



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter

DIGNI ET VOS ESTE FAVORE

December 1997

1597 - 1997

Four hundredth anniversary of Founder's Day

Founder's Day Service

The 400th Commemoration of Heath's Foundation took place in Halifax Parish Church on Friday 4th July. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Halifax, Rev. Alistair Ross, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Calvert, Lecturer at the church. The service largely followed the traditional form of the Founder's Day Service, which - certainly in the late 40s - hardly varied in choice of hymns, lessons, or anthem. The exhortation and prayers were led by the Headmaster, John Bunch. The familiar lesson from Ecclesiasticus 44, on previous occasions had been read by the Head Boy but on this occasion was read by Mary Crossley, Governor, Crossley Heath School. The second lesson, on this occasion 1 Corinthians 13 vv 1-13, was read by Russell Smith, Secretary, Heath Old Boys' Association. The intercessions were led by Fr. Philip Fitzgerald, the RC Dean of Halifax assisted by Dr. Calvert. The service concluded with The Founder's Collect. The Address was given by Rt. Rev. Donald Nestor, the Assistant Bishop of Blackburn, and formerly Suffragan Bishop of Lesotho, who was at Heath from 1950-57. He recalled the fact that he had given the address at the Founder's Day Service twenty-five years previously, and indeed he had chosen the same text as he had on the last occasion! The Anthem *For the beauty of the earth* by John Rutter was sung by the School Choir, which was under the baton of the School's Head of Music, and is of course now a mixed choir. An innovation, particularly appropriate for the 400th anniversary, was a reading from *The Story of Old Halifax - Heath Grammar School*. The reading was shared by Vicki Paine (Head Girl) and Tim Stansfield (Head Boy), and they are to be congratulated on the way that they read the extracts. There was a large contingent, both boys and girls, present from the school, looking very smart in their black blazers. Although it was sad for the old boys to realise that the maroon blazers and ties have gone forever, they were pleased to see reminders of school blazers, caps, scarves and ties amongst the many exhibits at the back of the church which attracted the attention of the congregation for quite a long time after the service.

THE COMMEMORATIVE PRINT FOR THE QUATERCENTENARY

There are a few of the numbered commemorative prints of the Old School Room still available. These prints show a charming drawing of the interior of the original school room, complete with desks of the time and the "Apple and Pears" window and the Waterhouse memorial in place. Don't miss out on this attractive memento of your school - see the details on the insert.

The Quatercentenary Celebration Dinner

On the evening of 4th July, the celebratory dinner was held in the main hall of Crossley Heath School, under the Chairmanship of our President, John Charnock (left 1969). Mr. Arthur F. ("Tough") Owen said the School Grace for us, and an excellent dinner offering a choice on all three courses - prawn cocktail or avocado fan with trout mousse to start, chicken in a rich red wine sauce or *darne* of salmon with fresh vegetables and baby new potatoes, followed by pear and almond flan or cheese and biscuits finishing with coffee and mints - was served. The caterers did us proud, as they say. We are also very grateful to the P.T.A. of Crossley Heath who provided the bar, and I think our apologies are due to them for having overworked them - they obviously had not appreciated the hard-drinking nature of Heath Old Boys brought up on a diet of training sessions at West Vale! The toast to the Founder, Rev. Dr. John Favour, and to the School, was proposed by Mr. Eric Webster, a Vice President of Halifax Antiquarian Society, and former Honorary Secretary and President of the Society, who was at School in the thirties. The response was given by the Headmaster, Mr. John T. Bunch, who coupled his response with a toast to "Heathens". It had been hoped that this toast would have been responded to by Mr. Andrew Connell but unfortunately he had to go into hospital for a hip replacement preventing him from delivering his speech in person. However, we were fortunate that Jerry Fearnley agreed to deliver it on Andrew's behalf, and we have received praise not only for the appropriateness of Andrew's reply, but also for the way in which Jerry, as his able substitute, carried out this duty. We were pleased that people had come literally from the ends of the earth (Korea and the United States, being amongst the ends!) to join us at this historic occasion.

Anniversary exhibitions

Two fascinating exhibitions of Heath School historical items and memorabilia were mounted in connection with the Quatercentenary celebrations. The Halifax Central Library hosted an exhibition including many old and priceless documents relating to the grant of land for the building of the new school, and other items of great interest. Later, this exhibition was also mounted in the School Library where it could be seen by guests at the Commemoration Dinner. In addition, an exhibition of photographs, scarves, uniforms, and other ephemera such as copies of *The Heathen*, School Drama Society programmes etc. was on display in the Parish Church. Very grateful thanks to everyone who lent material for these exhibitions, and to those who assembled the displays.

Next year's A.G.M. and Annual Dinner ... 6th March 1998

There was unanimous approval on the committee for the Quatercentenary Dinner, and it was felt that on that special occasion the presence of ladies was fitting and enhanced the event. However, it was appreciated that some dissenting voices had been raised by other members of the Association, and their views were noted and will be respected. Your committee have therefore decided to revert to Annual Dinners for the members of Heath Old Boys' Association. However, in view of the success of the Quatercentenary Dinner, it is proposed to hold another Dinner with lady guests in the year 2000 and thereafter every five years. The intervening years will be male only dinners for members.

The 1998 Annual Dinner and A.G.M. will be held on 6th March 1998 at Southwood Masonic Lodge, Birdcage, and will cost £15. Act now! Fill in the form on the insert, and note the date in your new 1998 diaries now!

Four generations of the Fox family at Heath

Gavin Fox (1946-53) tells about his family, four generations of which have attended Heath School.

Gavin's father, **Samuel**, was one of six children, five boys and a girl. Three of the boys, **Lionel** (born 1895), **Ralph** (born 1900) and **Samuel** (born 1907) were educated at Heath. Gavin is uncertain of the schooling of Ernest, known as Bill, and Philip. Their sister was called Betty. Gavin's grandfather and great-grandfather also attended Heath, as did Gavin's brother, **Sam**. Gavin's great-great uncle, **Rev. Joseph Fox**, a local vicar in the 1870s was also possibly at Heath. However, the great interest of this family lies in two brothers, both famous in different ways!

Sir Lionel Fox, C.B., M.C. born in 1895, died in London in 1961. After leaving Heath he was at Hertford College, Oxford. He joined the army in 1914 and was awarded the Military Cross, the Belgian Croix de Guerre and was mentioned in despatches. On demobilization he obtained a Home Office post. Six years later he became Secretary to the Prison Commission, and in 1934 he took up the office of Deputy Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, and from 1941-42 was Acting Receiver. Appointed Chairman of the Prison Commission in 1942, he was created a C.B. in 1948 and Knighted in 1953. Member of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission, Chairman of the U.N. Consultative Group for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders from 1952 to 1960, Chairman of the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on the same matter in 1958, and Chairman of the Council of Europe Committee on Crime Problems. Serious illness prevented him from being elected President of the Second U.N. Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in London in 1960; he was however elected its Honorary President. On retirement in 1960 he became Adviser and Lecturer in the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. He published *"The Modern English Prison"* (1933), and *"The English Prison and Borstal Systems"* (1952). The 1959 White Paper on *"Penal Practice in a Changing Society"*, published by the Home Office, contains many of his ideas for the reorganisation of prisons. Although not all these proposals have been adopted, Lionel Fox was the founder of our modern prison system.

