



### Lynnette Cassidy speaking at the virtual prizegiving

WE have enjoyed a busy and exciting year at school, as always. In the summer, we were delighted by the academic success of our students, with some wonderful individual achievements. I know that the cancellation of exams was a real curve-ball and many of you were disappointed not to have the opportunity to sit down to real exam papers.

All of you, whether in Year 13 or Year 11, achieved a suite of grades of which you should be very proud. They reflect your abilities, your hard work and the support of your families. Despite the anxieties and the events of the exam results period, the grades you achieved should be just as highly prized as in any other year. They were well deserved.

I will take this opportunity to thank our terrific staff who really do go 'the extra mile' and, in whatever their role, work so hard for the benefit of our students.

Of course, we're not all about exam results.

We were fortunate enough to hold two key House events in the last academic year — the House Swimming and the House Drama competitions. The swimming competition was a particularly hard-fought battle and for the first time in 31 years we had joint winners — Queens and Savile shared the glory. House Drama continued to be a firm favourite and again in autumn 2019 we were entertained by Kings' version of Harry Potter and The Wizard of Oz by Queens, whilst Savile rather ambitiously performed the first ever version of the Home Alone movie. Porter's version of Alice in Wonderland clinched it on the night.

Year 7 students contributed to their own year-group House competition with their annual trip to Mixenden Activity Centre. Overall, Savile House came top of the leader board after all the activities had been completed.

House activities were unfortunately curtailed over the spring and summer but we did hold a Race to Tokyo challenge, whereby students could complete various sporting activities to see how far they could travel collectively as a House from school to Tokyo — 5,844 miles in total. Staff also took part — walking, running and cycling. In the end the school made it 600 miles past Tokyo with Savile House completing the most miles.

It has been a privilege to be able to support charities that are local to Crossley Heath over the past year. Back in January we raised over £900 for the RSPCA Halifax branch and in early March we donated over 200 kilograms of food to the St Augustine's refugee centre.

**Friday, 3 September 2021** 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<sup>a</sup>](#)

Mob: 07770 697176/Duncan Turner.

**Sunday, 8 May 2022 (tbc)** Russell Smith Memorial Trophy Bowling Challenge

1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

**Thursday, 16 June 2022 (tbc)** Founder's Day Commemoration

7.30 pm Halifax Minster

**Sunday, 26 June 2022 (tbc)** HOBA vs Crocs Bowls Competition

1.30 for 2 pm Greenroyd Bowling Club

<sup>a</sup>Click on the [magenta](#) text for the link or email address.

This year has been a particularly challenging time for many families and we are committed to helping where possible. To mark Remembrance Day, we raised over £600 for the Royal British Legion. The non-uniform day we had only a few weeks ago raised over £1,600 for the Rotary Shoebox appeal for families in the Calderdale area. It is fantastic to think that with your generosity and kindness we are able to ensure that lots of children, no matter what their circumstances, wake up on Christmas Day with something special to open.

Our charity work epitomises our dearly held school values — respect, self-belief, responsibility, purpose, aspiration and challenge underpin everything we do. Having respect for each other is a fundamental of good character, and so important as we move into the future. Last year at Prize Giving I spoke about the challenges of the coming decade, the 2020s. I mentioned climate change, the ethics of artificial intelligence, sustaining public health (little did I know what was coming) and an ageing population. To this we can add Brexit, which seems at last to be really happening, securing genuine equalities in society (building on the Black Lives Mat-

ter movement) and, of course, Covid-19.

This is not to daunt you; as I said last year, every generation throughout history has faced its challenges. You might reflect that 100 years ago, at Christmas 1920, young people of your age who had fought or lived through the First World War at home and survived the influenza pandemic of 1919, also faced many issues in the decade ahead of them, including widespread poverty in the UK, two million people unemployed, the General Strike, the Wall Street Crash and the challenge of securing equality in the form of the vote for all women. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* (the more things change, the more they stay the same).

The late Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks said:

We need to remember that societies are strong when they care for the weak. They are rich when they care for the poor. And they are invulnerable when they care for the vulnerable. When we restore social covenant, we defeat politics of anger and re-create politics of hope.

You have demonstrated incredible strength of character, pragmatism, optimism and level-headedness. We

talk a lot in school about building resilience — but you have lived and breathed it this year. Max Lerner describes the

turning point in the process of growing up as being when you discover the core of strength within you that survives all hurt.

Many of you will have discerned that core of strength within yourself this year.

The world needs you; it needs your strength, your critical thinking skills, your intellectual rigour, resilience and compassion. There are many who are weak, poor and vulnerable in our society, many who have become so through the Covid pandemic. My challenge to you, over the months and years ahead, in whatever walk of life you choose, is to remember them and support them.

To end, whether you have moved on or are still with us, and wherever life takes you, remember — you will always be 'Crossley Heathens' and we will always be very proud of you, our class of 2020.

I wish you, your family and friends a very happy and healthy holiday over the Christmas period.

Thank you.

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## Annual Reunion Dinner

IT was with a heavy heart that the Association's Annual Reunion Dinner planned for Friday, 25th September 2020 was cancelled.

The AGM took place at Heath RUFC, West Vale, on Thursday, 1st October 2020, when the existing officers were re-elected and the new constitution was approved.

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## News

PAUL Beevers [1964–1971] has sent in several 'photos of the apple and pear window newly glazed to preserve it of which figure 1 is an example.

There is currently no access to the building to view the window.

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## Memories

### Sixty years on

**Editor's note:** this article was originally published in [The Heathen 1938 1\(19\)](#) and therefore refers back to 1878 but appears to have sufficient of interest in it to merit a separate page on the website.

IN the demolition of the buildings to make way for our extensions the workmen made an in-

teresting discovery which is connected with the rebuilding of Heath sixty years ago. This was a bottle containing two pieces of paper which had been hidden there "as a piece of schoolboy imitation of laying a foundation stone."

One of these papers is inscribed :—



Figure 1: Apple and pear window

Albert Edward Francis  
 son of  
 Edward Francis,  
 Postmaster of Halifax,  
 Pupil of the 2nd Class  
 in this School.  
 Revd. Thomas Cox, M.A.  
 Headmaster,  
 Revd. H.R.F. Canham, B.A.  
 Usher  
 W.E. Sadd, B.A.  
 Mathematical Master,  
 Aug. 6, 1878.  
 A.E. Francis  
 took 2nd prize in 2nd Class  
 for term ending Midsummer  
 1878.

The other is similar except that it bears the name of Edward Samuel Cox son of Revd. Thomas Cox, Headmaster, and this boy took the 1st prize in the 2nd Class. Mr. A.E.F. Francis, a solicitor recently retired, lives in London. Although both papers are in his handwriting he writes that he can only dimly recall the incident of the two sheets of paper in the bottle, probably, as he himself suggests, because Cox would have had the actual task of hiding the treasure after everyone else had left the premises. This apart, Mr. Francis has very vivid memories of his days at Heath and we have persuaded him to give us some of his reminiscences.

### “As we were”

**I**N the year 1872 Halifax was chiefly important for its business in wool and, owing to the success of the Crossley Brothers, for the manufacture of carpets in which it had become a formidable rival of Kidderminster. There were numerous mills weaving cloth and textiles but none to compare in size and success with John Crossley & Sons Ltd.

The town was barely half its present size. The principal streets of shops — Silver Street, Cheapside, Woolshops and Swinemarket — were steep, narrow and tortuous. Commercial Road was cut through unbuilt on land to Hall End several years later. Dreadful slums existed between St. James’ Road and Orange Street and cellar dwellings — houses super-imposed upon houses — were common in that neighbourhood. The town had no general system of sewerage. Work in the mills began at 6 am. and there was a twelve hour day with intervals for meals — half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. Children were employed in the mills and spent a laborious life — half the day at work in the mill and half the day at school and so were called “Half timers.” The Elementary Education Act of 1870 had just come into force and the first school in the town built under its provisions was that in Queen’s Road. It was said by

the optimists of the time that the cost would never exceed a 3d. rate but the Education Levy was very soon at 1/— in the £. Education was voluntary but later became compulsory.

