francis, succeeded as vicar in 1573 and married a daughter of John Lacey, thereby also becoming a brother-in-law of Henry Farrar. Both Henry Farrar and John Lacey were in the list of twelve governors named for the charity in the 1585 charter.

The first Heath School building is also interesting in that it provides a very early link with the university at Oxford. It was built by the Akroyds of Hipperholme who achieved much greater fame for their university buildings in Oxford, having been brought there by Sir Henry Savile, who was both the Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and a principal subscriber to the Heath building fund of 1597.

Between 1600 and 1635 two further appeals realised enough money for the governors of Heath to buy Hutt Farm, of seven acres in Ovenden, Northfieldgate Farm of some nine acres in Northowram, and the 120 acres of the Balkholme estate, near Howden in the East Riding. This last property was bought from Richard Sunderland of Coley Hall and George Vavasour in 1635. Given the difficulties of managing an estate so far from Halifax it would be interesting to know the reason for this transaction. (The property is now flourishing farm land, presently owned by the Post Office pension fund.) Various other rents and annuities were bequeathed to the Heath charity during this century and, like the Balkholme estate, were so neglected that by the mid-eighteenth century many had relapsed. When attempts were made to revive them, Heath's legal entitlement could no longer be proven. In fact the supervision of the charity's affairs had become so careless that in 1725 even the original Elizabethan Charter could not

be found.

Most of the information for the seventeenth century, which is very little, comes from the Archbishop of York's archives and concerns the periodic decline of the number of governors to levels which jeopardised the charity's existence. As early as 1607 and again in 1665, 1688 and 1697 the Archbishop, who was responsible for the charity, had to nominate new governors, since their numbers had fallen so low that they could not do it themselves. This may have been because of reluctance, disinterest, or real opposition by the gentlemen of Halifax to the charity.

Since the days of vicar Dr. John Favour, the Halifax Church had been closely linked with the puritan-minded part of the Anglican church and there seems to have been strong local sympathy for puritanism. However, in 1634, reflecting developments in London, the new Vicar, March or Marsh, was an Arminian, that is to say a 'high church' adherent, and it could be that the local gentry felt less attuned to their vicars, who usually played a significant role in the life of Heath School. It seems quite likely that, except for the period of the Commonwealth, the gentlemen of Halifax remained, as puritans or non-conformists, uncommitted to their vicar, his church or Heath School.

The dates of the Archbishop's interventions strongly suggest that the governors were not active and were simply not missed until they were required to elect a new master. In 1665 the Reverend Paul Greenwood left the school to become vicar of Dewsbury and in 1688 the master, John Doughty, had died. In 1725 there was only one governor left and even the Archbishop of York could not remedy this particular situation. The lack of information for the seventeenth century is, therefore, perhaps not so surprising given the apparent lax control of the charity. It is not possible to give even a reliable chronology of the masterships, nor is there any indication of the numbers of pupils at the school or what subjects they followed.

Between 1725 and 1731, however, the school was re-born. It needed to be. A contemporary said that 'the school had been badly neglected for forty years. The few remaining pupils were being taught by a mere youth of nineteen, the master not having been to the school for many years.' The problems facing the school in 1725 were immense as only one governor remained and the Vicar, Thomas Burton, refused to have any connection with local efforts to revive the school. Discussions with the Archbishop of York and lawyers of the Chancery court showed that a new charter would have to be drawn up to legalise the continuance of the Heath Charity, and a set of statutes to define the responsibilities and duties of master and governors were a necessity to avoid a repetition of this situation. Correction, however, was not easy for the schoolmaster, Thomas Lister, still lived and his vested interest could not be changed. Lister had been appointed in 1688

and by 1725 at the very latest had stopped coming into the school. In addition, no-one knew where the Elizabethan Charter was, and there was no money. It seems fairly certain that many of the rents had not been collected for several years.

Richard Sterne of Wood House led the campaign to revive the school and paid for it, over £100 by 1730. A great deal of the correspondence between Sterne and Dr. Thomas Haytor, the Archbishop of York's secretary and their legal agent in London has remained. It shows a clever political tussle between two groups of Halifax men. One group was led or represented by Abraham Milner and the winning group, led by Sterne, were all 'of the established church and friends to the government.' It has the appearance of a take-over bid but precisely what politics or jealousies were involved is not clear. The Archbishop of York favoured Sterne and had no sympathy with either Vicar Burton or the last of the remaining governors, Henry Graeme. These were the years when nationally the Whigs were removing the Tories as far as possible from posts in local government and in the Church. The Whigs were keen to secure the succession of the Hanoverian Kings. The Tories were still not trusted after the Revolution of 1688. They were still tainted with support for the Catholic James II and were suspected of strong sympathy with the Jacobite Rising in 1715. Do these national politics find any echo in the affairs of Heath School in 1725? I am sure they do, but the proposition needs proof.