Ralph Fox, "Soldier, Historian, Novelist, Journalist, Political Writer and Friend of the People", was born in 1900, and travelled extensively after leaving Heath. Described as the best-informed Marxist writer in English, a tireless worker in the Communist Party of Great Britain, a serious student of the Far East and biographer of Genghis Khan - a vital, imaginative writer whose full powers were still unfolded when he was killed in action near Cordoba, Spain on 3rd January, 1937 fighting with the International Column against Fascist insurgents. Amongst his many writings were a novel, based loosely on his own experiences, called *"Storming Heaven"* (1928); biographies of Lenin (1933) and Genghis Khan (1936); books about other countries: *"People of the Steppes"* (1925), *"France faces the Future"* (1936) and *"Portugal Now"* (1937); literary essays and works: *"Social Changes as seen in Literature"* (1922), and *"The Novel and the People"* (1937), and, of course, numerous political writings *"Marx, Engels and Lenin on Ireland"* (1932), *"The Colonial Policy of British Imperialism"* (1933), and *"Communism and a Changing Civilization"* (1935). *"Ralph Fox: A Writer in Arms"* with writings on and by him, edited by John Lehmann, T.A. Jackson and C. Day Lewis appeared after his death.

Gavin Fox attended both Heath and Crossley's! He attended Crossley's for a year when Heath Junior School closed. An engineer and design draughtsman in 1966 he emigrated to New Zealand, as indeed his father had done. However his father had been a sheep farmer there. Gavin moved to Sydney in Australia, where he met our late Headmaster's son, Colin Swale, who was sailing around the world with his then wife, Rosie, on the yacht *Annaliese*. Whilst in Australia he built his own 40 foot yacht. He is well travelled, and has "back-packed" all over the world except Central America and Antarctica. He returned to Halifax on the death of his father in 1989, and has been there ever since. He would be delighted to hear from anyone who knew him, and has asked that we publish his address and phone number: - 16 Rustic Avenue, Southwram, Halifax HX3 9QW. Tel.: 01422 349831.

A Heathen in Hong Kong

by Rodney Collins (1951-59)

Born and bred in Halifax, I had not ventured far other than for annual holidays at the sea, except for two visits to London (the Festival of Britain in 1951 and the following year for the coronation) and two unforgettable school expeditions to the continent in 1956 and 57. I had no inkling that what was to become a peripatetic life began as **Grayham Smith** and I left Halifax station one autumn morning in 1959 to begin our initial term at Bristol University. Grayham to study Law, **Bruce Jagger** - who joined us a year later - Classics, but my choice had been Civil Engineering.

As a young man I never applied my thoughts to future world economics so the realisation of their impact upon my professional career took many years to be appreciated. However, an inkling into the need to be where the money is being spent and how mobile one has to be in my business, came two years after graduation when I worked on power stations being constructed near Edinburgh and Southampton and a multi-storey extension to Sheffield University. The opportunity to see the world and be paid for it, began as groomsmen Grayham Smith closed the door on the Rolls Royce which took my wife Ann and me on our wedding day in October 1964 to Wakefield Station for the start of a journey which would end next day when I began work (yes! Honeymoon was a 10 hour flight) in Entebbe, Uganda, my first overseas posting as part of technical aid from Britain to the newly independent state.

Subsequently, accompanied by family, I have worked in Northumberland, (aid to the N.E.), Derby and Chelmsford (the British motorway programme), Kuwait (wholesale redevelopment following the coming on stream of massive oil revenues), Saudi Arabia (national defence in association with the purchase of British Tornado aircraft) and finally Hong Kong (to be part of its end of colonialism/re-assertion of Chinese sovereignty economic boom). Ann has made homes for us 14 times in 33 years of marriage and I have worked in or visited 45 other countries.

Being an old Heathen in Hong Kong during its historic year of 1997 resulted in my being coerced by our editor's 'persuader', Grayham Smith, to write something about the 'Handover' and its after effects. Well, in summary, it was very wet and there are none except a downturn in tourism.

From the end of May to mid-September is the rainy season in Hong Kong. Having occupied Hong Kong for only a little more than 150 years, the British Administration's planning for the 'British Farewell' event did not recognise the possibility of a rainy evening other than to put a sponsor on standby to issue umbrellas to the lucky invitees to the historic, open air event. The Chinese planners with more than 4,000 years' experience arranged for their events, comprising the 'Flag Ceremony', a celebration dinner and the swearing in of the new administration to be held in a world-leading, covered convention centre, newly built for the occasion.

Ann and I were invited to the British event and I was honoured to be amongst only 4,000 invitees from all over the world to attend the Chinese events. Despite torrential tropical rain on 30th June, security demanded that we were seated more than 1½ hours before the two-hour British event. In terraced seating umbrellas obscure the view of those behind so only the front row saw anything. We were not in the front row. Umbrellas also concentrate the water at their perimeters and shed it on to those around because they do not interlock. Unlike, as Sid Fox explained, Roman shields which interlocked thereby allowing the soldiers to approach positions defended by boiling oil. We were literally soaked to the skin. The planners had also provided only a light sunshade (sic) over the royal dais for this evening event. Hence, Prince Charles, Chris Patten and the other dignitaries suffered just the same soaking as all of us. The marching bands sounded as if they were under water and the rain beating down on the microphone made Prince Charles' speech inaudible. Despite the rain-created debacle, colonialism literally went out with a bang during what was probably the world's finest ever fireworks display at the event's conclusion. The celebratory dinner was an uncomfortable experience - drying out whilst eating - but the midnight 'Flag Ceremony' to mark the actual handover of sovereignty was a splendid and most dignified affair.

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QUIZ EVENING and PEA & PIE SUPPER

A pea and pie supper and a quiz evening was held at the Rugby Club at West Vale on Friday, 25th April. Although not quite as well attended as the event the previous year, it was a most enjoyable evening, and the mental dexterity of members' minds was challenged by the questions posed by the quiz master for the evening, Grayham Smith. A sincere thanks to all involved, those who organised it, those who came, and particularly the bar volunteers and those who prepared the delicious pies and peas.

The "Apple and Pears" window

All old boys will surely remember the "Apple and Pears" window, which came from the original school building and is featured in the limited edition print produced to mark the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the school. It was preserved in the cycle shed, and graced the upper region of the boys' urinals! Concern was expressed by your committee that it might in the future suffer even greater indignities, in view of the fact that the buildings in Free School Lane are no longer part of the school. Wheels have therefore been set in motion to ensure that it is properly preserved, and Adrian Caley, A.R.I.B.A., Dip.T.P., M.R.T.P.I., F.R.S.A., a Heath Old Boy who is a specialist in historic buildings and urban conservation has taken the project under his wing.

Apologies from your editor for the rather crowded appearance of this issue, and for the cutting of entries which has proved necessary - he has been pleasantly surprised by the amount of material submitted. However, keep up the good work. It is a far cry from the days of *The Heathen* when the appeals for more news of Old Boys went unheeded! Let's have more news about your time at school - chase up your friends for reminiscences!