These few sentences will give some idea of the social life of Halifax when I first knew Heath School. I learned to read at a Dame’s school in St. James’ Road, which my sisters attended; and, as there was no suitable preparatory school, I was taken before I was 10 years old by my father to the house of the Head Master of Heath (the Reverend Thomas Cox). The latter gave me a piece of prose to read and asked me a few “General Knowledge” questions and I was entered. My Latin grammar is dated March, 1872. The school house was a stone building — Elizabethan both in age and character — and consisted of one long room running westward from the back of the Head Master’s house to which it was joined. There was also, later, one class room in the Head Master’s House where French lessons were given on one day of the week only and, later, the “Head” held in it some of the classes which he took personally. The big schoolroom was heated by one large open fireplace and in severe weather and at 9 a.m. the fingers of some of us who were farthest away from the fire were frozen. There were three Masters and some eighty or ninety boys in this room and I recollect on my entrance being given a Latin Grammar and told to learn the First Declension. After a short time for preparation the class (mine was at first the fifth or lowest) would be called up and each one would recite the different cases of the noun or, later, the Tenses of the Verbs. No attempt was made to teach anything or give any explanations at this stage but inattention or failure to do one’s task was always punished either by “lines” or by caning. Arithmetic was also “taught” in that sums were set and were either “right” or punishment of some sort would follow. Discipline was strict and any boy desiring to “leave the room” between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon or 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (the normal school hours except on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when there was no afternoon school) had to ask leave of the “Head” and was invariably given a small imposition of “ten lines” — copied from one of the day’s tasks. The impression I received of the relation between Masters and boys (and I still retain it) was that of “natural enemies”: the boys (including myself) were mostly inattentive and troublesome and not interested in their lessons and the Masters especially the Second Master (the Rev. Wm. Brooks, irreverently called “Daddy” Brooks) seemed to lie in wait for a boy to do some trifling act of inattention or disobedience and then punish with a smart box on the ear, an imposition of ten lines, or a note to the “Head” in a bad case which meant an immediate caning on the hands or the back. The lessons were mostly Latin and elementary mathematics (arithmetic and later Euclid and algebra) almost no English (either grammar or composition) and no history in the lower classes. After

two or three years from my entry I was removed from Heath by my father and sent to a private tutor near Buxton in Derbyshire (who took four or five pupils) and this ended my first period as a "Heathen."

A short description of the surroundings of the old school house may be interesting. To the north of the School were open grass fields extending to the house "Well Head" which seemed the beginning of the town and the buildings; to the south were more open fields extending to that part of "the Moor" (formerly "Skircoat Moor" and later called "Savile Park") which adjoins the road to Salterhebble and "Manor Heath." On the east, immediately opposite the "Heads" house and on the other side of the road, was a house and good garden surrounded by a high stone wall which was occupied by two elderly brothers named Pilkington, one an architect and the other a solicitor in the town, obviously both "characters." On the west was the School's playing field which extended up to the houses known as "Heath Villas." West of "Heath Villas" up to "the Moor" were more open fields but there were two or three large houses on the fringe next to the open moor. Our playing field was very much on the slope following the contour of the road and a cricket pitch had been made near the middle by cutting away on one side and filling up on the other — the bank on the east was rather steep dropping suddenly about a foot so that "fielding" on that side during the cricket season required anticipation as well as a quick eye and hand. We played association football and a sort of rounders in the winter. Matches at cricket were rare but we played "The Orphanage" and one or two other school teams; especially Rishworth and a private school kept by a Mr. Norton.

Of my school fellows: I have vivid recollections of the sons of the neighbouring clergy. The "Head" had four sons in the School at one time — Thomas, Robert, Edward S. and William Cox: the two sons of the Vicar of Greetland, James H. and John R. Marshall; the three sons of the Vicar of Pellon, Theodore, William and Arthur Town; two sons of the Vicar of Holy Trinity, George and Arthur Hope; three sons of the Vicar of All Souls', Akroydon, Howard and Cyril Holmes and another; the son of the Wesleyan Minister, Richard Watson Dyson (afterwards Astronomer Royal). I had two great friends — humourists of the first order: W.F. Thomas who became a caricaturist and journalist and created the characters of "Ally Sloper" and for years drew the cartoon on the front page of a comic paper "Ally Sloper's Half Holiday" now extinct. He wrote several humorous books. The other was Arthur Town mentioned above who graduated at Cambridge and became a school master at Pangbourne. Thomas was forever sketching and drawing caricatures of those around him and A. Town had a caustic wit of true Yorkshire type and I fear that their accomplishments caused me so much amusement and interest that school work was

often neglected and that I thoroughly deserved the description — "a very troublesome boy" — that the Mathematical Master (Mr. Sadd) gave to my father over a game of chess.

After two or three years in Derbyshire I returned to Heath School about the year 1877 and was placed in the 2nd class, there were only two or three senior boys in the 1st class and there was a change of Masters. Mr. Cox was still "the Head," but the Reverend W. Canham had succeeded "Daddy" Brookes and there was a Mathematical Master (W.E. Sadd) and a Junior Master and a visiting French Master (Mons. Poire) and a Drawing Master (Stofford). The days of the old Elizabethan schoolhouse were numbered, as the fields abutting on the school proper which formed part of its endowment were sold for building, and a new scheme was prepared by The Endowed School Commissioners (since merged in The Charity Commissioners), and the present school building was projected. I was in the old School during the closing year or so of its use. The new building was in course of erection and I remember particularly one of the Masons (Alf. Turner), who was a professional cricketer in the summer, giving us some very good bowling practice in his dinner hour. At this time E.S. Cox sat at the next desk to mine and we often watched the Masons at their work.

I find I got the 1st Prize in the 2nd Class in 1877, and the 2nd Prize in 1878. The event, no doubt, surprised me and Cox and I looked about for some way of celebrating it. The writing of the two papers enclosed in the bottle is mine and I may have been responsible for the scheme but I think Cox must have put the bottle in its place after the Masons had ceased work and I had gone home. I do not think I could have forgotten the actual deposit of it if I had been present. I feel sorry that I am so hampered by the facts as no doubt a vivid imagination could make quite an entertaining story about it.

One trifle I remember about the building operations. The Mason who carved the inscription over the front entrance spelt "Grammar" as "Grammer." I wonder if it has ever been altered.

I hope I have not, unintentionally, made any reflections upon the characters of the Masters (long since dead) in my young days. They merely followed the "System" of their time as others can testify in other schools of that age.

The results of making boys educate themselves, as it were, with very little assistance from the Masters was not in my case without great advantages. When I began the study of the Law there was nobody to teach me — the Law Society (now a kind of Legal College) was then a mere Board of Examiners. There were the books and the knowledge they contained and I set to work upon them, found that I had an aptitude for the work and, without the assistance of a legal "coach" succeeded in getting First Class Honours and The Clif-

ford's Inn Prize at my Final examination in June, 1885 which, I understand, is a record that has not been beaten by any Halifax Law Student.

**A.E.F. FRANCIS** [Heath 1872–1875; 1877–?]

**Note:** Andrew Connell [Heath 1958–1965] writes that

AEF Francis was wrong in crediting his fellow-Heathen, the comic artist W.F. Thomas, with the creation of Ally Sloper (a proto-Andy Capp cartoon figure, who lasted almost 50 years). Thomas was the third in a sequence of artists who drew Ally Sloper.

## Some memories of Heath Grammar School

I have for many years intended submitting a contribution in the HOBA annual newsletter but never got round to it. So I will make an effort before it is too late.

At 95 years old I can still remember many things I experienced during my time at Heath Grammar School, particularly some World War Two years. I was 15 years old when the withdrawal of troops from the Dunkirk area became known. Halifax railway station was closed because troop trains were unloading troops into transport and taking them to spread out over Savile Park. They looked very tired and people in the area of Savile Park started bringing warm flasks of drinks for them to have. During the evening the soldiers were found accommodation in houses close to Savile Park. We had two soldiers sleeping in our house at 6 Savile Park Gardens for two or three nights before they moved to Halifax Barracks.