1731–1887

Thomas Lister died in 1728 and a new charter, signed by Queen Caroline in the absence abroad of George II, along with the new statutes, was acquired by 1731. From this date information about the school improves considerably. There are records of the governors' meetings and a considerable number of documents relating to all aspects of the governors' responsibilities.

It had required strong words from the Archbishop to obtain even a minimum level of co-operation from the vicar and the governor, Henry Graeme, but by 1733 Richard Sterne's work seemed to have been successfully completed. A series of temporary appointments to the mastership were ended and the nomination of the Reverend John Holdsworth launched the school on a more stable course. He was succeeded in 1744 by the Reverend Samuel Ogden who resigned in 1753 to become Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Oxford University.

At this point another outburst of bitterness between the governors and the vicar of Halifax occurred. Exactly what the reasons were is not clear, but there were complaints to the Archbishop that better candidates to the Mastership of Heath had been turned down and Vicar Legh wrote that he would not have the new Master, West, in his chapel. The complaints may have

been justified for by 1760 the governors were becoming critical of West who was refusing to enlarge and modernise the curriculum of the school. The dispute seems to have come to a head in 1769. Shortly afterwards, West retired and was followed by the Reverend Richard Hudson. His contribution, to 1782, and that of his successor, the Reverend G. W. Kempson, to 1789, were very important.

With these two gentlemen, the position of Heath was considerably improved. Partially this was because all the masters since 1760 had been supported by president governors who seem to have administered the Charity's affairs in a conscientious fashion. Three of them cover the whole period, Christopher Rawson, John Edwards and John Rawson. Richard Sterne, the first president governor, had been succeeded in 1733 by James Batley, who fled the country in 1744 to avoid his creditors!

Another reason for the improvement was that, in 1774, the school and school house were enlarged, a reflection on the improving finances of the charity, thanks to the more careful management of recent president governors. It might also have been a consequence of the changes made to the statutes and the wider curriculum introduced in 1770. As the commercial activity of the town began to expand so the demand for education, of the right sort, must have grown.

In 1782, one of the most significant changes for the future also occurred in the Charity's properties. The Balkholme estate was exchanged for the Hartley Royd estate at Cornholme. The steep slopes and fast running streams of Hartley Royd are in distinct contrast to the flatness of the lands near Howden, but, at least, Todmorden was close by. Although the White Hart and the Golden Lion were now more frequently the scene of the governors' meetings than any place in Halifax, the governors' minutes show an interest and liveliness in their duties which were not previously evident. The exchange was well timed. The machinery of the industrial revolution needed power, and factory masters would pay for the streams. Lancashire coal-mines needed pit props, so Hartley and Kitson woods became profitable. Stone quarrying for the new turnpike roads and the new mills also increased over the next forty years. Several companies tried to develop lead mining but not, apparently, with much success. When the Leeds and Manchester railway came through the valley their powers of compulsory purchase were an annoyance, but the cash lump sums, and the improvements to fencing, walling and local roads on the estate were welcome windfalls.

Dealings with the masters of the industrial revolution, however, were not only increasingly time-consuming, but also required a particular expertise. In 1796 Lewis Alexander was retained as the first clerk and solicitor to the governors, and in the same year John Crossley became the governors' first land agent. By 1812, the modernisation of the management had been taken a

step further by opening a bank account. Previously all income had been kept in the 'Great Chest,' as opposed to the 'Little Chest' which contained the leases and other documents belonging to the Charity, an arrangement stipulated in the 1731 statutes.

When the Rev. Robert Wilkinson was appointed Headmaster in 1789, the school would seem therefore to have been in as good a shape as at any time in its history. The records support the view of an active and thriving charity, although they have little to say of the school itself. In 1826 a visit by the Charity Commissioners adds a little more information. They recommended the appointment of an usher and an increase in the headmaster's salary. This apparently healthy situation was, however, short lived. In 1839 an Act of Parliament had made it possible for Endowed Schools, such as Heath, to broaden their curriculum, even to change their original statutes, to meet the requirements of the rapidly changing communities in which some existed. These reforms, naturally had to be approved by all with an interest in the endowments: governors, teachers, parish church and the Charity Commissioners. Heath did not respond to the opportunity and was attacked in 1840 by a group of local people. Posters appeared, headed 'Monopoly,' accusing the governors of misusing the funds of the charity, that is, not providing free education for the youth of the parish. The governors were moved by these activities to take legal advice from a QC. and finding that they were not acting illegally, did nothing. Almost certainly, in spirit, they were not fulfilling the intentions of the Charter, but then many other endowed schools were acting similarly. They were looking towards the middle classes to provide fee-paying boys and tending to ignore the working class boys for whom they were intended.

