



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter

Issue October 2005

Website: www.heatholdboys.org.uk

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Crossley Heath School comes of age!

It is almost twenty one years since Heath and Crossley and Porter Schools joined forces to become The Crossley Heath School.

As I write this introduction, the final sections of The Book, which charts some of the memorable moments of the three schools (in words and photographs), are being collated. It will be with the publishers by the end of December and Rose Taylor, Learning Resource Centre Manager [having worked closely with Russell Smith (ex Heath) and Andrew Kafel and Vernon Brearley (ex Crossley and Porter)] is already taking orders. The Book will be launched on International Day (30 June 2006). School will be open throughout the day and early evening for visitors. More information about this event will be provided at a future date.

As most of you will be aware, Mrs Joan Tidswell was Chair of Governors for twenty eight years and provided ongoing support for the School during that time (she was appointed as a member of the governing body in 1971). Joan stood down in September of this year (her successor is Dr Stephen Thornber) and I would like to place on record our collective appreciation for her contribution. One of her final duties was to perform the official opening of the Languages Block, in July 2005, accompanied by her husband Mr Gordon Tidswell. Their substantial contribution (financially, personally and professionally) have been recognised by the dedication of a suite of rooms in this part of the School, which have been named The Tidswell Rooms.

The School's international activities continue to expand as the Language College dimension becomes well and truly embedded across the curriculum. The increase in the diversity of languages being offered is resulting in Spanish becoming established as a mainstream language on equal terms with French and German and Spanish is now firmly on the timetable for students from Year 9 to post 16. Italian is also offered to students in Year 8, Chinese is introduced to students in lessons and is available as an enrichment option after school and Post 16 students have beginners' courses in a range of languages available as part of their enrichment package.

A successful season of educational visits abroad took place during 2004/5. A large number of students took the opportunity to take part in eight trips which between them covered Austria, France (three different trips), Germany, Ireland and Spain (two trips). Three members of staff went to China as guests of our partner school in Beijing. They visited the school for three days observing lessons and sharing and discussing professional practice with their Chinese colleagues. They even had the opportunity to teach their subjects to classes of Chinese students. This trip followed a visit of the Head to China in 2003 and a visit of Chinese teachers to our school in July 2004. It was a prelude to a joint music project and series of student exchanges.

The community programme continues to provide after-school classes in languages which are open to our own staff and students as well as members of the public. There are currently thirteen courses available each week in the Languages Centre. Crossley Heath staff are working in five partner schools, (four primary and one secondary) teaching French and Spanish. Crossley Heath staff support the professional development of colleagues throughout the authority by hosting the Calderdale Languages Teachers' Forum which meets monthly. Links have been made with four new schools in Europe (France, Estonia, Poland and Italy) and a recent bid for a joint EU-funded 'Comenius' project was successful. This will involve groups of students collaborating on work on environmental issues.

International Day took place on Friday 1 July. The normal timetable was suspended for the day for the whole school and everyone took part in activities with an international theme. Students from our German partner school were also present and other guests included students from our local partner schools.

Boys and girls again experienced a successful sporting season across a range of sports, but the high point of the year has got to be the success of our lads at Twickenham in March, after which they returned to Calderdale with the Daily Mail Vase Trophy. At Twickenham, Crossley Heath triumphed over St Joseph's College, Stoke. In the first half, a penalty awarded to Crossley Heath took the score to 10-0. The second half saw sustained pressure from St Joseph's. However they were prevented from penetrating the Crossley Heath line by robust defence. A penalty to St Joseph's moved the score to 10-4. However Crossley Heath held out until the final whistle signalled their triumph. It was wonderful to see 'Congratulations Crossley Heath' in gold lettering up on the electronic scoreboard and to see Captain Ben Mitchell lifting the Vase to the cheering fans. Although the timing of the final was during the Easter holidays, many people (including a number of Heath old Boys) made the effort to travel to Twickenham, with 3 full coach loads of supporters leaving from the School. Well done to the boys and to thanks to Mr Donlan!

Examination results were again outstanding and students of all ages are to be congratulated on their achievements. Not only in academic terms, but also in the contribution they make to the wider community (in a range of activities). The skills they demonstrate in public speaking, organisation and leadership means that Crossley Heath students stand out from the crowd.