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Deng Xiaoping, who sadly died a short time before the 'Handover' which he had dearly wished to witness, established the principle of China being "one country - two systems". In addition, negotiations between the British and Chinese in the lead up to the handover provided for a border to be maintained between Hong Kong and China and the two systems to operate for a 50 year trial.

The British were determined to leave Hong Kong in good order and fit to face the new millennium, hence the famous new airport project, etc. The incoming Chinese administration is determined to do better, which accounts for my presence in Hong Kong to pick up civil engineering commissions. The media of the whole world are scrutinising Hong Kong for anything untoward politically, economically, in human rights, etc. To date, nothing has been found and certainly living in Hong Kong, apart from a 50% decline in tourism, is just the same under the Chinese now as it was latterly under the British. Long may it continue - business is good!

In the lead up to the 'Handover' we had the pleasure of Grayham Smith and Barbara and David North and Adele (twice!) visiting Hong Kong, more recently John Hoyle came on business. It would have been good if Grayham's prowess as a video recorder was anywhere near his sporting and professional abilities, but, alas, we received a good copy of News at Ten instead of a Hong Kong travelogue! Hong Kong is worth a few days' visit. Why not come to China? My travels and the projects in which I have been involved have enabled me to meet the Queen and most members of her family more than once, as well as British Prime Ministers and other ministers of the Crown. Also many foreign dignitaries of many nationalities. During such encounters and in the running of an overseas business, it has to be said, especially as I get older and further from the technical aspects of my profession; that which I learned at Heath Grammar School - proper behaviour, respect, some French, Latin, Greek and ancient history, but above all Ron Swale's English has stood me in good stead wherever I have travelled and with whomever I have met.

WAR MEMORIAL MOVED TO NEW SCHOOL

The First World War Memorial from the old school has been moved to the present buildings. This was carried out very efficiently, after one or two technical hitches, by some of the committee and friends, and the memorial was erected on its new site in the corridor just inside the entrance to the school. The removal was effected in time for it to be in place for our dinner, where it aroused much interest, and we are grateful to John Davey, the technical expert behind the operation, and his labourers, Malcolm Balmforth, Russell Smith, John Allingham, Brian Holloway, and John Stoddart for having carried out this task.

The Second World War Memorial, the Dr. Favour Gates, will remain in situ as they can be seen and appreciated from the public road. However, your Association promises to keep an eye on this memorial, which for the record was erected by private subscription from Old Boys, Parents and Friends of the School, and designed and executed by Wilfred Dowson of Kirby Moorside.

Help needed...

Our speaker at the Dinner, Eric Webster, has written pointing out that unlike public memorials, the two Heath School memorials do not carry details of service, regiment, rank or rating of the names recorded. Ideally records should be held at the School, the Halifax Reference Library and in the National Register of War Memorials at the Imperial War Museum, as an aid to people seeking to find out where relatives are commemorated. Mr. Webster is prepared to do this and has commenced listing details. Some information is available, but it is by no means complete. If anybody has information on Old Boys who fell in either of the two wars, Mr. Webster would be pleased to hear from them. His address is 28 Westborough Drive, Highroad Well, Halifax HX2 7QL, Tel. 01422 364359. Rather than put it off, please have a rummage around in your memories now - or ask others who may know, and let Mr. Webster have the information as soon as possible, and certainly within the next three months. Thank you very much.

The full names of those on the Second War Memorial are:-

MAURICE LUCIUS ARMITAGE
*MARTIN WALTER BOTTOMLEY
GRAHAM BRAYSHAW
KENNETH GOUGH BREAKS
DONALD BROUGHTON
RICHARD GEORGE DE FER BYRDE
*PHILIP CLEGG
THOMAS WILLIAM COGHLIN
LESLIE DAWSON
HAROLD EYRE
PETER THOMPSON FARRAR
*ERNEST EDWARD ROBERTS GOMERSALL
ARTHUR CYRIL HALLER
*JACK HOLROYDE HARRISON
SYDNEY FREDERICK HETHERINGTON
JOHN GREGSON HITCHEN
DAVID JEFFRIES
*RICHARD GEORGE KENNETH JONES
GRAHAM COLLOW KERR
GEORGE LASSEY
ERIC LEWIN
JOHN LEWIN
*SAM LESLIE LORD
JEFFREY MIDDLETON
BRIAN MURRELL
ERIC NETTLETON
*DAVID EDWARD NUTTER
*HUGH JOHN TRAFFORD DAVID ROBERTSON
*JOHN SHEPHERD
*JAMES SPENCE COULTER SMITH
RAYMOND THOMAS STEPHEN
EDWIN STEWART
*ARTHUR HUDSON STOCKS
JAMES GILBERT BROADBENT THOMAS
OSWALD TRAVIS
*GORDON STAFFORD WADE
PHILIP WALKER
ARTHUR JAMES WARING
ALAN WARING
*DONALD WRIGHT

* These names are particularly important as Mr. Webster has no information at all about them.

* Apparently there were two boys bearing this name, and Mr. Webster wishes to identify which one lost his life in the war.

SR

Reminiscences of "Soapy" Hudson

The Rev. Don ("Soapy") F. Hudson, M.A. has followed up some of the items in the last newsletter, and admits that he found it disconcerting to be remembered for giving one of the small fry detention. He tells us he was landed with his nickname by a rather unpleasant fifth former when he first went to Heath, on account of a well known brand of soap which was common at the time, and it stuck! It was good to see so many names of people he recalled, but Don also noticed one or two false memories (*they may not be false memories, but your Editor's bad eyesight!* - Editor). The Latin master mentioned by Bryan Wade was Rigg, not Nigg (Edward Felix Cecil Rigg to be exact) and it was Daddy (not Duddy) Brooks who taught R.I. and also Music. Don remembers most of that form who came along from the Secondary School. He also remembers Mr. Lister who was the most brilliant teacher, though perhaps the least qualified formally. In his year, out of 16 School Certificate pupils, six got 100% in Arithmetic. He was also glad to hear of the survival of some of the seniors, like Scouller and Bessey, to whom he looked up with awe. Scouller mentioned Mr. Corney, who kept in touch with Don for many years when he was in India.

He certainly remembers Geoffrey Morley, and has vivid memories of the kipper tied to "Biddy's" gown going along the top corridor. As a prefect Don did quite a lot of rounding up and on one occasion he walked into a rowdy classroom to shut them up and found "Biddy" in the middle of the row! Don also remembers Mr. Holt, who taught French. Very few masters came to school in cars, but he had one which was parked in the old shed, which he thinks must have been the original schoolroom. On one occasion the boys picked up the car and turned it sideways. Don adds "I've no idea how he eventually got it out!"

Don tells us that he was fortunate in getting a Foundation Scholarship at the age of 10, and was put in IVb with the other new entrants who were all 11, thus taking School Certificate at 14, and spending 5 years in the VIth, before going to Oxford. When he paid a visit during his first vacation, the School Magazine reported the return of the school ghost! Mr. Corney was editor of the magazine and he appointed Don as the Treasurer, whose main job was to go around and collect 4s. 6d. (22½p.) from each of the advertisers. He remembers going to one shop, which shall be nameless, and the proprietor, himself an Old Boy and with two sons in the school, was lamenting that the school was deteriorating with all the "scholarship boys". He suddenly realised he might have blundered since Don might be a scholarship boy, but when he explained that he had a Foundation Scholarship, the shop keeper said "Oh, that's different." It showed that there was still prejudice against the new intake to the school.