In 1832 severe competition sprang up from the new Wesleyan School at Park House. With a broader range of subjects and its Methodist background it certainly attracted pupils who might otherwise have gone to Heath.

Unfortunately as these challenges faced the school the headmaster was no longer equal to the fight. The Rev. Robert Wilkinson had been at the school for over forty years and in the seven years before he died in 1840 he was seldom in attendance.

It was at this period too when similar endowed schools throughout the country were becoming 'Public Schools,' for example Repton, Rugby, Oakham. They were responding to a variety of pressures and opportunities — a demand for more places from a growing number of successful industrial entrepreneurs, easier and safer travelling provided by the new railways, and the inadequacy of many school incomes based often on rents and annuities whose value had not kept pace with the wealth of the country.

Edward Heap was elected to succeed Wilkinson but, on seeing the inadequate provision for boarders,

resigned before he actually assumed the headship. Both his eventual successor, the Rev. J. Henry Gooch (1840–1860) and the Rev. Thomas Cox (1860–1883) had ambitions to make Heath into a public school; both were thwarted.

Gooch's headship coincided with a general economic depression locally, which saw the number of boys in school decline from 70 to 27 by 1859. The Charity's finances suffered quite badly through rent arrears and the discovery that many land leases for building, in Cornholme, were illegal. Costs in Chancery Court to remedy these illegalities were very high. Plans to sell some land in order to improve the school buildings were also postponed on the advice of their land agent since prices were depressed because of the cut-back in the cotton industry during the American Civil War.

Nevertheless the competition for the headmaster's post in 1860 was very healthy. There were over forty applicants, including, for example, the headmaster of Lancing College, Sussex. There can be little doubt that the successful headmaster, Cox, also hoped to make Heath a public school and the sale of land to enable the school's expansion to take place began in 1865. The area adjacent to the school, now known as Linden Road and Clifton Road, was sold at auction. The barrier to success this time was the 1869 Endowed Schools Act. Commissioners were appointed by the government to inspect endowed schools and, within areas of competing schools, to then rationalise the secondary education available. The Heath governors and Cox fought long, hard and at some cost to be exempted from the Act, by claiming to be a Church of England school. Two telegrams from the Houses of Parliament to the Heath governors, still in the school's possession, record the final defeat of their plans. The first, dated July 16, 1873 reads, 'Lord Salisbury last night gave notice of moving rejection of Heath School scheme on Friday night in the House of Lords.' The second telegram, on July 18th reads, 'Heath scheme confirmed by House of Lords ...'

Not only had Heath not escaped the net and future re-organisation, but it had certainly lost some local sympathy by wanting to avoid such re-organisation and by so strongly claiming to be a Church of England school. The re-organisation scheme which was imposed on Heath in 1873 involved the appointment to the governing body of local councillors and a widening of the curriculum to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding commercial centre. The timing of this re-organisation prevented Heath from reaping any benefits.

First the governors decided to build an entirely new school, the one now fronting Free School Lane. Of the many designs submitted 'Pecksniff' was chosen. The architects were then revealed as Leeming and Leeming of Halifax. The eventual cost reached £10,000.

The new school had to be a success to fill the huge hole created in the Charity's finances. It was not so.

Customers found alternative places either more cheaply in the Higher Elementary School recently built by the Borough and offering a more relevant syllabus than Heath, or, more prestigiously, at Bradford Grammar School, now more easily accessible through the building of the High Level railway. In 1883 only thirteen boys remained on the register. This plight caused acrid debate in both the council chamber and the columns of the *Courier*. The governors called in the Charity Commissioners, who since 1819 had replaced the Archbishop of York as the body responsible for the school's well-being. The Rev. Thomas Cox subsequently left the school with a substantial pension. The relationship between the headmaster and the governors had not been good for some years. Cox's parting gesture was to present the governors with a bill for furnishings to the house and for trees and bushes bought for the school-house garden.

Cox had made many improvements about the school, especially by introducing a whole range of new subjects which had disappeared during Wilkinson's mastership — Geography, History, French, Art and even Drill and Book-Keeping were taught. Competition from other schools was, however, intense. As many as thirty private schools, from as far away as Blackpool, advertised in the *Courier* on a single day.

With Cox's retirement in July 1883, the school closed. Since 1879 the annual deficit had been over £300 per year and was increasing. A more secure financial future had to be assured before Heath School breathed again.

1887–1886

The records do not make it clear who in particular was responsible for the financial schemes which led to the re-opening of the school in April 1887, but the selection of the new headmaster was clearly to be crucial. A. W. Reith led the school over the next twenty one years with notable success. Advantage was taken of both government and county schemes to earn additional revenue. Heath became a government sponsored Science School and also received aid from the West Riding C.C. In 1897 both Hutt Farm and Northfieldgate Farm were sold. The cash gained was helpful, but it was more important to sell property which was likely to be a drain on resources as such marginal land became less and less profitable.