During his visit to the School in January, when he met students from all year groups, David Bell (Chief Inspector for Schools) remarked on the personal qualities exhibited by our students. He met, and shared some thoughts with, students who had been offered places at Oxbridge universities (six of whom have since started their careers at these universities). Mr Bell agreed, but it would not be politically correct for him to say it out loud, that students deserve better sports and sixth form facilities than those available to Crossley Heath students. Parents, in their responses to questionnaires last November said that their priorities for development are facilities. With this in mind, we move into 2006 with the intent to begin, in earnest, some major fundraising. We will be positive in our approach and look forward to receiving the support of all those associated with the School.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful New Year, on behalf of staff and students of the School.

Helen Gaunt
Head Teacher

REPORT FROM THE GOVERNORS

Crossley Heath School

Heath Grammar School continues to be well represented on the Governing Body of the combined school in the continued appointment of:-

- a) **Rod Atkinson** (Foundation Governor and long-standing Chairman of the Premises Committee). In this guise Rod has overseen a major extension to the Technology Wing in 2005 to accommodate enhanced facilities for music, textiles and food technology.
The old Crossley and Porter building is old and large, thereby creating continuing problems with maintenance and repair - as well as the need and wish to add new accommodation - not the least the long sought Sports Hall. The constraint is, as ever, the availability of funds but Rod keeps up to the mark with development plans so that, should money become available, there can be a quick response.
- b) **David Armitage** (Foundation Governor and Chairman of Personnel Committee). This Committee, with David's substantial industrial experience at ICI, is faced with the current "hot potato" namely the statutorily required "Remodelling of the Work Force". The aim is essentially to ensure that teachers are teaching as apposed to managing or administering; the accent is on teaching and learning responsibilities - with appropriate salary enhancements. Much time has been spent on shaping a new organisation structure.
- c) **John Robertshaw** (LFA Governor and Chairman of Finance Committee). As a former Bank Manager, John is ideally cut out for this role. It is challenging to manage the School budget in light of the ongoing aims and objectives of the School Development Plan but particularly because of the continuing changes imposed by the Government.
Funds available were increased as a result of the School being awarded "Language College" status, adding to the burden of management. A new Language Centre wing was opened in Summer Term 2005 by the now retired Chairman - Mrs Joan Tidswell (C & P) who has served the School for many years. She has been replaced by Dr Stephen Thorner (C & P) with effect from 21 September 2005.

- d) **Grayham P Smith** (LFA Governor) - is a member of the Marketing Committee, which clearly is aimed at maintaining a healthy school roll both from entrants at age 11 and 16. In 2004/5 there were 1023 students on the roll (248 in the 6th form). "Numbers" is not a real problem, especially as a result of the continuing fine public examination results - which appear, yearly, to improve, the excellent pastoral work carried out in School and because of the sporting achievements, recognised in the continuing "Sportsmark" award. Much publicity was given to the School's rugby success at Twickenham in March as winners of the Daily Mail Vase national competition.

Readers will be interested that the prizes available at Heath Grammar School continue to be awarded - e.g. the C E Fox Memorial Prize, CO Mackley Memorial prize, et al.

Two other Governors with very substantial connections with the school are the "Teachers Governors" namely **Steve Donlan**, himself an old boy, and **Gordon Stansfield** (Modern Languages) who taught at Heath Grammar School for a good number of years before the merger.

There is no doubt that Crossley Heath School is doing well. The Old Boy Governors are, of course, focussed on the success of the joint school but they are aware of the long traditions and standards which have been imported from Heath Grammar School. They will be properly safeguarded and all can be assured that the contribution by old boys in his historical sense and in continuing support is highly valued by the School.

Grayham P Smith
29 September 2005

NEWS

Crossley Heath Careers Fund

12 September 2005

Dear Committee

At the last meeting of the Crossley Heath Careers Fund, the members agreed that it would be a good idea to write to yourselves, detailing some of the grants we are delighted to have awarded to past and present students, from the Heath Old Boys Fund.

As you will be aware, the grants are generally awarded to applicants for sporting endeavour. In recent years, we have made grants to:

- a student who has represented Crossley Heath and West Yorkshire in 400m, and relay at the English Schools in Gateshead.
- a student suffering financial hardship requested help in his Sport in the Community Degree at Durham University. He received assistance from the fund on more than one occasion.
- a student seeking financial assistance towards his inclusion on the British Schools Cycling Association International Team.
- a student travelling to compete in the Great Britain U19 Octopush (underwater hockey) world championships in New Zealand.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that the fund set up as the Heath Old Boys Fund continues to be used to great effect, and that we have received grateful letters from the recipients.