He left in 1935, and coincidentally all the Classics staff left at the same time. Mr. Byrde retired, Mr. Corney went to London to Emmanuel School, Wandsworth, and Mr. Rigg left, too. He was also in the Scouts, and has a snap which includes John Cockroft, John Lewin, Rupert Ingram, Peter Walker, Eric Denham, Tom Alderson and George Hanson when they were in the Rover Crew. There are also two others he cannot identify. Bill Aske was Scout Leader, of course, and Don remembers many happy days with him, including a camp in Anglesey. Although never much good at sport, except fives, when he was head of School House he felt he had to join in something; there was a serious half-mile race and also the half-mile handicap, which was to encourage the less proficient. Since Don was the most senior, he was on scratch, and the others were strung out to about 110 yards. The winner was John Hoyle who had 30 yards start, and Don almost caught him - to the delight of the spectators, who thought it all a great joke. His one sporting prize is the silver teaspoon bearing the school name won for coming second in that race.

After Oxford, he went to India and spent 28 years there mostly teaching New Testament Greek, and wrote a book on the subject. He presented the School with a copy of the book. In 1969 he returned to the U.K. and settled in Bradford, teaching R.E. at Garforth until he retired. Since 1969 he has also been part of a Team Ministry in the Baptist Churches in Bradford, and is still active in that. His son was at Heath for a brief time in the 1950s.

OBITUARIES

Donald Nicholl

In our September 1996 issue of this Newsletter we published a short note from Donald Nicholl, who left school in 1941, and who reminisced about the wonderful education that Heathens received in the 1930's, and recalled vividly reading the lesson at the service in the Parish Church in 1941 - "Let us therefore praise great men and our fathers that begat us". Sadly, it is the death of Donald Nicholl that has made your editor and the committee belatedly realise, too late, what a great man Donald Nicholl himself was.

Donald Nicholl, historian and theologian, died on 3rd May 1997, aged 73. His obituaries covered many column inches in the papers, that in *The Times* was nearly 30 inches, and in the Roman Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, (to which he was a regular contributor) which was kindly sent to us by another Old Heathen, The Rev'd David Sharpe, ran to nearly two full pages! David commented in sending the obituary that "in his field he was one of the most distinguished old Heathens".

He was proud to be from Halifax. He was born to a working-class Church of England family and it is said that when he was at Heath he was outstanding physically (he was almost 6ft. 6ins. tall) and academically, and so intellectually gifted that the masters fought between themselves as to what subject he should specialise in! The history master won, and he promptly won a Brackenbury Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford. After a year there, he was called up and served in the Army in India, Ceylon and finally, after its recapture from the Japanese, in Hong Kong. On returning to Oxford in 1946 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. After four years teaching in Edinburgh he became a lecturer at Keele, staying in Staffordshire for twenty years, and receiving a personal Chair in 1972. His real gifts as a teacher were never in doubt.

He was initially a mediaeval historian, and he learnt Irish and Welsh to complement his Latin to better understand the Britain of those days. When he extended his interests to the twentieth century, and to Russia in particular, he learnt Russian.

In the 1950s he travelled widely in France and Germany making contact with many of the leading Catholic thinkers of the day. In 1974 he was appointed by the University of California to be Professor of History and Religious Studies at Santa Cruz. His stay in California was a fruitful one, but in 1980 he returned to Britain and in 1981 was chosen to be director of the Ecumenical Institute at Tantur near Jerusalem, an international centre for theological research.

He was also well known as a writer. *Holiness* (1981) was a classic, and *Testing of Hearts* (1989) was a diary of his time at Tantur. *The Triumphs of the Spirit in Russia* (1997) published a week before his death was a result of his studies of 19th-century Russia. A collection of his essays *The Beatitude of Truth* was scheduled to be published by his literary executor, Professor Adrian Harris, in the second part of this year.

Donald Nicholl married, as he has described her, "a Pennine village lass", Dorothy Tordoff in 1947. She survives him together with a son and four daughters, and the Old Boys' Association extend to them all our deepest sympathy on the loss of this most distinguished son of Heath.

Professor Nicholl was the uncle of David H. (Harry) Brearley, another Heath Old Boy who was one of those injured in the tragic accident on the M6.

David Hirst, who lived in Halifax, died early in August, aged 48, and we extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Pat.

The death of the Rev'd **Michael Beaufort-Jones** has also been recorded. At school Michael was known as a cross-country runner, and after ordination one of his posts was Vicar of All Souls, Halifax.

Heath's Rugby Tradition

by **Grayham P. Smith (1952-59)**

For many years the rugby tradition at Heath was high, perhaps not surprising as the choice of sports was limited. In summer, cricket never held the same sway, perhaps because of the onset of examinations at the end of the term whilst athletics was pursued over a limited period by the relatively dedicated few. In the autumn and spring terms apart from the devoted few five players all had to participate in rugby. During PE periods rugby skills were not infrequently practised whilst in fair weather rugby touch outside in the yard was very often the order of the day.

It is not surprising therefore that the school has provided a good number of rugby footballers of outstanding ability, many of whom would have to pay due regard to the coaching and encouraging skills of Harry Birchall.

Success at the Ilkley Sevens (and elsewhere) are well known but I can think of no other school which has, on one day, provided one third of the Yorkshire XV. The venue was the county ground for Northumberland RUFC at Gosforth, Newcastle, on a day in October or November 1967. Memory serves ill, but the recollection is that Yorkshire suffered defeat by about 18 points to 8.

At fly half was the legendary **Philip Horrocks-Taylor** who played for Yorkshire schools whilst at Heath and then went on to a Cambridge Blue, England Caps and a British Lion in New Zealand. Apart from early days at Halifax, he played for Leicester and finished his playing days at Middlesbrough, a club he now continues to support. He had Yorkshire Caps, but on this day he was nearing the end of his county career.

At centre three quarter was **R. S. Lee (Bobby)** who unhappily has since died. He was an outstanding schoolboy footballer and played for Yorkshire Schools in a team which boasted four Heath boys (Malcolm Bussey, Stanley Watkin, Terry Ward and himself.) Bob subsequently played for Manchester University and the Universities' Athletic Union. He played for Halifax RUFC, Hull and E.R. and Manchester for a short while. He also had Yorkshire Caps.

Up front, there were three forwards, namely:-

R. A. Childs who remains active in the game as the Chairman of Halifax RUFC having gained the wonderful total of 36 Yorkshire Caps in his position as prop forward. He did not have a particularly distinguished career at school, but became a Rugby League loose forward of considerable ability with representative honours for Yorkshire and Great Britain. Rodney also had an England trial and played for the North against the All Blacks in 1963. He has been a one club man, namely Halifax RUFC, but has also gone on to gain administrative honours having served as the President of Halifax RUFC and Yorkshire RFU.

Alongside him in the front row and making his debut on that day was **G. P. Smith**. He had Yorkshire Caps whilst at school and subsequently played for Bristol University and the Universities' Athletic Union as well as English Universities. Whilst at University he regularly turned out during vacation time, for Heath Old Boys under the encouragement of brother Russell before leaving for Halifax RUFC in 1962. Since then he has had an unbroken association as a player, administrator, President for 2 years, qualified RU coach and is now actively engaged in coaching the newly formed Halifax Ladies XV. He had 9 Yorkshire Caps over two seasons before breaking down with cartilage troubles.