Tercentary celebrations were held in 1897 too. They commemorated the school's first acquisition of property and the striking of a corporate seal, not the granting of the charter. They were very professionally organised, according to contemporary accounts, even hiring theatrical scenery designers from Liverpool to provide the scenery for a week of bazaars and events held in the Drill Hall, Halifax.

Subscriptions and financial guarantees from Halifax families had been the basis of the 1887 re-opening.

With more than £2000 raised in the Tercentary celebrations Heath's future brightened, (the headmaster's salary at the time was £400), although there were still only some 125 boys in a school designed for 250. However, the support must have been heartening. The school had ceased to be a church school in any direct sense and this may have encouraged more support. Halifax, too, was still growing and was prosperous. An increasing number of middle-class families certainly 'adopted' Heath over the next 60 or 70 years.

By 1900, the organisation and curriculum of the school were also relatively modern. Classics remained a strong department, and was now alongside an equally strong Science department. There were also between seven and ten masters who taught English, History, French, Geography, Mathematics and Art. Although Saturday morning school until 12.30 pm was operated, and was to last into the 1960s, gone were the 6 am starts of the eighteenth century and the Parish Church Services, which brought each school week to an end, at 1 pm on Saturday. These services had been held right up to the re-organisation of 1873. The statutes of 1727 had allowed the masters 20 days holiday each year and the boys 46 days. For the boys the holiday pattern until the mid nineteenth century had been to have 15 days at Easter, 10 days at Whitsuntide and 21 days at Christmas. Between 1840 and 1860, this holiday pattern was changed to a distribution similar to that of today. The beginning of the school day was also gradually adjusted from 6 am to 8 am, but a 5 pm end of session persisted from 1727 until the 20th century. There was some compensation for these long hours in that school closed at 11 am on Thursday.

Between 1905 and 1908 the sports field known as Kensington was also bought, levelled and provided with a secondhand pavilion. A committee of old boys and staff organised a series of concerts and competitions to raise the necessary £125.

Archibald Reith was succeeded for eight years by William Edwards who then moved on to become the headmaster of Bradford Grammar School.

The school numbers gradually increased to 195, partly the consequence of the outstanding academic success being achieved at the school. 1915 was not an untypical year but it was the best whilst Edwards was headmaster. In the summer examinations for the Oxford Locals Examination Board there were 8,668 candidates from England and Wales. The vast majority of candidates came from the established Public Schools. In the first 30 most successful candidates there were 7 Heath boys. No other school had more than 2. In individual subjects Heath boys gained 1st place in Classics, 2nd in Political Economy and 12th in French. The number of boys winning scholarships to the universities was also rising significantly. By 1930 there was a well-established Heath Society at Oxford University which usually attracted 12 or so old boys to its functions.

O. R. A. Byrde succeeded as headmaster in 1916 and the whole ethos of the school under him was now distinctly middle-class. His speech-day reports are full of interest. Hard work, he tells the boys, is their duty in order to uphold the honour and dignity of the nation. He asks his audience in 1919 'to give thanks for the successful outcome of the war and the avoidance of revolution.' In 1921 he leads the audience in prayer to 'overcome the hostility and ill-discipline shown by the striking railway workers.' Byrde's example and teaching did have its critics but his success in academic training was even greater than Edward's. 1921, however, was to be the last year of independence. The playing field opposite the school, Conways, had been restored after its war-time conversion into allotments, tilled by the boys. Sir Edward Whitley had unveiled the fine war memorial to commemorate the 60 old boys who had died in the war and another school governor J. H. Whitley had become Speaker of the House of Commons. This exciting year drew to a close with the prospect of further considerable change. The country and the government were in financial difficulties. Public expenditure cuts eventually came in 1922 along with the government document '1259.' Compelled to choose between either continuing the government grant or the county council grant, as both it could no longer have, the Heath governors elected to develop closer ties with the local community. The loss of the government grant meant that Heath could no longer remain independent. Other financial support had to be found and after long negotiations Heath became a state grammar school in 1926, maintained by Halifax Borough Council. All its assets, property and income now passed to the Borough and although the Labour councillors wanted to see significant changes in the social intake of the school, except for the addition of a few more scholarship boys, nothing of the pre-1926 ethos was changed.

There are still many men in Halifax who recall their days at Heath in the inter-war years with considerable affection. Many of them delighted to see their sons and grandsons continuing the association. There was a long line of successful teachers. Many spent years at the school; others moved more quickly. As O. R. A. Byrde, who succeeded Edwards in 1916, once told his speech day audience, teachers will continue to leave as they are 'underrated and underpaid!' Two who achieved recognition much wider than the local stage were the Art teacher, Alex Comfort, and a temporary English teacher, Phyllis Bentley.