Yours faithfully
Hazel Clayton (Secretary)

2005 Fund: This years Heath Old Boys Fund for Sporting Endeavour (£150), which is part of the Crossley Heath School Careers Fund, goes towards the cost of a lower sixth form student who is attending the Adidas Athletics Camp for outstanding talent - one weeks' residential to develop his potential and talent.

Heath Old Boys Dinner

The next Heath Old Boys Association dinner will be held on 11 November 2005 at Heath Rugby Club, West Vale. Doors open at 7.00 pm and tickets are available from John Hamer at a cost of £15 per head. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

HEATH HISTORY

A HEATHEN CENTURY

Introduction

Thomas Cox (Headmaster of Heath GS 1861-83) published his history of the School in 1879. For some time the Committee of Heath Old Boys' Association have felt that an extension of that history might be a source of interest to Old Heathens. The format that has been decided is that of an electronic record. A number of Old Heathens have been recruited to record their personal memories of a decade in the life of the school. When these are published on the web-site it is hoped that other Heathens of that era might be moved to add their own thoughts, memories and anecdotes so that a picture builds up of the everyday life of the school through a major part of the twentieth century.

To lead up to the point where personal memories can start, there follows an outline account of the period of fifty years or so which followed the time of Cox.

Heath GS from 1883

The "Heathen Century" mentioned above can be taken to run from the time of Cox to 1985 when the school's separate identity was merged with that of the Crossley and Porter school to produce the Crossley Heath School of today.

Ironically, the year 1885, which represented the tercentenary of the granting of the school's charter by Elizabeth I, found the school with a new building but no pupils!

The present building on Free School Lane that present-day Heathens will remember as *their* school was first occupied on April 17th 1879. It had been built following a number of decisions taken in the 1870s, including the rejection of a proposal to merge with Hipperholme GS. The Governors sold various items of property owned by the charity and raised the cost of the new building which amounted to £9737 13s 8d.

In 1879, the building offered accommodation for 200 pupils but there were actually only 41 in attendance. When this figure fell to thirteen in 1882, the decision was taken to close the school. Mr Cox was pensioned off at £150 per year for life and the school building was closed.

In the immediate years that followed there were many debates about the future and one possibility discussed and rejected was to lease the building as an "adventure" school, although it is not clear what this might have involved. Finally, the governors took the initiative and in February 1887 raised various financial guarantees from the worthies of Halifax by which they agreed to underwrite the finances of the School for the next three years.

The School thus re-opened after Easter 1887 with a new Headmaster – Archibald William Reith at an annual salary of £400 – and some 80 to 90 pupils. In the years that followed, late Victorian prosperity appears to have swelled the number of middle-class families willing and able to pay the fees for their sons to attend the school. In addition the Waterhouse Charities agreed to pay for a number of scholarships valued at either £6 or £12 per year. In 1897, the school decided to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the formation of the Governing Body. Over £2000 was raised by these celebrations – probably over £200 000 at today's values – and in addition more farmland owned by the School was sold off.

This meant that the School entered the twentieth century in a reasonably healthy financial position which was now supplemented by an annual grant from the West Riding County Council. In the early 1900s, the school had strong Classics and Science departments with English, Mathematics, History, Geography, French and Art taught in addition. Saturday morning school lasted until 1.00 pm but on Thursdays pupils went home at 11.00 am. The holiday pattern was much like the present day. Between 1905 and 1908 the

sports field at Kensington was purchased, levelled and provided with a second-hand pavilion- all at a cost of £125 which was raised by a series of concerts and competitions.

Archibald Reith died in January 1908 and was commemorated by a plaque in Halifax Parish Church which was dedicated in 1910. It read, in Latin, "In pious memory of Archibald William Reith, the restorer and for more than twenty years the Headmaster of the ancient school of Heath, who, when it had long been empty of pupils and had even closed for four years, took it under his care in the year of Our Saviour, 1887, and by his untiring labours and unwavering fidelity administered it with such devotion that, when at length having fulfilled his task he was snatched away by death in the year of Our Saviour 1908, he left it to his successors pre-eminent for the number of its pupils, for the greatness of its distinction, and above all for the courtesy of its manners." Some testimonial!