School hours were 9.00–12.30 and 2.00–4.15 to allow time to go home for dinner as there were no school meals. Whilst it was considered possible to have a gas attack we were all issued with gas masks in a cardboard box we carried everywhere. When the air raid warning siren sounded we had to walk briskly to the tram sheds and stay until the all-clear. German bombers were striking some of the nearby towns with incendiary bombs.

As a prefect I was paired on a rota with other prefects staying overnight on the school roof and learning how to use a stirrup pump to deal with a fire should we be hit.

Food and clothing was rationed. Vehicle headlights and cycle lights were restricted to a weaker level. Windows had strips of adhesive tape to act as a cushion to glass breakage and the blackout was everywhere.

A school orchestra was formed under the supervision of the master 'Tishy' Holt.

A Summer Camp was organised and I went to help harvest the crop in the fields.

I had started in the Junior School in the middle of the Spring Term 1935, aged 10, with my young brother Howard Brian Jackson (11 March 1926–24 September 1982 [Heath 1935–1942]) also starting in the Junior School on the same day. The Junior School had two classrooms, and its own entrance at the far end of the main school ground floor corridor.

The Junior School Headmaster, Bonham Edwards, had boys in three ages in Classes 1A, 1B, 1C and Mr Bilborough had the Transitus Class (with 13 boys in the year I was in it) in the other room. I started in 1A, with Brian in 1B. Peter Phoenix and Hugh Dudley were sons of Mr Phoenix and Mr Dudley, both teachers at Heath, and they were in my Form all my time at Heath.

In the outside grounds there was a square lawn which was out of bounds, unless the Junior School were playing organised football or cricket on it, the cycle shed, gym and changing room, two storey science block and two fives courts. There used to be four fives courts prior to demolishing two of them to make space for the science block. I did play Fives a few times but can't remember if gloves were worn on one or both hands. Did Squash replace it? The noise and dust from the work of enlarging the school affected Morning Prayers and many routine school lessons. Morning Prayers was attended by all boys from 9.00 to 9.15.

Each week the Junior School went walking/running to Park Swimming Bath for swimming lessons, and that was where I learnt to swim.

All boys were divided into three Houses, School, Queens, and Heath until a fourth House, Kings, was established by transferring a few from each of the three Houses. Many groans were heard from several who did not like transferring Houses.

I joined the small Cub Scout Pack and then the scouting group, the 2nd HGS Scouts, which was restricted to those at Heath Grammar School. The school encouraged boys to join the Scouts and allowed them to have an extra day to hand in homework. Numbers increased rapidly making it necessary to have A-Section, B-Section (Beavers), C-Section, and a start of D-Section. A few were also in the Sea Scouts Section.

The Scout group closed when the School closed and several scout log-books were deposited in the Archive Section of the Halifax Public Library.

I enjoyed learning to play rugby union and was good enough to be on the school team against schools at Bradford, Wakefield, Doncaster and Colne. Due to the conscription of many of their players, both Brian and I also joined Halifax Rugby Union Club. I remember signing the application form to join, which had the first question, 'Have you ever played Rugby League?' because at that time League was professional and Union was strictly amateur. I later played for Loughborough

College, and one of the 10 teams each at Rosslyn Park and Saracens, and finally for Derby.

Both Brian and I left Heath in 1942 and joined the Army Cadet Corp Unit based at Crossley and Porters School until we both started at Loughborough College later that year. I spent three years on a Civil Engineering course and Brian was in the College Physical Education unit until he was called up for military service when he became that age.

Whilst Brian was at Heath he was very good at athletics; so he was posted to the Army Physical Training Corps as a Staff Sergeant and for a time worked at Sandhurst Army Training College. Brian married Jean Thistlethwaite in 1947 at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, and they had two sons, the elder one sadly dying at the age of 51. Brian's civilian career in youth work lasted until taking early retirement from Huntingdon Youth Centre. He died aged 56, following a heart attack in 1982.

My National Service lasted three years, mostly as an officer in the Royal Engineers stationed in Egypt.

I married Winifred Ashworth in Heptonstall Church in 1949 and we have a son Martin and daughter Janet who both see us every week. Winifred and I celebrated our 71st wedding anniversary in September 2020.

I still have happy memories of my days at Heath, so wanted to share some of them with you.

**Allan Jackson** [1935–1942]

### School Camps on the IoW

RACHEL Besenyei, granddaughter of Gordon Sanderson [Heath 1934–1940], has sent us a photograph (figure 2) of the 1936 School Camp at St Helens, IoW.

### Memorabilia donated by Jerry Fearnley

Jerry Fearnley [Heath 1962–1970] has kindly donated a box full of memorabilia including school photos and Heathens which we do not have, the **HOBA Bulletins from 1949 to 1970**, photographs of the **Prefects from 1948 to 1967**, a photograph album and many other photos along with various other papers. These are being gradually added to the website.

### Ilkley Sevens

MARTIN Davey, son of John Davey [Heath 1951–1959] has organised the supply of a number of 'photos relating to the 1950s Ilkley Sevens competitions kept by his father.

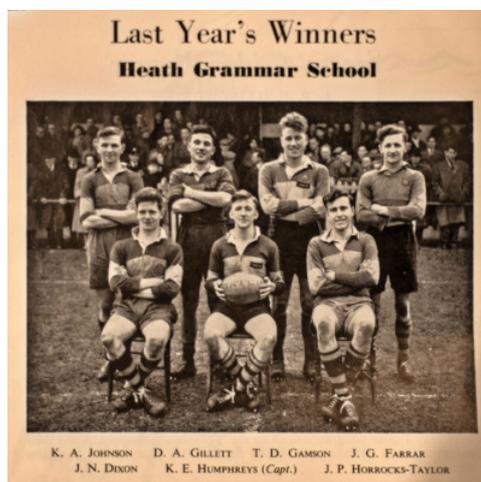
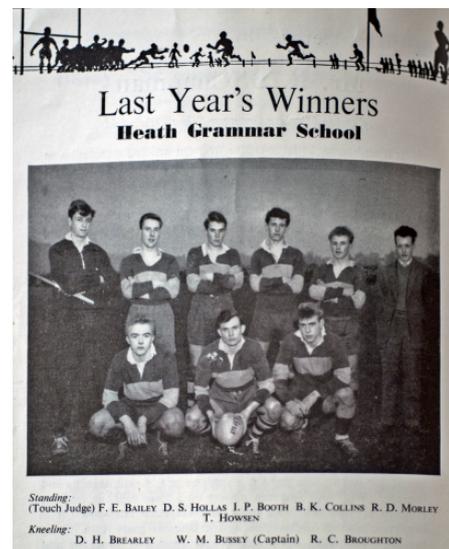
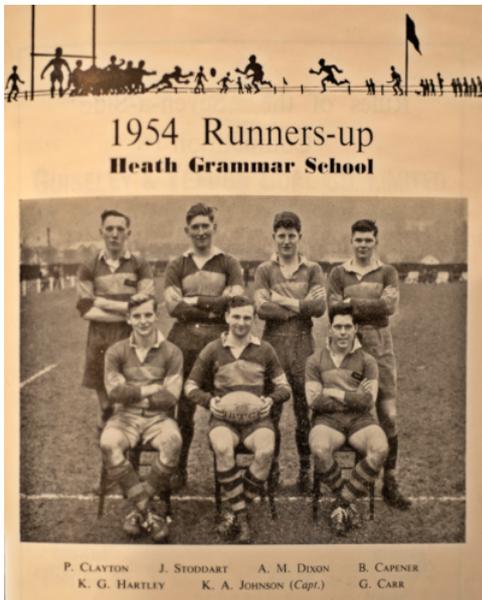




Figure 2: School camp at St Helens, IoW, 1936



JOHN Helliwell [Heath 1956–1963] has supplied a photograph of the 1962 Ilkley Sevens team.



Back row: Howard Blakeborough, John Helliwell, John Broughton, David Backhouse; front row: Chris Holmes, Ian Booth and ?

Can you identify the mystery team member?

After being eliminated in the first round in 1961, Heath came back in 1962 to win by beating Roundhay 8–3, Silcoates 8–0, Archbishop Holgate's 8–0, Leeds Grammar School 13–0 and QEGS Wakefield 13–5 in the final.