For nearly 30 years after the Second World War the school remained highly successful by its own high traditional standards. Academic excellence, measured by success in examinations and scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge, flourished. Heath rugby became equally renowned throughout the north of England and in Wales. Few years passed without there being a Heath presence in the Oxford or Cambridge University teams,

or the Yorkshire and even England XV. The Music Society and the Dramatic Society especially also established reputations for exciting productions of a very high standard. Many of the teaching staff associated with these 30 years still offer their memories in profusion to the researcher. The headmasters responsible for maintaining this successful tradition were D. J. D. Smith from 1935–1946 and W. R. Swale until reluctant retirement in 1971.

From the early 1970s a gradual change in the ethos and style becomes evident. Various reasons have been suggested for this, prominent among them a preference by parents for mixed rather than single-sex schools. There were also frequent local government plans to merge Heath with a variety of other schools to create a comprehensive school.

Uncertainty about the future and the changing nature of the school was finally brought to an end by the decision of the Secretary of State for Education, announced in the third week of December 1984. Heath School was to close in August 1985. Its pupils would then join the newly created Crossley Heath School. Plans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the School in February 1985 had long been discussed by a committee of old boys and teachers. Just, but only just had the school reached its quatercentenary.

The last ten years of the school's life had by the changing nature of the intake created considerable challenges. Memories of former glories were still sufficiently fresh for there to be criticism and even resentment of the new style which the Heath School was adapting. It says much for the qualities of the last two headmasters, Albert Crosby (1971–1984) and J. T. Bunch that they persevered to provide an education relevant to the needs of all Heath boys.

The sources

The Reverend Thomas Cox, headmaster of Heath, published his history of the school in 1880. This is both interesting and factually informative, though there are some errors, and it also attempts some explanation of events. One particular idea repeatedly stated is that Heath would have been more successful had it been given the more generous and wholehearted local support which it deserved. The book may well have been written as a public relations exercise for the new school building was just being opened and a big increase in the number of pupils was needed.

In the 20th Century, there have been several good articles published by the Halifax Antiquarian Society and in the last three years the school itself, in the magazine, *The Heathen*, and in its quatercentenary brochure has produced histories of the school.

In the several histories of Halifax by Watson, Crabtree and Hanson there are usually small sections on Heath,

but they should not be accepted as entirely accurate. Much more reliable detail is in the Charity Commission Report of 1826, the Endowed Schools Commission Reports of 1872 and the Bryce Commission Report of 1895. All these are available in the Brotherton Library of Leeds University.

The primary sources are the most rewarding. They are to be found in the Public Records Office, London, the Library of the Borthwick Institute, York, the Calderdale Archives and the largest collection is in the possession of Crossley Heath School. A thorough search of the Parish Church's records and the Halifax Court rolls of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries might also be revealing.

World War I Memorial Board

The WWI Memorial Board created by Harry Percy Jackson used to be on the top corridor at Heath Grammar School (figure 2 on the following page). There are five panels: the middle one lists the names of the fallen while the others list those who served, all grouped by the year in which they left Heath.

On each of the pillars dividing the panels are the cap badges of each of the regiments in which Heath Old Boys served; you can see one example on this page

Across the top are six angels each representing one of the elements of the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11–17): the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.