The last member of the quintet was **I. P. Booth** in the back row. Ian was another outstanding schoolboy footballer, being captain of the school and having caps for the Yorkshire Schools XV. He played his college rugby at St. John's, York with great distinction and then joined Halifax of which club he has been a member ever since. He played many times for Halifax RUFC and continues in close association now being one of the press officers. Ian appeared 10 times for Yorkshire and maintains to this day, in comparative terms, the high standard of fitness which he did in his playing days.

Having suffered defeat, heads did roll after this game and so the experience has not been repeated and I venture to think that if it has been done before it was rarely and is likely to be equally rare in the future.

FRENCH EXCHANGE VISITS - 1949

John Allingham writes -

In the spring of 1949 "Tishy" Holt and Mr. Littlefair organised an exchange visit for around 20 Heathens to stay with students of the Lycée François Premier at Fontainebleau. We went by train to King's Cross and stayed the night in Clapham Common Underground Station - a dormitory around 200yds long, with four or five hundred students in transit from all over Europe trying to sleep in bunk beds. The following morning we took the boat train to Dover, crossed by steamer and then by train to the Gare du Nord where we met the families we were to stay with. I was to stay with Alain Cartet and family in their home in a small village for the next three weeks, but two days were spent in the dormitories of the Lycée. The Lycée took youths up to the age of 20 and as they had recently taken to playing rugby, a match was organised between their first team, average age 18 or 19, and a Heath team, average age 15, which in no way could be described as representative of the best Heath could field. The game was advertised around Fontainebleau by posters declaring the match as an International Schoolboys' event, and there was quite a crowd to watch what turned out to be a David and Goliath struggle with David on the losing side, though our greater experience of the game kept us from being totally walked over. Our pack was probably 3 stones per man lighter, but I remember our scrum half and stand-off, Barry Ambler and Wadsworth, running rings round the opposition as they were too small for the opposing flank forwards to grab, but getting huge support from the crowd for their daring and ball handling!! My own memory of the game was playing as prop, weighing perhaps 8 stones, against a 20 year old weighing 15 or 16 stones - which was not so bad, apart from getting my as yet unbarbed chin severely roughed up by a two day growth of whiskers!

The three week trip certainly helped my French and I returned on my own the following year for a stay of six weeks including most of August with the family on a camping holiday in Trouville. I have kept contact with Alain Cartet by Christmas cards and this year my wife, Pamela and I visited Alain and his wife, Gabi in their home in a small Burgundy village. We got on as well as we did 48 years ago, and we plan to revisit them next year.

Have any other old boys kept contact, and can any one remember the score in the "International" rugby match?

The Heathen, of September 1949, reports on the above trip at length, and supplies one of the answers to John's questions. It states that the score line was 17 - 0, and confirms John's remarks that we lost to a stronger and heavier team.

Your Editor, David Bottomley, recalls the trip well as he was on it, and, aided by the article he wrote for *The Heathen* can add to John's reminiscences. In London we met - by arrangement - Mr. Grauberg and also - by chance - Mr. Ben Young, both former staff at Heath. We were entertained to tea at, and shown the House of Commons by Dryden Brook, the then M.P. for Halifax. Although some of our party, like John, were in the country near Fontainebleau, as the Lycée was a boarding school, a number of us were staying in Paris itself. I was paired with Pierre Martin, who was a day younger than I was, and his family, who lived in rue Jouffroy, in the 17th arrondissement. Pierre's step-father was a Professor of Latin at the College Chaptal in Paris, and if he couldn't make me understand in French, he would try Latin! My Latin was worse than my French, but nevertheless it led to a number of amusing situations. Pierre's mother spoke good English, but with an American accent! He had a younger sister, Michèle, who taught me the words of Auld Lang Syne in French! Like John, I kept in touch with the French family, and Pierre made a few visits to this country, coming with his sister, and I stayed with them on more than one occasion. Later, Pierre - who reverted to his father's surname, Menpiot - moved to the south of France, becoming a civil engineer, and I rather lost touch with him. However, I kept in touch by Christmas cards and the very occasional visit with his parents, and following their death with his sister and her husband. Indeed, I was very sorry to receive a phone call from Michèle in January of this year, to advise me that Pierre had died on 10th January.

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The article I wrote at the time reminds me that we were accorded a civic reception at the Hôtel de Ville, and that a party was held for us at an inn (Hôtel St. Joseph) in the village of Samoie. In addition to ourselves, our hosts and some of their friends, there were numerous girls from the local girls' school present. There were dancing and games, but I noted that our attempts to teach them "Ballin' the Jack" were not too successful. It didn't seem to catch on!

That particular issue of *The Heathen* also contains a brief note about the summer visit of our hosts to Halifax. They too had a civic welcome, and were in the town when Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Halifax. They presented a play *The Thread of Scarlet* - a mystery drama in English for us, and the magazine notes that this was a great success. Your present Editor recalls with some amusement how the Corporation bus taking the party to Shibden Hall got stuck trying to get through the gates off Godley Lane!

In his reminiscences Bryan Wade has told us of a much earlier, pre-war, school visit to Avignon, when he met a girl in the fairground at Blois on his first trip - and, yes! - he still corresponds with her. He remarks as she is now 80 and he is only almost 75, he must have been a precocious young lad!

NEWS OF HEATH OLD BOYS

Lack of space means we can only publish the names and locations of our correspondents, unless they specifically ask that their full address or phone number be given; however if you wish to contact any of the others please ask our secretary, Russell Smith, for their full addresses. To aid identification, where possible, we give the dates they were at school - where only one date is given, that is the date they left Heath. Unfortunately some correspondents fail to give this information - please try to remember to give it so that readers can be sure to which generation of a family the note refers.

Correction - Keith Ambler was flattered to see in the last newsletter that he left school in 1955! It was actually 1946. (*Sorry, Keith* - Ed.)

John C. Allingham, who is a member of the committee, left Heath in 1952 and graduated in Chemistry from Birmingham University in 1955. This was followed by National Service in "The Gunners" and following his commission in 1956, he was posted with his Anti-Aircraft regiment to Cyprus to help defend the island against possible air attack by the Egyptian Air Force - which never happened. However, the regiment became involved in security operations against the Eoka Terrorists. John completed his National Service in 1957. After working all over the U.K. in the gas industry as a commissioning engineer, he married Pamela in 1959 and turned to selling air pollution equipment for a German company. From 1966 until his retirement in December 1996 he worked as an export salesman for Hickson and Welch in Castleford, spending three to four months a year abroad, particularly in Scandinavia, the Middle East and the Far East. He claims he never refused any strange or unusual food - live prawns in Japan, whole frogs in aspic in Thailand, raw sea slugs in Korea, snakes' blood in Taiwan, and lots more! John's major hobby is golf and he has played around 36 different courses in Japan and several in Korea, Taiwan, India, Egypt and Australia. In Japan he was forced to sing in Karaoka bars before it was even thought of here: much entertaining in Japan, Korea and Taiwan involves drinking in small bars fitted with sound systems, and with young ladies to pour the drinks and encourage one to sing! Pamela and John have three grown up children and five grand children.