## 1962 Huddersfield Sevens

JOHN Robertshaw [Heath 1958–1965] has shared a couple of memories of the 1962 Huddersfield RUFC Sevens. The first are some notes from Huddersfield RUFC on the competition including a mention of Hawick who lived up to their reputation, knocking out Heath in their first game and going on the win the competition.

### Seven-a-sides 1962.

Welcome to Waterloo. We once more look forward to an enjoyable afternoon's sport when football in the true spirit is played with all sides taking part playing this open game.

We welcome as one of our visitors a team from Hawick who have won so many honours in the Borders and outside by their brilliant display of this type of football. They must surely be regarded as very firm favourites for the "Neatherwood Trophy" this year. We should not however disregard our own side and those of Northern and Halifax, who are holders for the last two years, perhaps they will make it a hat trick. Heath Grammar School who have been very successful contenders in local tournaments are welcomed this year as visitors for the first time; we wish them every success.

New Car Parking arrangements are being tried as an experiment this year and it is hoped that you have helped the organisers by parking your vehicles as neatly as possible in the ground and in the Tandem Car Park. By doing this it should facilitate early departures without the usual queue congestion.

The trophy this year is being presented by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman H.F. Brook, who is the father of Billie Brook a former Club Captain and Player of great merit both to Yorkshire and to this Club.

Thanks are expressed to all helpers, in particular to the Ladies Committee who are providing the teas both in the Clubhouse and in the Marquee. Players are requested to use the Marquee as well as many spectators as possible.

### Previous winners.

1939 London Scottish	1955 Headingley
1946 Huddersfield	1956 Royal Signals
1947 Huddersfield	1957 Huddersfield
1948 Broughton Park	1958 Royal Signals
1949 Royal Signals	1959 Huddersfield
1950 Huddersfield	1960/61 Halifax
1951/53/54 Heriots F.P.	

The second lists the teams playing in the competition.

TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED FROM :-			
<b>Harrogate</b> B. M. Towns M. W. Belsby J. D. Postlethwaite C. C. Green H. E. Constable R. R. Baldwin J. G. Aspin S. B. Earnshaw	<b>Billingham</b> J. Meechall D. Manning H. Tranter B. Almond I. Kennedy K. Clarke S. Reid	<b>Hawick</b> D. Jackson E. W. Brooch R. Welsh D. O'Hara W. J. Hunter G. H. Willison N. Suddon	<b>Old Roundhegians</b> D. K. Turnbull R. B. Copley P. Dorrifler M. Haley A. H. E. Cawood J. D. Bowden G. Green
Colours: Red, Amber and Black	Colours: Green and White	Colours: Green Jerseys White Shorts	Colours: Green Shirts White Shorts
<b>Sheffield</b> Hand Sempers Wall Wood Pashley J. Smith H. Johnson	<b>Doncaster</b> J. Perry B. Anderson R. Bruce B. Thompson R. Turner A. Gordon G. Griffiths	<b>Old Leodiansians</b> W. G. Dawes M. Lamb S. A. Thompson P. Stubbs R. H. Burnett D. Brown J. W. Collard E. G. Thompson	<b>Morley</b> D. B. Scott C. Lockwood A. Smith J. Riley B. Walton R. Ryan G. Speight
Colours: Blue and White Black Shorts	Colours: Blue Red/White Hoops	Colours: Blue and Gold Hoops	Colours: Maroon
<b>Heath G.S.</b> J. D. Broughton E. D. Brain J. Helliwell C. Holmes H. Blakebrough I. P. Booth A. R. Wilkinson D. J. Brittain R. W. Dixon	<b>Northern</b> G. Steele J. Ward M. Neesham A. Jones B. Steel J. Hodgson W. D. Ritchie	<b>Huddersfield</b> P. T. Johnson J. Croftland A. D. Johnson W. B. Fiddes D. Robinson A. Ibberson J. A. Greenwood	<b>Otley</b> R. Frankland D. B. Holdsworth J. Gill G. Edmonds B. Dolson H. Melville J. Peakman
Colours: Maroon and Amber	Colours: White Shirts	Colours: Claret, Gold and White	Colours: Black and White
<b>Huddersfield "Falcons"</b> R. J. Capper E. J. C. Biggott D. S. Taylor J. D. Miller J. P. Keogh J. Oglvie J. D. Slater	<b>Halifax</b>		
Colours: Claret, Gold and White			

## Requests

### Ed Mackrill [Heath 1953–1960] has responded to Colin's request in the previous Newsletter:

The latest edition of HOBA Newsletter has just arrived, kindly forwarded by John Greenwood.

John was my best friend at Heath, 1953–1958, the years which Colin enquires about.

It is a strange coincidence that the three Heathens he has contacted so far were members of the school Fives Team and I was the fourth. Stuart Wilson and 'Sam' Hollas were first pair and I partnered Terry Rees.

I had the pleasure of 'partnering' Terry again when we shared a room in our West Didsbury 'digs' in our first term at Manchester University.

I think I can go much further back with Colin himself. Unless my memory is even worse than I thought it was; we both attended Pellon Lane Board School in the mid-40s.

My family moved to Illingworth in 1949 and I went to Moorside School, before 'graduating' to Heath in 1953. Mention of Moorside prompts me to ask to be remembered to your distinguished Newsletter writer, Rod Eastwood. He was the year below me at Moorside and at Heath and even followed me to Manchester.

I finally shook him off when I took up teaching in Manchester and I believe he returned to Halifax to teach at Heath.

Along with John Greenwood, another great friend and contemporary at Heath was Roger Timewell, who was in the 5S group with Colin.

Finally, like Don Hargreaves and Terry Rees, I too was awarded the Bottomley Prize. My esteemed classmates, Gordon Gledhill and Barry Collins walked off with the English and History Prizes; so I believe I was runner up.

Best regards, Ed Mackrill (Edmund Christopher, or 'Mac', as I was back in the day).

### Steven Halliday [Heath 1965–1972]

Michael Knight [Crossley and Porter G.S. 1965–1972] is trying to track down and get in touch with Steve.

Steve was an outstanding rugby player (Yorkshire Schools 19 Group), and phenomenal shot putter. If Steve, or anyone who has his contact details, sees this, please get in touch with me by [email](#) or telephone (07914810869).

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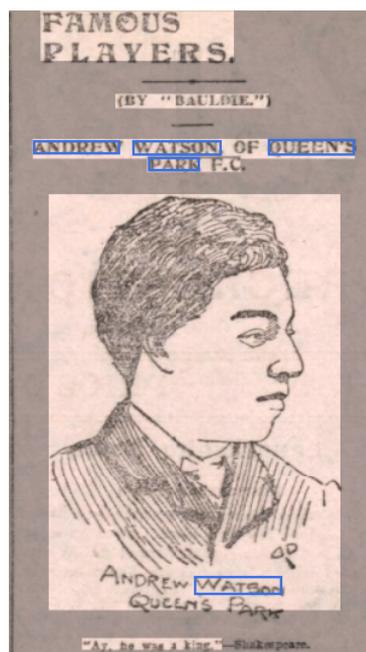
## Obituaries

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](#).

### Andrew Watson 24 May 1856–8 March 1921 [Heath 1866–1871] (Further information)

PETER Lovesey, author of *British athletics 1866-80: with Amateur Athletic Club Championship results and UK year lists*, kindly provided the following further information as well as the image:

As well as being an outstanding footballer, he was one of the finest Scottish high jumpers of his generation. He competed each September in the Queen's Park Football Club sports at Hampden Park and in 1877 and 1878 jumped 5ft 8in, which was enough to make him the top-ranked Scot in each of those years. He continued his high jumping until at least 1886, when, at 30, he finished fourth in the Scottish Championships.



## **Arnold Edgar Walker 4 April 1917—9 November 2008 [Heath 1929–1932]**

ARNOLD Edgar ‘Blondie’ Walker was born on 4 April 1917, the son and youngest child of Edgar Walker and Sarah Elizabeth [*née* Hoyle] of 14 Warley Edge, Warley. With his father, Joseph, Edgar had established Joseph Walker & Son, stone masons and builders.