The belt of truth



Prince of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment



The sword of the Spirit

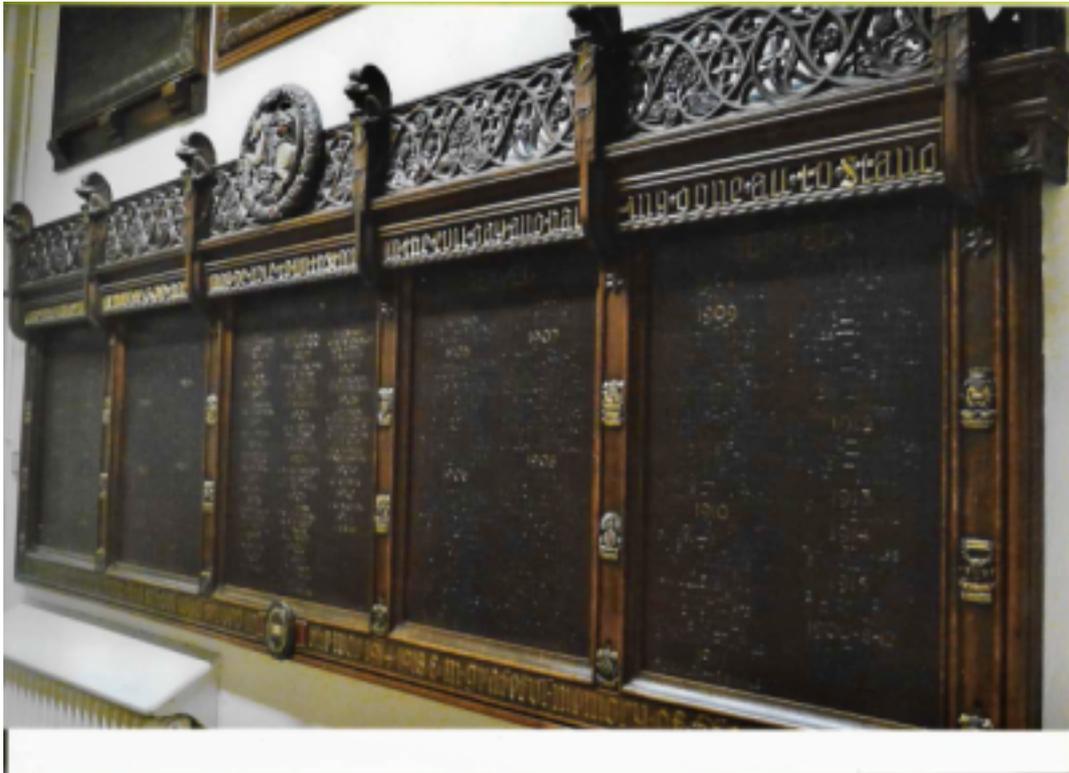


Figure 2: World War I Memorial Board

1895 Full dress concert

ON Friday, 6 February 1895 Heath Old Boys put on a full dress concert (see page 20).

We do not know the reason for this event but it might have been connected with fund-raising for the 1897 celebration of the school's foundation.

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](#).

Ernest Faber Fookes: 31 May 1874–3 March 1948 [Heath 1890–1892]

Ernest Fookes was born on 31 May 1874 in Waverley, Taranaki, New Zealand, the fifth child of Albert Cracroft Fookes (?1839–1916) and Harriet Hirst (1839–1918), who had been born in Luddenden and emigrated to New Zealand with her father, Thomas Hirst JP (1805–1883), in 1851. Ernest travelled to England in 1889, living in Midgley with his great aunt, Elizabeth Bracken, and attending Heath Grammar School from 1890 to 1892, paying his way as a clerk in a paper mills. In 1892 he entered Owens College in Manchester to study medicine, qualifying as a doctor in 1899.



Ernest Fookes

¹Wanganui Chronicle XXIX(12287) 3 December 1897



Figure 3: Full dress concert programme: outside



Figure 4: Full dress concert programme: inside

Described as ‘one of the best three quarter backs in the English football world,’¹ he played for Halifax until they joined the Northern Union, Sowerby Bridge RFC, Barbarian FC, Yorkshire whom he captained, occasionally for Heath Old Boys and ten times for England between 1896 and 1899 scoring five tries. His first international match was England v Wales at Blackheath on 4 January 1896 and his last England v Scotland at Blackheath on 11 March 1899.

He returned to New Zealand, becoming a medical practitioner at 41 Courtney Street, New Plymouth.² On 11 February 1902, he married Evelyn McLeod Farrington, who had been born in 1872 in Fyrabad, Oude, India, in St Mary’s Church, New Plymouth but she died on 19 February 1903, nine days after giving birth to twins, one of whom died at birth, the other being Evelyn Grace Farrington (1903–1977).

On 7 March 1905, he married Winifred Laura Capel (?1876–1927), daughter of Captain Sydney Augustus Berkeley Capel, at St Mary’s Church, New Plymouth and they had four children, Sydney (1906–1983), Kenneth (1907–1984), Harold (1909–1972) and Ernestine Emily (1912–2006). He died in New Plymouth on 3 March 1948 and is buried at Te Henui Cemetery.

Lionel Wray Fox: 21 February 1895–6 October 1961 [Heath 1904–1913]

Lionel Wray Fox was born on 21 February 1895 in Halifax, the son of Samuel Fox, a boilermakers’ draughtsman, and Minnie Wray. He was one of five brothers educated at Heath Grammar School, Halifax, which he left to go to Hertford College, Oxford, but he joined the army on the outbreak of war in 1914. He served with the 9th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, going to France in November 1915; he attained the rank of Captain, received the Military Cross and the Belgian *Croix De Guerre* and was mentioned in dispatches.

He joined the Home Office in 1919 and served as secretary of the Prison Commission from 1925 to 1934; he wrote *The Modern English Prison* (1934) in which he stressed the importance of being open about what goes on in the prison system and argued that the only way to resolve the conflict between deterrence and reform inherent in Gladstone’s 1895 reforms:

lies fundamentally not in the severity of the punishment, but in certainty of detection and punishment.

In 1934 he became deputy receiver to the Metropolitan Police District serving as acting receiver from 1941–42. In 1942 he was appointed Chairman of the Prison Commission, a post in which he served until his retirement in 1960.