AW Reith was succeeded by William Edwards whose tenure of office lasted until 1916 when he went on to become Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School. It was during this time that the five courts – fondly remembered by many Heathens for a variety of reasons – were donated to the school by the MP for Halifax – JH Whitley – who later went on to become Speaker of the House of Commons.

The contribution of Heath Old Boys (sixty of whom were killed) to the country's defence during the First World War is suitably recorded on the magnificent carved wooden memorial that once stood on the top corridor of the Heath building outside the gallery to the hall and is now situated just inside the main entrance on the main corridor of the Crossley Heath School.

Many privations were caused by the war. Several masters went to serve in the forces and one of the temporary (female!) replacements was Phyllis Bentley, later to win fame as a writer. Through these crises, Heath's academic achievements continued. For example, in 1915, of the 30 most successful candidates for the Oxford Local Examinations Board, no fewer than 12 came from Heath – no other school provided more than two and that included many of the leading public schools in the country. In individual subjects, Heath boys were first in Classics, second in Political Economy and twelfth in French.

Mr Edwards was succeeded by the grandiloquently named Owen Richard Augustus Byrde whose period of office until 1935 brings the school's story into the memories of Old Heathens still living from whom it would be fascinating to hear.

ORA Byrde presided over sustained academic success but the financial difficulties through which the country passed in the post-war 1920s had their effect on the status of the school. In 1922 it became apparent that the school would have to choose between receiving a national government grant or a local one – it could not have both. Thus began some protracted negotiations which ended with the school surrendering its independence to Halifax County Borough in 1926. All the assets of the Heath Foundation, started by the charitable gentlemen of the Tudor period, now passed to the County Borough, although in practical day-to-day terms the school seems to have been largely unaffected and many scholars remained fee-paying.

There now follows the series of decade-by-decade personal memoirs that were mentioned earlier. So far (May 2005) we have the periods of the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and 1980s covered, with sections on the 1930s and 1970s under production.

All Old Heathens reading these accounts are welcome to add comments or details of their own.

John Bunch

The following are extracts of articles which can be read in full on the Heath Old Boys website at www.heatholdboys.org.uk

HEATH IN THE THIRTIES

The house system was a strong feature at Heath in the 30's. Boys were divided into four houses - Heath, School, Queens and Kings - on joining the school. Healthy competition was encouraged on the rugby and cricket fields as well as on Sports Day held at Spring Hall, the Swimming Gala at Woodside Baths and the Annual Cross Country Race. Social events were also held and my own house, Queens, held a Soiree every Shrove Tuesday. In the Sixth form which was comparatively small as only a limited number of boys went on to university in those days there was a debating society, the Favourites, which met every Friday afternoon. This was an excellent institution as it not only developed debating skills, but encouraged those of us in the three Sixth Forms of Classics, Science and what was called Modern

which included English, History and Languages to appreciate different points of view and not become too insular.

During the 30's there were two major building developments. A science building was erected between the five courts and the gymnasium which greatly increased the facilities for such studies which had previously been undertaken in rather cramped conditions at the west end of the first floor corridors. The second building was really an extension from the west end of the main building with an arch over the road and provided an arts block.

In 1939 a serious situation was obviously developing in Europe and I imagine it was for this reason that no springtime visit to a European country was arranged. In the summer vacation, however, a school camp was arranged in Somerset. On 11 August six of us from the Sixth form left on our bicycles to ride to the campsite and act as an advance party to help in erecting the camp. We took far from the most direct route riding down the Great North Road to Cambridge then across country to Oxford, Wookey Hole, Wells and Cheddar Gorge. We cycled 394 miles in 6 days and even found time to visit sites of interest en route. The declaration of war with Germany on 3 September put an end to our plans to cycle back home by a western route and we struck camp returning on Tuesday 5 September, by train from Bridgwater.

I think it would be fair to say that, although there was no panic, people did not know what to expect. We were asked by D.J.D. Smith, the headmaster, to go to Princess Mary's High School for Girls to dig trenches. What on earth was expected I cannot conceive. Were we gallant boys from Heath going to defend the fair maidens of P.M.H. against the invading German forces?! The following week we went to the Parish Church to fill sand bags and there were A.R.P. rehearsals. After a couple of weeks, however, things settled down and life in Halifax and Heath returned very much to normal.

It did, however, affect my own life as I was registered to begin studies at Leeds University in 1940. I was, however, advised to ask if I could be admitted a year early. My request was granted so after 3 weeks back at school the 5 October 1939 was my last day at Heath.