‘Blondie’ attended Heath Grammar School, leaving at 15 to join the family business, studying part-time at the Technical College for his building exam, and taking the business over three years later when his father died of septicaemia from a burst appendix. He made the family business a private limited company in 1936 and it continued trading until the mid 1990s.

Perhaps inspired by his father, who had served with the Royal Engineers, rising to the rank of acting Sergeant in WWI, ‘Blondie’ chose to enlist in 1939 rather than taking advantage of being in a ‘reserved’ occupation.

He volunteered for the RAF and undertook pilot training in Canada. On completion of his training, he was commissioned into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Service No 115919) as a pilot officer on probation on 1 December 1941. When he returned to the UK and converted to the Hurricane, he was then sent to the Middle East, sailing to Freetown in Sierra Leone before flying across the desert to Khartoum and on to Port Said where he was mostly protecting convoys.

In August 1942, he joined No. 94 Squadron, which soon received four Hawker Hurricanes donated by Lady MacRobert, whose three sons had died while serving in the RAF. He was allocated ‘Sir Roderic,’ which he flew during the North African campaign during which the unit gained an outstanding reputation. He was promoted war substantive flying officer on 1 October 1942.

In April 1943 engine failure in his Hurricane forced him to land in the desert, where he was marooned for two days before his mechanics arrived to carry out repairs.

After his experiences flying with No. 94 Squadron, Walker was offered an instructor’s job. He did not want this and so volunteered to transfer to No. 6 Squadron RAF who were preparing to join the war in Italy. He was promoted to war substantive flight lieutenant on 1 December 1943.

With No. 6 Squadron he excelled at very low-level flying to attack ships with rockets, often at night, in his single-engine Hurricane. Twice he had to bail out when hit; on one occasion he was rescued from a dinghy under enemy fire and on another he indicated his position with an SOS on the beach using seaweed which was spotted five days later. On both occasions, it was the same American flying boat that picked him up.

On 8 August 1944, he was awarded an ‘immediate’ Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and on 14 November 1944 he was awarded a bar to his DFC. He had flown 169 operational sorties.

On his return from operations in October 1944, he was posted as an instructor on the Hawker Typhoon, based in the New Forest. He was released from RAF service in 1946.

He returned to the family business, building more than 2,000 council houses and 1,000 private houses in the aftermath of the war and being elected Liberal councillor for Warley ward.

He also had building interests in Perth, Western Australia, and divided his time between Perth and Halifax. He died in Perth on 9 November 2008.

Further information is available on [Wikipedia](#).

## **Paul Gordon Walker 9 February 1925–29 March 2020 [Heath 1936–1943]**

PAUL Walker was an amazing Halifax man and something of a linguist. Besides medieval English, he loved Latin and could read all manner of books in Latin, just for fun! He also was fluent in German and learnt Urdu to a good level.

He wrote in his memoirs:

One of the first things we were taught was how to use the English language correctly — what to say and what not to say. We were taught Latin and, later on, classical Greek. In sport we played rugby union. Eventually I became prop-forward in the first 15. During this time I won different medals and certificates for activities with the Life Saving Society. I was leader of the house gymnasium team.

From grammar school, he went to Sheffield University where he studied physics and maths for three years. His working life was spent as a physicist with Turner & Newell as a Quality Assurance Manager, Rochdale, after his return from Australia 1949–51.

The Australian lifestyle did not suit him and his new bride, Barbara, to whom he was married for sixty-one years. They had three children John, Michael and Caroline.

I know that in his youth he was very sports minded, enjoying rugby and lifeguard duty. He had a love for woodturning, model ship building and Maths. In his early nineties, I recall him sending off for a series of very complicated Maths books and stopping the order, as he kept finding mistakes in the calculations!

A Yorkshire man of integrity and positivity, when he died at his home in Lancashire on March 29th 2020 after a short illness, we came back from the cremation to find a single white rose in a vase outside his front door.

**Vicki (& John Walker)**

### **Barrie Capener 7 July 1937–14 July 2020 [Heath 1948–1956]**

**B**ARRIE was born on 7 July 1937, the middle of three sons Geoffrey, Barrie and Roger, to Gladys and Lewis Capener who had a wholesale bakery business on Hare Street, Halifax. He went to Queens Road junior school and then on to Heath Grammar where his love of sport, in particular Fives, and his skills in Rugby landed him on the school teams.

He served his National Service in the RAF at Church Fenton between 1956–58 where he was trained as an instruments technician on Hawker Hunter aircraft. His discharge papers remark that he was ‘an extremely capable man of exemplary conduct,’ qualities he retained all his life.

Barrie went on to complete his teacher training at Borough Road college in London before coming back to Halifax for his first teaching post at Ovenden High School, teaching history. It wasn’t long before he met Eleanor, whom he married in 1963.

Barrie’s teaching career then moved to Clare Hall School where he became Head of History and the school library! Helen and David remember many days during the summer holidays sorting through old books in the library and then going to book wholesalers to purchase new stock. Being the child of a teacher was always an education!

Barrie loved his cars; he kept a photograph of every car that he had — all 20 of them! He loved caravanning and driving the quiet, open roads of France. The first trip to France caravanning was in 1967 with Eleanor and a young Helen. They had trouble finding a campsite that had space and so ended up staying on a French ‘teachers’ campsite. Fortunately, Barrie’s organisational skills meant future holidays were better planned and the long summer holidays were spent in many a campsite all over Europe. He loved his holidays in the sunshine but could never quite leave the ‘history teacher’ behind! When retired Barrie and Eleanor joined the local Antiquarian Society and went on escorted archaeological tours of Italy and Turkey to see the likes of Pompeii, Vesuvius and Ephesus.

Barrie loved walking and spent many happy times on the moors above Haworth towards ‘Top Withins’ or long weekends walking in the Lake District with his family. He also enjoyed listening to music. His musical tastes were wide ranging from classical to stage and

film, from Cats and Rogers and Hammerstein to The Carpenters, Abba, Barry Manilow and Songs of Praise.

Barrie’s faith has always been a large part of his life since becoming a Christian in his early twenties. Barrie and Eleanor were married at Elin Church in Halifax. They were active members there throughout all Helen and David’s childhood; Eleanor taught Sunday school and Barrie as a deacon for many years. In their later years they attended the Parish Church, now Halifax Minster, where they became actively involved on Sundays and Fridays helping with readings, serving the emblems and praying.

Barrie was a quiet man; kind, generous and always supportive of his family. He was Eleanor’s ‘rock’ and a constant in Helen and David’s lives. When Nigel, Fran, Daniel and Alex entered his life, he took them into his heart and loved them.

A husband, dad and grandad. He’s always loved, never forgotten.

**Helen French**, Barrie Capener’s daughter, and  
**David Capener**, Barrie Capener’s son

### **David Anthony Armitage: 22 May 1940–6 December 2020 [Heath 1951–1957]**

**[Mike]** David Anthony Armitage was born on 22 May 1940 in Halifax. He attended Moorside Primary school, where his father was Deputy Head Master. He then attended Heath Grammar school. It was during this time he met Kaye, whilst they were walking into town after school, Kaye being at Princess Mary School. They have been together ever since.

**[Andy]** David and Kaye were married at Highroad Well Church on April 11th 1963. Stephanie was born the following year. Joanne was born in 1966, the family then moved up to Alice. Michael & Andrew were both born whilst in Scotland in 1968 and 1970 respectively.

We all have special memories of the many family holidays, mainly in France and Portugal. David was a very supportive father. From helping with homework to supporting our extracurricular activities, we could always rely on Dad to be there for us. He also led by example — great sporting attitude, dedication to work and impressive drinking prowess!

**[Mike]** One particularly foggy Saturday morning, I was playing goalkeeper for the school 1st XI football team. It was quite a dour game and I didn’t do much. I was a little disappointed not to see Dad, but I blamed his absence on it being such a bad day. However, when I got home, the conversation went something like this:

Dad: 'Whilst I was watching you, I thought that you had put on a bit of weight, but you did make a really good save.'