David Roderick Barlow, (1956-62), known at school as Roderick, but now known as David, writes to us from Walsall. He became a Jesuit priest for many years, but seven years ago married and now has two young sons. He is Head of the Theology and Philosophy Department at Wolverhampton Grammar School, sadly exiled from his beloved West Riding! He comments that it is bizarre from being a Heathen, becoming a Christian and then being back to an Old Heathen! (*Editor's note* - we are well aware of the large number of Heathens who are indeed Christians as well as being Heathens! Donald Nicholl, whose death is reported in this issue, proudly referred to himself as a Heathen!) David Barlow's brother, **Christopher Barlow**, preceded him at Heath. Chris went on to Emmanuel, Cambridge, where he read English and ended up as senior teacher at Colchester Grammar School until his recent retirement. The family lived in Hall Street in one of the houses of the old Gibbet Street Fire Station.

Ken Binks (1939 - 1944) writes from Bentmeadows, Rochdale saying how although memories came flooding back to him at the 400th Founder's Day service at the Parish Church, but people he knew well as a lad did - unfortunately - not. Nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable occasion. When he was at school he was in 'C' Section of the Scout Troop for a couple of years and played rugby for the Old Boys in the late 40s and early 50s when Alan Hartley was Captain.

Dorian Brooksby (1971-78) later became, in 1984, a member of staff of Heath and was Head of P.E. at the time of amalgamation with Crossley & Porter. He continued as a member of staff of Crossley Heath School until 1989, and is still living and teaching in the Halifax area.

Barry (J.B.W.) Edwards, writing from Farnham in Surrey, tells our secretary that he was very interested in the list of names of contemporaries that he recalled (March 1997 Newsletter, page 8). Barry was in the B Form, the younger half of the year, he believes, and his memory of the register is Aked, Ackroyd, Anderton, Arundel, Beaumont, Benson, Bowes, Bunce, Crowther (David, not Donald), Cummings, Davis, Depledge, Edwards (self), Freeman, Gornall, Hall, Hanson, Hardwick, Johnson, Lawrence, Murgatroyd ... and then goes dim ... after that the only other name he recalls is Roe! He well remembers, from the ones Russell Smith listed, Gus Freeman, Gordon Carr, Maurice Horrocks-Taylor, Jeremy Blackeby all of whom were members of St. Jude's Youth Club. Barry went to Manchester University with Tony Jagger and Donald Crowther, and more recently met Keith Reynard in London about 1986 when he was Manager of the Engineering Sciences Data Unit, an off-spring of the Royal Aeronautical Society. After Manchester he spent all of his career at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough and in its MoD HQ in London. He is now half retired, but still doing a part-time job at Farnborough. Barry explains that he followed the example of his Maths master, "Polly" Hallows, who had worked at Farnborough in the 2nd World War, and is still remembered. Barry briefly mentions his brother **Anthony Edwards** (left 1950), whom your Editor recalls as a contemporary.

We have heard about two brothers, **Steven and David Ellis** who were at Heath in the sixties. They now live in County Galway, Ireland, and Cape Province, South Africa respectively. In complying with their mother's request to put them on the circulation list for the Newsletter, we hope that they will drop us a line, tell us what they've been doing, and what brought them to two beautiful but widely separated parts of the world.

David Galloway (1944 - 1949) enlisted in the Regular Army as a boy entrant, aged 16, and served for 26 years, mostly in the Royal Army Pay Corps, where he obtained an accountancy qualification (A.C.M.A.) On retiring with the rank of Captain, he worked as an accountant with the Ordnance Survey and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. After three years, David joined British Gas in Southampton, later moving to Newcastle upon Tyne when the company was restructured. After 17 years with the Audit Department, he retired in 1995 and returned to West Yorkshire, where he is living in Hebden Bridge, in January of this year. He recalls the names of some 26 members of his year, and also mentions that one year ahead of him was **Barrie Ingham**, who found fame in TV and films, whilst one year behind him was **Denzil Stephens** who became well known in brass band and military band circles.

David A. ("Grassy") Greenwood (1952 - 59) has retired from computer training (I could do with him - my computer is untrainable! - Ed.), has been married to Susan for 34 years and has a daughter Kate (32), a product manager for a cable company and a son Richard (30) who runs his own international exhibition design consultancy. Richard is married to Jane, a tax consultant, which "Grassy" finds very handy. Living in South Tottenham, London, he does not get back to Halifax very often, but is still in touch with **John Davey** (1951 - 59), and an exact contemporary of his, **Edward Riley** is the Editor of the *Halifax Courier*.

Steve Greenwood writes from Granby, Québec, Canada saying how much he enjoyed reading the last newsletter. He recalls with pride the old school and regrets its passing, but tells us that when he does get back to Halifax he always manages to go to West Vale for a small ale.

Andrew Hardcastle (1963-70) writes to say that although there were no references to anyone from his year group, he enjoyed reading the Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter. He tells us that at school he won the Shoosmith Historical Essay prize in 1969 with an essay on the History of Rugby League, which was the precursor to a full-length book *"The Thrum Hall Story"*, published in 1986. He is concerned that being a Rugby League supporter, and having felt cruelly suppressed by the

Rugby Union indoctrination of Heath, he might not be an ideal member of HOBA. He is currently a History teacher in a Comprehensive School and lives at Norton Tower.

Denis Hill (1964 - 1971) who attended Leicester University and gained a B.A. Hons. in Geography, is currently Head of Geography at Shene School in Richmond Borough, and plays for Old Actonians cricket team. He is married with a young son, lives in West London, and would like to hear from any of his old mates from school. His address is 19, York Rd., Brentford, Middx. TW8 0QP.

Jack Hoyle (1931-36) writes from Skircoat Green lamenting the lack of news from his contemporaries, although he found John Marsland's contribution most interesting. He recalled almost everyone mentioned even though they were two years ahead of his starting time. He tells us that he did not know until now that they had all been transferred from the Halifax Secondary School - this is a tribute to how well they had settled into Heath, and the School had assimilated them. Jack retired 17 years ago from his post of Brighthouse District Manager of the Halifax Building Society, having prior to that been Sowerby Bridge District Manager. He tells us his son, **Stuart Hoyle**, living in Hipperholme is another old boy, and is a head master, but we would like more information, please!