In this capacity he

²Calderdale Companion

- was responsible for the 1948 Prison Rules stating that the aim of the prison service for prisoners was to foster
 - the will to lead a good and useful life on discharge and fit them to do so
- removed rules prohibiting association and conversation allowed newspapers, radios and, in some prisons, TVs
- increased facilities for letters and visits
- brought professional teachers into education departments
- introduced vocational training
- appointed welfare officers
- transformed prison libraries
- improved meals and the clothing available
- improved health care under the NHS and established psychiatric units at two male prisons, Holloway and Feltham Borstal
- created 10 open prisons for men, 3 for women and 13 open borstals and set up hostels for long term prisoners
- authorised the construction of HMP Grendon, the first psychiatric prison, which opened in 1964
- founded the *Prison Service Journal*.

For all this, he stressed that reform must come from within.

He wrote *The English Prison and Borstal Systems* (1952) and the White Paper *Penal Practice in a Changing Society* published by the Home Office in 1959 contained many of his ideas.

From 1952 to 1960 he was Chairman of the UN Consultative Group for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders and in 1958 Chairman of the UN *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. Manuel López-Rey wrote of him:

As a Chairman . . . he had invariably studied in advance the documents prepared for the items on the agenda. He was patient, able to give the right answer at the right moment and courteously but firmly kept the matter under discussion within its terms of reference . . .

and

[he] was always in favour of a realistic approach which would enable governments and authorities to carry out the recommendations of suggestions made. . . . Between theory and practice he was mostly in favour of the latter — not as a question of principle but as the result of weighing carefully the advantages and disadvantages involved. In this respect his position *vis-à-vis*

indeterminate sentences is illustrative; he was never convinced that its theoretical advantages outweigh its practical disadvantages. . . . Briefly, he brought a sense of proportion to the United Nations meetings that greatly contributed to their success.

He was also Chairman of the Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems. He was knighted in 1953.

A serious illness prevented him from presiding at the Second United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: London, 8–19 August 1960 but he was elected Honorary President of the event.

He was to take up a post at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge after his retirement but his illness prevented this and he died the following year.

At his memorial service in Wormwood Scrubs Prison in November 1961, R.A. Butler said:

We remember today Sir Lionel Fox, a charitable and single-minded man. He succeeded to a great tradition, he enhanced it and passed it on embellished to the present generation.

Following his death Manuel López-Rey and Charles Germain edited *Studies in Penology, dedicated to the memory of Sir Lionel Fox, C.B., M.C. by the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation* which was published in 1964 and from which most of the information in this obituary is drawn.

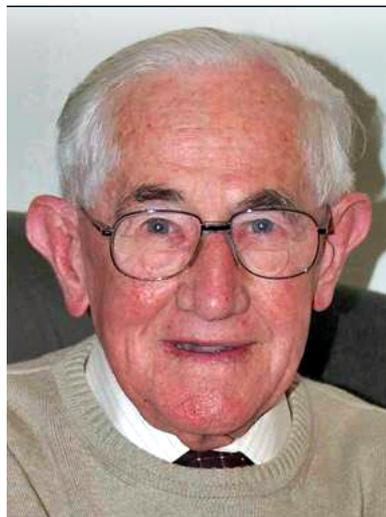
There is a photograph of Lionel Fox on the [National Portrait Gallery](#) website.

Walter Beveridge: 9 December 1933–30 September 2018 [Heath 1944–1949]

Walter was born on 9th December 1933 to Walter and Elsie Beveridge. He attended Heath Grammar School from 1944 to 1949 from where he got a place at Foregrove Engineering as an apprentice engineer, eventually becoming a chartered engineer and working at a variety of engineering firms in and around Halifax.

As a young man, he was a member of Halifax Harriers and, when he became engaged to Elaine Elliott, he was instructed to come second in one particular race, as the prize was a dining room suite, which is still in their home in Newark.

He married Elaine in March 1959 at Pye Nest Methodist Church and they had two children, Gill and Andrew. In 2008 they moved to Balderton, Newark to be nearer to their daughter Gill.



Walter Beveridge

He died on 30 September 2018 and his funeral was on Thursday 11th October 2018 at Balderton Methodist Church.

Gill Cubitt Our condolences to his family.

Donald Short 15 February 1927–24 October 2018 [Heath 1938–1943]

If you were a boy at Crossleys during the 1950s and 60s, and if you were interested in sport, you would recognise the man who was pictured in nearly all of the first XV photos at the end of the back row, always wearing a white pullover and grey flannels. That was Donald Short, our PE master, who taught generations of pupils the value of exercise and sport as an essential part of a well rounded education even in a school where there was an emphasis on academic achievement.

I think we would all describe him as a gentle man whose determination to get the best out of all those he taught would inspire you to want to do your best for yourself and for the school without the need to shout, threaten and curse. That isn't to say that he wasn't a disciplinarian. He did inflict punishment when required as I remember from the time when all our form went into the swimming pool without his permission and were all lined up in our wet swimming trunks and whacked with a gym shoe. Ouch!