Now, I was about 16 at the time and was about 9st wet through, and like I said I didn't do much in the game. So I said:

'Erm, thanks Dad. Which game were you watching?'

Dad replied: 'Well, the first pitch where you were playing.'

To which I said: 'Well that explains a lot, you were watching the 2nd XI; we were on the top pitch, but thanks for coming anyway!'

**[Andy]** One Saturday evening, when I was 14, I bought eight cans of lager prior to a school trip, having drawn the short straw to get the beer for myself and some friends. As I left the shop, I triumphantly held up the bag of cans towards my friend, who was waiting on the corner. Unbeknownst to me, at exactly that moment, David was passing the shop on the way to Queens Sports Club with Kaye. My friend was now frantically gesturing that someone was behind me.

I then heard my Dad's booming voice, 'What have you got there then?'

'Eight cans of Carlsberg Dad.'

'How did you manage that when you're 14?'

'I gave the shopkeeper a note saying you had a broken leg,' I feebly replied.

My Dad then said to me, 'I'll see you tomorrow,' and then stormed into the shop with the bag of cans. The next morning, I was extremely worried about how Dad would react. Michael assured me it was a bad one and I was going to get real bollocking.

When Dad finally got up, after what felt like ages, to my surprise he didn't seem too angry. He asked me why I was buying the beer, and after I explained about the forthcoming school trip. He told me he was very disappointed in me.

After I had mumbled my most grovelling of apologies, David went on to explain that his biggest disappointment was the note, particularly the fact that I had spelt Carlsberg wrong.

That evening, David opened one of the cans, poured himself a glass, then let me finish the can.

**[Mike]** David "left" Heath School in the Lower 6th after I term and took up an apprenticeship at Halifax Power Station, North Bridge. He also worked at Elland & Ferrybridge power stations while studying at Leeds Polytechnic to become a qualified electrical engineer. In 1966 David wanted to progress his career and transferred to Kincardine Power Station. In 1972 there was

another career move, which took him to Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station where, in 1973, he achieved chartered electrical engineer status.

After seven years of construction delays, he left the CEGB and became Head of Services and Primaries at ICI, Huddersfield, often bringing work home with him. In 1987, David was promoted to Assistant Works Manager, to do this he had to return to Scotland, to ICI Grangemouth. With retirement creeping up, David wanted to return to his roots and returned to ICI Huddersfield, before then concluding his career working alongside Hugh Donaldson at Holiday Chemical Holdings, retiring in 2000 aged 60.

**[Andy]** David was a sporty and sociable person. He was Scoutmaster at Highroad Well Church in his teenage years. David also played cricket for Warley as a wicketkeeper/batsman. He played rugby as hooker for Heath School, Heath Old Boys and at Ovenden Park. David joined the Round Table and remained a member for over ten years, becoming an integral member of every club he was involved with.

Whilst in Middlesbrough he took up squash and continued to play local cricket. Always keen to try new things, he bought a Mirror class dinghy moored at Runswick Bay to learn to sail with Stephanie and Joanne. They only managed to get out a few times, capsizing in the middle of the bay on one occasion before it was wrecked along with many other boats at the sailing club by a bad storm! This brought an end to a short lived sailing career!

**[Mike]** He continued to play squash in Halifax, becoming a member of Queens Sports Club and took up cycling, joining a local group. He re-joined West End Golf Club, formerly being a member in his youth. He progressed to be the Club Captain. His highest achievement was persuading Kaye to play golf, who then went on to become Ladies Captain! They enjoyed many years of golfing holidays on the Algarve entertaining friends and introducing them to Quinta do Lago Country Club.

**[Andy]** Not one to be idle, on his retirement, David became a governor at Crossley Heath and, through Rotary, did mentoring at Ling Bob primary school with his long-standing friend Malcolm Barron. David and Malcolm also regularly wandered the Yorkshire hills and dales. David enjoyed many worldwide cruises with Kaye, partially inspired by tales of his father's sorties in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War. They went to Canada and Alaska, Norway, Australia and New Zealand, Iceland to see the Northern Lights, finally South America and Antarctica. Sadly, in 2014, David was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and slowly declined over the

next six years, ending with his peaceful death in December 2020. I think it's fair to say that David always had a lust for life and he thoroughly enjoyed the one that he had lived.

### **Andy and Mike Armitage**

David A. Armitage was born on the 22nd May 1940 in Halifax to David and Grace; his brother Martin came a few years later. His father was Head at Warley Town School. David was scoutmaster at Highroad Well church for much of his teenage years and a keen sportsman playing cricket at Warley, golf at West End and rugby at Ovenden Park. After Heath Grammar School he was apprenticed at the Halifax power station and later moved to Alloa to work at the power station at Kincardine. Whilst there he joined the Round Table and the local golf club, which he really enjoyed. His next move was to Middlesbrough; he worked at the nuclear power station at Hartlepool.

In 1977 he moved to the private sector and became manager of the power plant at ICI Huddersfield. He returned to Halifax with the family. The job was perfect for him. When the miners' strike was threatened, he stocked up with coal which lasted for the duration of the strike. He was then asked to look after one of the chemical processes in addition to the power plant. Then he was asked to take on the management of the catering department. There were a lot of changes at that time and David was in the thick of it. He was promoted to Deputy Works Manager; however, the downside was that he was obliged to make many employees redundant.

David retired from ICI/Astra Zeneca and soon after was offered a position with Hollidays dyes and chemicals further down Leeds Road. After he retired he continued as a member of Halifax 41 Club and in 1999 joined Halifax Rotary Club. He was a member of West End Golf Club eventually becoming Captain and a member of the Development Committee. In addition he served as a Governor of Crossley Heath for six years, and Ling Bob for one year. He was a keen walker and he and I walked most Tuesdays as well as completing longer challenges.

David leaves his wife, Kaye, and his children, Stephanie, Joanne, Michael and Andrew.

### **Malcolm Barron**

### **Brian Idris Evans: 27 July 1934–18 January 2021 [Heath 1962–1968]**

**B**RIAN Evans died in a care home in Ilkley on 18 January 2021. The funeral was at Christ Church in Hipperholme on Monday, 1st February 2021.

Brian Idris Evans was at Heath for five years; in that short time he earned lasting respect and affection.

Many will remember him with gratitude and mourn the news of his death. Brian arrived in Halifax early in 1962 as Head of History, filling the void left by the death of C.O. Mackley. He soon established himself as a highly organised teacher, combining vigour and high expectations with compassion and understanding.

Profoundly honest, he saw no need to conceal from his pupils either his deep religious faith or his liberal internationalist beliefs, but he never sought to impose them. In the chair of the idiosyncratic sixth form debating society, the Favorites, he was both good humoured and scrupulously fair. When he encouraged his sixth form historians to attend a day-long Student Christian Movement conference held at Princess Mary High School, one of them wanted to know if it would be 'held against' anyone who declined; Brian assured him that it would not, and meant what he said.

A talented sportsman, particularly when there was a ball to hit, he was a patient coach. Though transferring his skills interested him more than showing them off, in the cricket nets and occasional staff matches he played all the shots with timing and grace. Similar skills in his preferred winter sport of hockey were lost on Heath, but he took charge of the Second XV to good effect, and was a competent and calm referee.

Brian was a cousin of Gwynfor Evans, the resolute president of Plaid Cymru, but he had no trace of a Welsh accent — unsurprisingly, since he grew up in London, where his father Idris was a Congregationalist minister. Aged eight, he was sent to Caterham School in Surrey, a Victorian foundation for the education of ministers' sons, where he spent ten fruitful years, first in the preparatory department, then the main school, in due course heading both his house and his school; as Senior Prefect he addressed the Old Boys' dinner with 'a most lucid and well-presented picture of the year's activities.' He won the school's debating prize, and acted in its plays, his final role being the Prince of Morocco in *The Merchant of Venice*. Blackface for the part was directorially dictated: in sensitivity to racial issues Brian was always ahead of his time.