Auckland in New Zealand was the origin of an interesting letter received from **Russell Jackson** (1931 - 1936) who sent his sincere apologies for non attendance at the Anniversary Dinner and 400th Founder's Day Service. However, five years ago he had been able to visit Halifax and visit the old school where he eventually found the Apple and Pear window, although he adds that this was not the name used by his informant who was connected with the premises in their new functions. The sight of familiar names on the Roll of Honour on the front gateway was a sobering experience for him. Russell went to New Zealand in 1950 and had gradually lost touch with Halifax over the years, and it was not until his last visit that he discovered the changes involving H.G.S. and C. & P. Recalling his own period at school, from the class roll calls (do they still have them these days?) the routine of Alderson, Bates, Birch, Black, Davidson, Eastwood, Emmett, Fox, Greenwood, still rings in his mind. He tells us that his name will not appear on any list of notable achievers, and he was usually in the top third of the upper stream, with enthusiasm for fives, and strong involvement in the School Scout troop. Being obliged to wear spectacles his involvement with rugby was restricted to compulsory games days until he reached the age when he could opt for fives. His first love was soccer and ironically when he reached New Zealand he was invited to join the local soccer club and graduated to play in the senior team, much to his surprise! The club coach ran a carrier business and kept an eye open for new arrivals from the U.K. when he got the job of carting their possessions. Russell linked up with the Scout movement again and acted as a warranted leader for about 16 years. Trained as an accountant pre-war, he joined Mackintosh's technical section after demob. and transferred to an associate company of Mackintosh's in Dunedin two years later. Nine years later he changed company, and for the rest of his working life he served in various capacities in the sugar confectionery division of Griffin and Sons Ltd - a large biscuit and confectionery manufacturers, firstly in their Nelson operation and following a take-over situation transferred to the company's Auckland premises, finally retiring eleven years ago.

Norman D. Kidd writes from Wyke, Bradford commenting on D.J.D. Smith's support for Kenneth McGill's application for training in the Fleet Air Arm. Norman says that although D.J.D. could not have rated his academic achievements very highly, he too was grateful for his support of his application for flying training. It occurs to Norman that their form, Remove A, 1937, produced more than its fair share of 'matelots' - Longbottom, Dalzell, Thomas and Hoyle all served with distinction and devotion to Duty-free. He has come to the conclusion that Kenneth and he are members of a rare and lonely breed. Norman can recollect only one other Heath Old Boy who served in the "Branch", a very fine centre three-quarter by the name of Harold Eyre, who volunteered early in the war, but sadly did not survive. He wonders if there are any other former members of the Air Branch of the R.N.V.R. in the Association?

John G. Lee (1943 - 1951) went to Manchester University, and taught in the R.A.F. from 1955-58. He continued to teach, after leaving the service, at Rochdale Grammar School for Boys from 1958-62, and brought the rugby team to play Heath, and renewed his acquaintanceship with Harry Birchall. From 1962 - 91 John lectured at what is now the University College of Ripon and York St. John, and saw several Old Heathens turned into teachers in the process! He retired as Director of Teacher Education Programmes in 1991 and, living in Ripon, is now enjoying retirement and the grandchildren.

Malcolm Lumb left school in 1948, and after a short spell at Halifax Tech., joined the Probate Division of the Civil Service at Wakefield in January 1949. From September 1950 to September 1953 Malcolm served in the R.A.F. as a telegraph mechanic, two years of which was at NATO Headquarters at Fontainebleau, France. In September 1954 he joined Cable and Wireless and spent nearly two years at the Engineering College, Porthcurno, Cornwall where, off duty, he continued his involvement with stage lighting that started with the Halifax Theatians and continued with an open air production of Macbeth at the famed Minack Theatre. After a training spell at Greenwich, London, Malcolm joined a company cableship (C.S. Mirror) for a two year commission as a Cable Electrician responsible for the jointing and testing of the cable. During that time the ship steamed over 56,000 miles repairing submarine cables in the Bay of Biscay, North Atlantic, Caribbean, and West African areas. A further two years was spent in Singapore working at the company factory making submarine cable where he was one of the testing officers. A recall to the U.K. at the end of 1960 was to join the Post Office Inspection team at Southampton for the manufacture of the US-Bermuda telephone cable system. In May 1961, Malcolm transferred to the Head Office in London on the submarine cable maintenance group which was responsible for the movements of the cableship fleet and restoration of the worldwide cable system. In the first few years he was a travelling representative for the group, visiting French cableships in the Mediterranean, Post Office cableships off the North Irish coast (always seemed to be bad weather there!), a trip to Guyana, Barbados and St. Lucia, a cable laying operation from Fiji (returning from Tahiti), a cableship refit in Hong Kong and finally a round trip out via Singapore and Sydney to Fiji, returning from Guam via Hawaii and USA. Malcolm met his future wife, Megan, in the C&W office, and they were married in August 1966, and have lived in Potters Bar since then. In 1975 he transferred to be manager of a new unit formed to run the internal communications (telephone, telex, fax etc.) and stayed with that unit until it was disbanded in 1990. Malcolm retired shortly afterwards. Since then he has become a parent governor at his younger daughter's school and has recently taken on duties as treasurer of the Herts. Schools Badminton Association, Ceri being in the County squad. Malcolm says that despite having met many people over the years, he hasn't knowingly met any old Heathens, with the exception of Philip Maylor, Anthony Edwards, Gordon Youd and John Stinton, the last at a retirement party for a Junior School Head in Potters Bar!

R Alan North, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., F.R.S. (1955 - 1962) is with the Geneva Biomedical Research Institute, part of the Glaxo Wellcome Research and Development operation in Geneva. He mentions that "Nuffer" Morris had a major influence on his life, and was hoping to meet him at the Dinner. His brother, **David North**, was also at Heath.

Robert L. Oddy, F.C.A. (Queen's House, 1952-57) has written from Seoul, Korea. He recalls that our Secretary's brother, Grayham, was the only member of his year that he hated to tackle as it used to leave marks on him. He also recalls once, unsuccessfully, requesting that Grayham Smith be barred from participation in the shot, discus and javelin events, in order to provide some incentive for the rest of the year to participate. Bob was in Queen's House, which alas was not well endowed with the pick of the rugby players at that time - the combination of Smith and Bussey in School House always resulted in one sided contests. The only thing he can remember Queen's winning was a gymnastics competition - this was the only time he ever saw "Honky" Peace ("peace, perfect peace") smile, except one time when he was asked to define "a virgin" during an Art class. Being a "towny", he was one of a small group not entitled to free bus passes and recalls well the camaraderie of this group that trudged the daily journey, heavily satcheled, back and forth from town to the school in all weathers - daily risking detention from a passing prefect for not wearing the dreaded cap that was always removed in order not to lose face when passing Clare Hall. All Heathens at that time were of course tremendous athletes as a result of the unique practice of combining a cross country run with a swimming lesson due to the distant location of the Park Road Baths. In Bob's final year destiny called as a result of the swimming lesson being changed to the first period of the day, which then meant a leisurely walk up from town. On 27th May, 1957 on one such walk he struck up courage to enter into a conversation with one of the Princess Mary girls (their route to school went right past Park Road) - they have talked every day since then! Writing before our celebrations this year, Bob wondered whether the Founder's Day service would include* the reading from 1 Corinthians 13, which was to him the happy reading that signified the start of the long summer holiday, and was the thing - perhaps the only thing - that he looked forward to hearing from Walter Swale (and he read it well) - it still brings back memories whenever he hears it. (**It was, and it was read by our secretary, Russell Smith. It seems to have replaced Ephesians 6, vv 10-17 which was read at the services in the late 1940s.*) Bob continues - "Almost immediately