To summarize Heath in the 30's one has to appreciate how different life in general was. The early 30's were dominated by economic depression whilst growing apprehension about German intentions clouded the later years. There was no TV, no computers, few cars and holidays abroad a rarity. Masters and boys alike arrived on foot or by public transport. I recall the sensation when a newly appointed teacher arrived in his car. We boys entertained ourselves by sporting activity, indoor games such as billiards and bagatelle, going to the Shay or Thrum Hall to watch professional sport or to the Palace Theatre for variety shows and the cinema though even the Odeon and Regal did not open until 1938. All this meant that our lives were very much centered on Heath. Not surprisingly perhaps because we had gained our places at Heath through competition at primary school I think we all appreciated that the route to success and happiness in life was to work hard and play hard. Though no-one ever preached this to us at Heath it was unquestionably encouraged and Heath was a very happy community.

Bryan Wade
Heath GS 1932-39

HEATH IN THE FORTIES

When I joined the school in 1940, Mr Moxon was Junior School Headmaster and my form master was Dr Harry "Doc" Fleet. The Senior School Headmaster was the sartorially elegant DJD Smith, who wore a mortarboard and academic gown throughout the school day. He lived in the Master's House with its four downstairs reception rooms and five upstairs bedrooms which was built circa 1885 and is today the surgery of an NHS group practice.

Senior School staff included Eric "Biddy" Taylor teaching English; Arthur "Tishy" Holt teaching modern languages; AD "Phee" or "Stinker" Phoenix teaching science; Arthur "Tough" Owen teaching classics; CO Mackley teaching history; Frank "Whisky" Haigh and Ben Young. Six of these fearless beings, along with a number of senior pupils were drafted to help Britain win the war and their replacements were a mixture of veterans and juniors.

The veterans included Dr Morel (French and German) whose grace at lunchtime was always "Gott bless our dinner"; Harry Gornall (classics) and Charlie "Chuss" Place (PT and Games) who was forever ethically philosophising on certain boys' behaviour. His elder daughter Kathleen was appointed school secretary at about this time. The juniors were a mix of newly qualified male and female personae, none of whom stayed long enough to be memorable.

The years of World War Two dictated a few changes in school life. Gas masks had to be carried in their cardboard boxes to and from school and when air-raid warnings were sounded. On such occasions, the Senior School boys had to walk quickly from school, down Free School Lane to the tram sheds at Elmwood Garage where they waited for the "all clear". The Junior School boys sheltered in the cellar cloakroom.

All windows were lattice-taped to prevent flying glass injuries and enormous black-out curtains were hung in all classrooms. Along with petrol, bread and confectionery, clothes were only available on the production of respective "coupons" so the mandatory wearing of school uniform, gym and sports gear was relaxed. Nevertheless, most boys turned up in school caps, ties and home-knitted pullovers and scarves embodying the claret and gold markings.

Public transport was restricted because of petrol rationing, which, in addition to the black-out regulations, meant longer journey times. School timetables had to be adjusted to cope with these circumstances and some away rugby, five and cricket fixtures were inevitably cancelled.

In 1943, C "Kettle" Hewson joined the science department. He earned his nickname from his habitual carrying of kettle of water from the common room to the science block and I remember the occasion when six Oxo cubes were slipped into the kettle prior to his brewing-up. The culprit was never caught.

After the War, a few battle weary fighters returned to the teaching staff – "Whisky" Haigh, "Tishy" Holt, Harry Birchall, "Tough" Owen – and new appointments included Mr Blackeby (junior maths), "Honky" Peace (art), George Littlefair (modern languages) and "Taffy" Watkins (Latin). The latter was memorable for his Welsh tenor voice, often hitting a high C in the choir renditions. The Junior School closed and Mr Moxon left, with "Doc" Fleet joining the Senior School staff.

These post-war years of metamorphosis for staff and scholars culminated in the departure of DJD Smith in 1946 and the appointment of Walter Ronald Swale as Headmaster who quickly imposed his military training and bearing on school discipline and routine.