On the playing fields he captained the prep school football XI and played rugby for his house; but his preference was for the uninflated ball. Though he had taken 29 wickets at under 3 apiece in school matches in 1947, after his move to main school he focused on batting. Perhaps inspired by his hero the dashing Denis Compton, whom during vacations he would watch spellbound at Lord's, a few miles from home in Acton, Brian became 'the stylist of the side,' as well as being a good fielder in the covers. But he was evidently a source of some frustration to his cricket master, whose Wisden report for the 1951 season noted that B.I. Evans, 'though a good stroke-player, repeatedly disappointed by getting out when he looked most settled.' Of his hockey, the Caterham magazine commented that 'His stick-work and clearing shots have saved us from

many an embarrassing situation. He is handicapped by lack of speed, and should learn to clear the ball without dribbling out of the circle.' Nobody is perfect.

His academic talents had secured Brian a place to read History at Jesus College, Oxford, most of whose intake was and is Welsh. Having combined his studies with three productive winter and summer seasons for the college hockey and cricket teams, in 1955 he was awarded the undifferentiated Second then obtained by the vast majority of Oxonians, did the mandatory two years' national service and then, returning to the metier in which he had been so successful, became a schoolmaster.

His pupils at Heath will remember his efficiency and communication skills; he controlled his classroom not so much by imposing his will as by sweeping the group along in a shared mission. And for all his diligence, he was well enough organised to enjoy a fulfilling personal life. Lodging off Manor Drive, he became a member of Heath Congregational Church, where he deployed inherited talents in the pulpit, and through which he met Pat Sumner, who had attended Princess Mary High School and was to become a Maths teacher. Romance blossomed: they married in 1964; their children Paul and Catherine would in due course follow in their father's footsteps to Jesus College.

Quietly ambitious and genuinely interested in the pastoral aspect of his vocation, Brian was not going to remain a departmental head for long. In 1967 he moved to Newport, in South Wales as a deputy headmaster, one of whose duties was to deal with the daily parade of naughty boys. Five years later the Evans family was back in Halifax. There were headship vacancies at the grammar schools at either end of Savile Park; Brian applied for and secured the post of head of Crossley & Porter, in which he served with distinction from 1971 to 1977. A former student recalls him as authoritative but caring and sympathetic. Brian's final career move was to lead a large comprehensive school: Honley High School, formerly Holme Valley Grammar, had 1300 students on roll.

Following his retirement in 1993, he characteristically accepted the invitation to take on a different responsibility, that of clerk to the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church while continuing regular preaching. Eventually Brian and Pat retired to Ilkley, and it was there that his life of achievement and service drew to a close. He will be greatly missed by his wife, son and daughter, five grandchildren and a host of friends.

**Andrew Connell** [Heath 1958–1965] drawing on conversations with various people, including his widow, Pat.

**Tom Roper** [Heath 1959–1966] writes:

Cathy and I were invited to attend the funeral. Brian and Pat were regular attenders at Hipperholme URC and it amalgamated with Hipperholme Methodist to form Christ Church, where Cathy is a regular attender, me less so. So Cathy knows Brian and Pat very well. For my own part, Brian taught me at Heath and appointed me as Head of Maths at Crossley and Porter way back in 1975. The connection was renewed when after leaving to go to Greenhead College in Huddersfield, in 1980, I appointed Pat Evans to work in the maths department there. So we have a very long connection with them. I enjoyed many chats with Brian at church events about rugby and cricket — he was a very stylish bat in his time.

### **John Philip Horrocks-Taylor: 27 October 1934–11 February 2021 [Heath 1945–1953]**

THE death of Phil Horrocks-Taylor on 11 February 2021 has been announced. He was born on 27 October 1934, the youngest of three children, Pamela, David and himself. He attended Parkinson Lane Junior School from where he graduated to Heath Grammar School in 1945, joining brother David there. He soon demonstrated his sporting abilities — and was no mean scholar.

He played cricket for the School and gained his school colours in 1951 but he excelled throughout at rugby, gaining his Colts colours in 1948, his school colours in 1951 when he played in the winning team at the Ilkley Sevens, playing in the 1952 winning team, captaining the winning Ilkley Sevens team and the First XV in 1953 and playing for the Yorkshire Schools XV in his last two years.

A State Scholarship in Physics and Chemistry took him to Cambridge University but he chose to take up first his National Service obligation at Catterick with the Royal Corps of Signals. Bearing in mind the then reputation of the RCS, it was no coincidence that he was recruited to their ranks — in his words as 'an opportunity to play rugby and nothing else.' With such rugby league icons as Billy Boston, Phil Jackson and Brian Gabbitas in the team, no wonder they won the Yorkshire Cup and the Army Cup.

Thence to Cambridge where he, in 1956, his second year, was awarded his 'Blue' and, according to him, played some of his best rugby ever, being capped twice by England before his arrival at Leicester Tigers.

In the ensuing years until 1958, he played for Halifax RUFC on 43 occasions scoring 14 tries, 13 penalty

goals, 5 drop goals and three conversions. Otherwise he flourished as he played for Wasps, 92 times for Leicester Tigers between 1958 and 1963 as fly half, representing England nine times between 1958 and 1962 and being selected for the 1959 British and Irish Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand where he played in the third test. He also made 61 appearances for Yorkshire RFU.

After a period of employment in the Midlands, he moved to Middlesborough where he was soon back in the game as he played, captained the Club and served as Chairman, Chairman of Selectors and Vice President over the years.

Sadly he died on 11 February 2021, aged 86, leaving his wife Julia, his two married daughters and their families. He will be greatly missed.

**Grayham P Smith** [Heath 1952–1959]

### **Michael Stuart Whitworth: 23 October 1946–15 February 2021 [Heath 1958–1966]**

**M**ICHAEL Whitworth died peacefully at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary on Monday 15 February 2021, aged 74 years.



*Michael Whitworth*

My Dad was born at Lower Skircoat Green, Halifax in 1946. His Dad was in the merchant navy and away at

sea for most of his early years and his Mum worked on the production line at Mackintosh's. He went to All Saints Infants School, then Holy Trinity Junior Boys and then passed the Eleven Plus to go to Heath Grammar School in 1958. His younger brother David ('Our Dave') also went to Heath five years later.

He thoroughly enjoyed his time at the school and had plenty of tales to tell. The most frequent one involved variations on him and a friend (Keith Riley-Gledhill, I think) starting the weekly cross country run in games, hanging back for a while, then ducking off to the Halfway House café on the moor, or to the cinema, or worse, then re-joining the tail end of the group as they headed back into school ...

I also remember a tuck shop run by 'Sweaty Betty.' And Oxo sandwiches. Sometimes with crisps. And rugby. And a love of English Literature. And being Deputy Head Boy in his final year.

He passed his A Levels and went to Leeds University to study English Literature — the first in his family to do so. There he met and got engaged to Christina, studying on the same course. After finishing his degree, and not entirely sure what to do next, he followed some of his friends onto a PGCE course to train to become a teacher.

In 1970 he married my mum and worked briefly as a Personnel Officer with an engineering company in the north east. He knew nothing about personnel, had no relevant skills or experience and didn't really have a clue what the job entailed, but the hiring manager had played rugby for Bradford Grammar School, was a huge rugby fan and remembered vividly the games against Heath Grammar School. On the simple basis of having played rugby for Heath, my Dad was offered the job! Following that he moved to Peterborough to take up a Personnel Manager role with GEC, at a factory making Hotpoint products. I came along in 1971.

In 1973 he fancied a career change and decided to go into teaching, initially at a school in Peterborough, then at Abbey Grange school in Leeds teaching English and Games. In May the following year my sister, Emma, was born.

Always on the lookout to better himself he saw a job advertised as Head of English at Holy Trinity Senior School in Halifax — he applied for it, got it and, in winter 1976, as a family we moved to Savile Park, Halifax. He progressed to the dizzy heights of Senior Deputy Head and retired in 2005, aged 59.

He enjoyed his retirement, going hiking with his friends, having days out, and spending time with his wife and grandchildren, until summer 2017 when sadly he suffered a major stroke. He was alone in the house at the time, but had the presence of mind to walk round to the next door neighbours and ask them to call an ambulance. By the time the paramedics arrived he was unconscious. He spent the next few weeks in a critical

condition, but eventually made a partial recovery.