Walter had dismissed us from the end of term service in my 5th year, I was off to find a life of great adventure in the R.A.F. on the assumption that fighting the cold war would be much easier than continuing to do battle with him. Alas it was not to be - they didn't like my ears (the insides of them that is) so no flying, no R.A.F. Recognising at that stage perhaps my urge to get out in to the world, rather than return to school, my father parked me in the offices of a firm of Chartered Accountants in Central Street where I served what was known in the trade at that time as '5 years hard'. To everyone's surprise it worked very well and I soon became one of the youngest ever A.C.A's. In 1964, I got married, and with a shove from 'the wife' I left Central Street to venture into the business world, taking a job in a dark, if not entirely satanic, mill in Batley. But in 1966, on the day we won the World Cup, beating Germany at Wembley, we took our single most important decision, and emigrated to the south (it was hard to go, but easy to reflect on this decision during the journey as hardly a single soul was on the road that day). After a year in British Leyland (shows my age) in Swindon, I went to work for Bob Maxwell in his mansion in Oxford, a vigorous two years in which I aged ten. He was starting to get 'creative' even then, which being a straight-laced Yorkshire lad caused me to depart, and in 1969 I joined a U.S. multinational in Banbury, 26 miles up the road. The company is now called Kraft Jacobs Suchard - Maxwell House, Kenco, Carte Noir, Birds Custard, Kraft Cheeses, Terry's chocolates etc. etc. After 7 good years there, they asked me to do a two year foreign assignment in the European Headquarters in Brussels - the two years is still running more than twenty years later. One day in Brussels airport (circa 1977) a Heath Old Boy from my year, surname Wilkinson, tapped me on the shoulder - he was the last Old Boy from my year that I have ever met on my travels. From Brussels we moved to Madrid for 4 years. Though I was Finance Director of our operations there from 1978-82 and our auditors were Price Waterhouse, I do not recall ever meeting Russell (Atkinson? - see March 1997 Newsletter) - maybe we did meet, but neither of us realised the connection. Next stop was 7 years in Bremen, North Germany, which is one of the world's coffee centres (coffee by then had become my area of expertise). At least from the climate point of view this was like returning to Yorkshire (the rain there also seems to come upwards out of the pavements). Then it was back to the European Headquarters again which by then was in Paris - unfortunately a short one year, but very sweet year - we then moved back to Germany, but this time to Munich in Bavaria - from our experience one of the best European cities in which to live. Finally, having thrown off by now my financial mantle and moved on into what is called 'general management' I achieved what is known in the company as "getting your own country" - the only one that was going spare at the time (1992) was the Republic of Korea! A little crowded with not far short of the same population as the UK in an area the size of Iceland. Seoul alone with its satellite cities has 20 million people (great place for a food company). My small "empire" here consists of 1,950 people, all local with the exception of myself and just one American. I am fortunate to have three of the most advanced food plants in the world. I have several Yorkshire friends here, the British Ambassador and his wife are from Leeds, my "opposite" number from the Nestlé Company until recently was from Huddersfield, and the manager of the recently opened Marks & Spencer store comes from Clarendon! It is a far cry from Halifax, but quite an experience to work in one of the Asian tigers. One day back in Central Street in the early 60s the partners reluctantly went to alternate Saturday working, and six months later capitulated to a five-day week. Here we work six. Full circle, perhaps, or just history repeating itself? We have been here almost five years. We have two grown up sons - one still single living in London and the other married and living in nearby Taiwan. Neither are Yorkshiremen by birth but to try to compensate a little, we sent them to school at Giggleswick. If there are any Heath Old Boys, of whatever vintage, in the area, Bob would be most happy to entertain them should they ever have cause to do business in Seoul. Additionally if any Heath Old Boy needs a business introduction into any aspect of the dynamic Korean economy, then he would be happy to help. Bob Oddy can be contacted at Swiss Grand Hotel - Suite 45, 201-1 Hongoon-Dong, Suhdaimoon-Ku, Seoul 120, Korea. Tel. 00 82 2 3216 2754 (but remember the +9 hours time difference!), Fax: 00 82 2 3216 2755.

PLEASE SEND ALL NEWS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO EITHER:
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Other names we have heard from include Ken Short, Wollaton, Nottingham, left Heath almost 40 years ago; David Williams, Rugby in Warwickshire; Garry Jowett, Elland (1967 - 1972); and S. J. Kershaw who has moved from Bradshaw to Skircoat Green. Ian Dent from Clifton, Brighouse and his brother-in-law Derek Bates from Fixby, Huddersfield, wish to revive friendships with former school friends. David Phillips (1957 onwards) living in Pudsey, has provided addresses of two former classmates: J. Stockwell, living at Warley, and S. Collins, living at Milton, Dumbarton. Russell N. Bryant (1975 - 1980), Solihull, West Midlands mentions his elder brother Christopher Bryant. Derek Bridge lives in Halifax, David I. Whittle (1964 - 71), in Lowestoft, and Nell Gething (1972 - 1979), Strand on the Green, London mentions his contemporary, Steven Marshall with whom he is still in regular contact.

AND SOME WELCOME NEWS OF "NEWER OLD BOYS"

Often correspondents regret the lack of information from "their" years, and your committee have felt that the more recent leavers have been reluctant to come forward. We are delighted therefore with the following two contributions:-

Writing from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, Steve M. Joyce, (1979 - 1985) expresses surprise at the lack of correspondence in the Newsletters from the years he was at Heath. He will never forget his time there - not always happy days, but never dull. He wonders what has happened to his contemporaries? He writes in appreciation of Mr. Mackie, whose death was reported in our last issue, and recalls his charismatic character, and regrets that at the time his values were not fully appreciated by his pupils. Very honestly admitting to not having been very active in the 'sports arena', and never having found studying easy, Steve failed miserably in his 'A' levels. Nevertheless, he went on to do a Diploma course, studying mainly English Literature, which he continued on a three year degree course in Wolverhampton, and passed with Honours. Steve feels sure that this will probably surprise those teachers who remember him, and hopes that Mr. Bunch is pleasantly surprised. He benefited from his Vith form English Lessons - eventually! After graduation, Steve joined H. Samuel, the jewellers, originally as a temporary measure, but he has worked his way up and, having worked in several branches around the country, is now the manager of the Witney branch in Oxfordshire. Recently married, and living in Lechlade on the Thames, it is a far cry from Halifax where his parents still live. Although he doesn't get back very often, when he does he tries to drive past the old school. He feels that his final year at Heath - 1985 - was the last year of the school as a separate entity - the last year of the true Heathen.

A HEATHEN IN HIS BLINDNESS WANTS TO KNOW...

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

An impassioned appeal has been received from Steve Joyce (1979 - 1985) for news of his contemporaries! Steve poses a number of questions -

Which teachers from the old school are still at Crossley Heath?

Did Nigel Holden join the Armed Forces as he always planned?

Did Heath Reilly and Nigel Burnett join the R.A.F.?

Did Tahir Aziz become a doctor?

Did Nick "Dobbin" Toby become an actor?

... and, perhaps the most intriguing of them all, ...

Did Mr. Bunch ever live down the newspaper headline claiming he was West Yorkshire's Nazi connection?

(Steve says this was the funniest thing he ever saw!)

and, finally,

We were particularly pleased to hear from Paul Thorpe from Illingworth (1981-88) as he is the first old boy of Heath to contact us who was actually at school at the time of the amalgamation with Crossleys in 1985. He emigrated to Australia in April of this year, but wishes to be kept in touch, and can be contacted through his former Halifax address. It would be good to hear from others of that vintage, too.