Malcolm Bamforth
May 2003

Russell's Remeniscences

Having acquired the bus pass and ridden to school (standing if an adult required a seat) on the first day of the autumn term, the new boys hung about in the yard, resplendent in their new blazers, caps and ties which had been purchased along with all the other kit – rugby shirts (claret and gold), gym vests and blue and white shorts – at no little expense of cash and clothing coupons. To save coupons, my cap was "pre-owned", as they say these days. Luckily, it fitted me. Eventually, the sixty new boys were sorted into two forms – 1A and 1B. The younger boys were in 1B. There was no academic distinction, just age. Our form master in 1A was Frank Haigh, who played the 'cello and who very soon threatened to impale any miscreant on his 'cello spike. He also taught Latin to the new boys and I remember that the future and imperfect conjugations of the verb "amare" – "to love" – were a mystery to me. Fortunately, my dad remembered a bit of Latin from his school days and so my first Latin homework was completed without many tears. Who will ever forget AMO, AMAS, AMAT etc. and I can clearly recall translating the sentence, "CAESAR PUELLAM AMAT" – a rough translation being: "Caesar loves the girl". Not a bad introduction to a boys' school.

All these first year boys and about 300 others had to be fed each day and the responsibility for that fell to Mrs Scratcherd and her staff of ladies, all clad in white overalls. Mrs Scratcherd was grim-looking lady with grey hair tied back in a bun and who peered at her charges through wire-rimmed spectacles. She did, however, have a heart of gold.

The canteen, or dining room as some called it, was where she had her domain and it stood in a corner of the back lawn. It had no pretensions because it was a concrete Nissen hut. You entered by double doors to be greeted by the kitchen and the serving hatches on the right and two ranks of rectangular tables with benches along two sides and chairs at their heads. These were for the table monitors whose job it was to ensure equal shares – not easy. The masters sat across the end of the room and were served by miscreants working off their punishment. Lunch was always preceded by grace, said in Latin if Arthur Owen was on duty.

In the 1940s each and every schoolchild was entitled to a third of a pint of milk a day – free – and the corner of the canteen was the repository for the daily supply. Milk was to be drunk at morning break.

Most boys did take it but some did not drink their ration and it was reported that a particular youth – who shall remain nameless – once drank thirteen bottles passed on to him by others.

Perhaps it was the free supply of milk that kept us all fit but the limits of that fitness were tested to the uttermost by the machinations of Harry Birchall, the sportsmaster. He implemented a series of sports standards for every age group in the school and we all had to run 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards and a mile against the clock and do the high jump, long jump and hop, step and jump against prescribed standard distances. If you managed to hit the targets you won house points.

Russell Smith

Heath Grammar School – “The 50s”

The 3 years in the 6th Form were tremendously enjoyable with a growing sense of responsibility (a) for yourself, (b) for younger boys in the school and (c) for the growing reputation and good name of the school. You were required to work more as an individual taking responsibility for your own learning and success but without in any way being left by the tutors.

In this seemingly rarefied atmosphere the form model was lost. Lessons were taken round a table. Certainly in the Classics group there were only 4 or 5 – the fifth in our case being a girl, namely Judith Holt – the daughter of Arthur Holt (French) who came from Princess Mary High School to advance her Classics career. We also benefited greatly from the very considerable scholarship of Alan Guy who had always been a clearly dedicated and knowledgeable teacher in the lower school but now he began to be appreciated on these accounts.

This was the start of the 'A' level course. While my colleagues in the 5th Form were each pursuing their chosen subjects, because of the concentration on the Classics, Bruce Jagger and I would attend upon Dick Rees (History) after school or across lunch breaks for history tuition with a view to an 'O' level. We both in effect were self-taught for the 'O' levels achieved in Religious Education and Greek Literature in Translation. We did participate in the mainstream lessons for English Language and English Literature.

As a 6th Former, I was now able to participate in that well-known debating society, the Favorites. The overseer of this supposedly witty and sharply intellectual pastime – once per month – was Mr C O Mackley, the Deputy Head. The object was to put up a particular proposition for debate with speakers in the usual course both for and against the motion. The object was to be as entertaining as possible but with an underlying serious input and the recollection is that it was usually met with good attendance contributions from the speakers and from the floor.

Prowess at rugby continued to prosper. Bobby Lee was the Captain with Stanley Watkin as the Vice-Captain – both School House members – a fact which continued to underpin School House supremacy in House rugby. In the first year under Bobby Lee's captaincy the school could not capitalise on its famed abilities at 7 a side which had been established in the early years at school but that was soon to be corrected in the next year when that prize was carried off and over a further successive 3 years, first under Bobby Lee's captaincy, the next under my own and then thirdly, after my departure to university, under the captaincy of Malcolm Bussey. They were palmy days of rugby football at Heath with 5 Yorkshire schoolboys Lee, Watkin, Terry Ward (scrum half), Malcolm Bussey and your co-respondent.