Sadly he lost the power of speech and had only limited mobility; so his final years were spent mainly at home but, with his usual strength of character and determination, he looked after himself as well as he could, and stayed positive throughout this period.

On Sunday 7th February 2021 he went into hospital with breathing difficulties, was diagnosed with pneumonia and passed away on the 15th of February, surrounded by his family.

I like to think he had a positive impact on the lives of the thousands of children he taught over the years — one of his former pupils from Holy Trinity, on hearing the news, texted me to say “Mr Whitworth was an absolute legend at school, albeit a slightly scary one!” — I think that would have tickled him no end.

He was the much loved husband of Christina, loving father of Jonathan and Emma, father-in-law to Justine and Paul, dear grandfather to Olivia, Isabel, Florence and Lucy, son of Doreen and brother to David.

**Jonathan Whitworth**

### **Graham Shaw: 4 February 1941–7 March 2021 [Heath 1952–1959]**

GRAHAM was educated at All Saints Junior School, where he was friendly with Grayham Smith. He passed the 11+ examination and duly entered the portals of Heath Grammar School in 1952.

Graham was allocated to School House, as was Grayham. He quickly settled in and won house prizes in his first year. He was a good sportsman, representing the school at rugby and cricket and was a sound swimmer. He joined the school scout group and, as he grew older, he became an active caver as a member of the Heath Rovers Caving Group, operating from a wooden hut at Ribblehead. The group made several new discoveries of wet and difficult caves and were considering forming their own pothole club. They were persuaded by Keith Asquith that a better option was to join an established club and he introduced them to the Bradford Pothole Club who were delighted to enrol several young, enthusiastic and committed cavers to their ranks.

All went well until April 1961 when Graham had a life threatening accident in Simpson’s Pot in Kingsdale, above Ingleton. He was badly injured when a huge boulder peeled away from a rock face and hit Graham, concussing him and badly crushing his ankle. After a long and difficult rescue, during which Graham’s bravery and fortitude were quite remarkable, he was taken to Lancaster Infirmary for surgery. His recovery was a long one involving plastic surgery and treatment for gangrene.

Graham eventually made a close to full recovery, though never caved or played rugby again. He did

however build a successful career with the Central Electricity Generating Board, had a strong marriage with Hazel and raised two fine daughters. He played soccer, enjoyed long walks, took up sailing and learned to fly. He was still motor biking for pleasure up to his death.

Graham had suffered a heart attack unexpectedly and was admitted to hospital awaiting surgery. He suffered a second heart attack, went through open heart surgery but passed away two days after the operation.

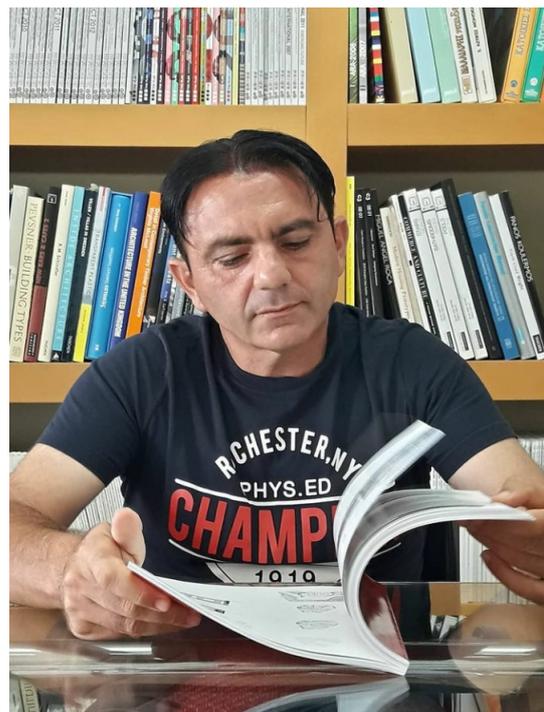
The Heath Old Boys Association wish Graham’s family and friends every sympathy in their loss.

**John Davey** [Heath 1951–1959]

### **George Philippou: 11 September 1964–2 May 2021 [Heath 1976–1983]**

IT is with great regret that we report the death of George Philippou in Cyprus on 2 May 2021, aged 56 years, after contracting Covid-19.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, 6 June 2021 at Ayios Fanourios Church, Aredippou.



*George Philippou*

In response to a message of condolence, his wife, Andria wrote, enclosing these photographs:

I have received your card this morning, and much appreciated all your kind hearted thoughts.

George was such a wonderful husband, and caring fun loving father to our two children,

our son Andreas aged 16 and our daughter Sotiria aged 14. He is greatly missed by all of us, and we are deeply saddened by his loss...

Unfortunately, he was unlucky; he had severe Covid symptoms, which led to pneumonia, even though he had no other underlying problems with his health and he was

very active. He loved his football, playing tennis; in general exercise was one of his daily routines.

I would love to hear about his high lights at Heath School and if anyone has any old photos too. It means a lot to me to keep all his memories, especially for our children.

## Prefects' photos

THE following are some of the Prefects' photos given to us by Jerry Fearnley [Heath 1962–1970].



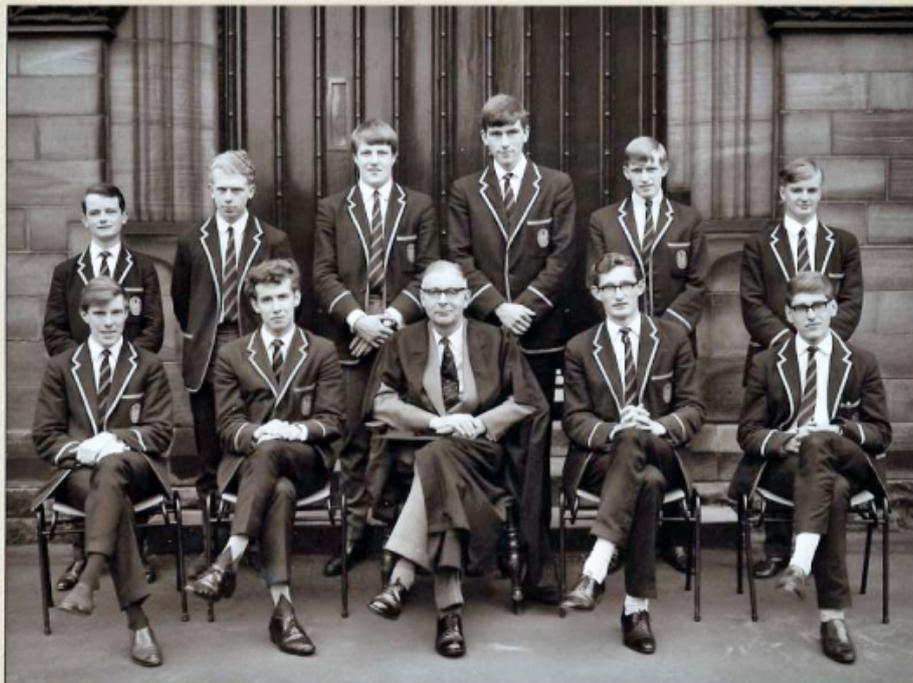
HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL · PREFECTS 1958-59.



Back Row - W. M. Bussey, W. A. Cook, C. R. Wilkinson, K. Spensley, D. S. Millward, G. Fogg, A. Walton, J. R. Crossley  
 Sitting - J. Davey, R. H. Earnshaw, G. P. Smith (Head Prefect), W. R. Swale, Esq., T.D., M.A. (Headmaster), K. M. Shore, R. Collins, D. W. North

*HUGH GREAVES*

HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL - PREFECTS 1964-65



Sitting : D. J. Wardell, R. Coates (Head Prefect), W. R. Swale, T.D., M.A. (Headmaster), R. W. Dixon (Second Prefect), A. N. Connell  
 Standing : R. Akroyd, J. S. Flockton, G. D. Baggaley, J. R. Lum, D. A. J. Littlefair, M. J. Grave

Hugh Greaves, Halifax.

## 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.

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.

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  
Tel: (01422) 355081

#### Heath Old Boys Association Committee:

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**Chairman:** J Farrell

**Vice Chairman and Secretary:** [Jon Hamer](#)

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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.

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