Sport at Crossleys was taken to a high standard under his teaching, particularly rugby, and the school teams achieved great successes at fifteen and seven a sides. It was a big surprise when he left to extend his teaching experience at other schools. Shorty's successor did not take over immediately and so we were left without a head of PE for a term. I was rugby captain and I joined with others in the sixth form who were planning to go to PE college to put together a programme of PE

for the school. Such was Shorty's organising skills and attention to detail that he had left notes and records of teams and their performances, contact details for fixtures for his successor which was a big help in keeping things going.

Whilst at Crossleys he was Scoutmaster for the school troop, 5th Halifax, and led them on memorable annual camps to the Lake District and North Wales. The scout troop met in the cellars beneath the school and it was here in the rooms which had been dug out from the foundations where we had such a great time. The camp equipment was stored here and each summer they were taken out and piled into a truck which had been loaned to us (and which we had cleaned!). The scouts all piled on top of the gear, a sheet pulled over the top, and then Shorty would drive us away to camp.

He was born into a family who operated a fleet of large heavy duty wagons, TE Short & Sons Ltd, who operated from Union Street South, Halifax, but never entered the family business. He was at Heath Grammar School from 1938 to 1943 and left to study PE at Loughborough College. He did his National Service in the Royal Navy and then was appointed Head of PE at Crossley and Porter.

At Crossleys he became friends with Tom Gallagher who taught woodwork and the two of them were highly regarded members of staff who were not from the academic faction. They enjoyed leading walking groups in the Dales and the Lakes. Another close friendship from the staffroom was John Lucas who was Deputy Head and who taught English. It was John who introduced Donald and Peter Green, another good friend, to the plays of Shakespeare which they went to enjoy at the Stratford Memorial Theatre over a period of three years.

Having been brought up in a motor engineering environment it was only natural that he had a love of motor vehicles and was a very capable motor engineer. He and Peter Green took part in many car rallies. In the 1950s/60s the two families holidayed together driving long distances to Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and France.

When he retired, Donald and his wife Mary toured with their caravan in Europe and then went on to hire motor homes to tour in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA and Canada. Travelling on wheels was a major feature of his life and so, when he stopped driving his car, he was to be seen all over Halifax, on his bike.

Throughout his life he devoted so much of his time to others who needed help and became involved in the Halifax Society to the Blind, Maurice Jagger Centre and many more organisations serving the old and disabled. He was a reader for the Talking Newspaper service for the visually impaired for many years.

When his wife Mary died he found it very hard to carry on without her love and support. His health deterior-

ated and, since he had been a Freemason for a large part of his life, a place was found for him at a Masonic care home in York where he died on the 24th October 2018 aged 91.

Michael Denton

Reprinted with permission from the *Crossleyan*.

Kenneth Edward Swards-Shaw: 23 January 1929–28 December 2018 [Heath 1940–1947]

Kenneth Edward Swards-Shaw died peacefully in Hove on 28 December 2018, aged 89. From Heath, he went to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he eventually rose to the position of Murray Fellow. He gave a Scholarship for new graduate students in Law, History, English or Politics at Lincoln College, Oxford.

He is deeply mourned by his partner for 40 years Dr Keith McVeigh, and by his many friends.

Thanks to Philip Eastwood [1940–1947] for drawing this to our attention. He comments that his name change from plain Shaw to Swards-Shaw in about 1944 was the subject of discussion among the more junior members of the School!

Percival Graham Smith 27 September 1932–23 March 2019 [Heath 1946–1951]

P.G. Smith, known as Graham, passed away on 23rd March 2019. He was at Heath from 1946 to 1951, before leaving to study Law at Leeds University. He became a lifelong friend of the Headmaster, Ron Swale, travelling on the school trip to Denmark, and was a member of the fives team. In his time at Heath he once climbed the inside of the clock tower and recalled the occasion when some sixth formers turned a Master's car on its side and managed to get it through the door of one of the fives courts, where they left it.

After graduating from Leeds he qualified and practised as a solicitor in the Halifax area during his working career, as well as working as the Clerk to Ripponden Parish Council.

From the 1960s to the 1980s he held a variety of posts within the committee of Heath Old Boys Association and was involved in the talks with the Old Crossleyans after the merger of the schools.

The school was never far from his thoughts and in recent years he pushed to get the school's annual Founder's Day reinstated. He spent many happy years on walking weekends with fellow old boys and remained a regular walker until his early 80s. He leaves behind sons, Nicholas and Charles, daughters in law, Elizabeth and Jennifer, and four grand children.

Charles Smith

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 [Royal British Legion](#).

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
Norton Tower
HALIFAX
HX2 7RE
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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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