The later 50s saw further responsibilities in the shape of first, sub-prefecture and then the full office of both public and private standards within and without the school to be met, observed and, to some degree, enforced.

The relationship with members of staff seemed to relax. There was clearly pressure to succeed academically and the overriding impression is that the School established some pre-eminence in that respect.

Because I married a girl from Crossley and Porter School I can vouchsafe an impression from there that the School was regarded as very good academically with a strict Headmaster and with a tremendous enthusiasm for rugby football.

For me advanced and scholarship level public examinations were sat in the summer of 1958. Because of pressure on space in the main school hall, these exams were sat in St Jude's Church Hall on Clover Hill. For me these were achieved with reasonable success, which meant that my last year (1958/59) was to a degree relaxed. I was able on the strength of the results to obtain a place at university. My attempts at Oxbridge came to naught and indeed my attempts at Oxford were abandoned because the

exams clashed with the build-up for the last Ilkley 7 a side tournament in which I was to participate and win – 1959.

So – I was a pupil at Heath Grammar School from 1952 to 1959. No doubt there were difficult moments during those years but I have little recollection of them. Overwhelming are the feelings of friendship, advancement, participation, fulfilment and respect – for the teachers who unswervingly helped me, for the friendships I made and retained and for the sense of tradition which I took on and have ever since retained.

Grayham P Smith
Heath GS 1952-1959

Heath in the Sixties

Inhabiting a narrow social sphere and frequently lacking the common touch, he nevertheless always thought of himself as a man of the Left, and sincerely believed that schools like Heath were a means to social progress. No great scholar, he encouraged and respected academic excellence, and wanted Heathens to go to Oxbridge, though he'd not been there himself. Ignorant of and barely interested in any kind of sport, he was nevertheless immensely proud of the school's achievements. Insistent on recognition for his own military decoration, and apt to brand those who answered back as barrack-room lawyers, he was nevertheless bored by protocol, unfussy about school uniform, and ran, by the standards of many contemporary grammar schools, and of any school now, a remarkably liberal ship. The daily procession at break (which WRS, and no-one else at all, insisted on calling 'recess') across the road to queue up at a dingy little shop on Heath Lane for teacake and Oxo, sometimes with the addition of crisps (which WRS, and no-one else at all, insisted on calling 'chips') would, for all sorts of reasons which he would have waved away, be inconceivable now.

So too would a Head who handwrote (often illegibly) comments on the reports of every boy, took in everyone's entire set of exercise books at the end of each year to allocate prizes for neatness, personally compiled the whole school timetable and every Spring produced the school play in conjunction with Eric Taylor, the only member of his staff to whom, following the death of C. O. Mackley, he was really close. Walter and Bidy were remarkably successful at getting the best out of schoolboy actors by a nasty cop, nice cop, technique: the one howled his contempt – "No, no, no, no, no!" – the other gently reproved – "Oh, dear, I think we'd better try that entrance again." I have seen a lot of school plays since, and still marvel at how good Heath's were.

'Bidy' Taylor retired that year, and WRS produced no more plays. Alan Hardill not only took over as Head of English, but was also pitchforked into the director's seat. Easy-going and idiosyncratic, he had little theatrical experience, but his plays went down well. In 1967 *Billy Budd*, an all-male seafaring drama, had Dave Lister ideally cast in the title role. In 1968 *The Long, The Short and The Tall* – another play that required no cross-dressing – provided several meaty parts, notably for Stuart Cox as the nasty wide-boy soldier, and Jerry Fearnley as a gibberingly incompetent wireless operator. 1969 saw an ambitiously stylised *Oedipus Rex*: Stuart Hartley was in the title role, with fake blood streaming from the eye-sockets of his mask, and Michael Shaw played Jocasta with effortless femininity. I would not make the same claim for myself and 'Neddy' Southcombe, improbably cast as mother and daughter facing the lumbering villainy of David Pritchard in the spoof melodrama *Hiss the Villain*. This was an all-staff venture, produced by George Littlefair to provide light relief to follow Sophocles. The hissing and belly-laughes were not to the taste of the *Courier* critic, old boy Barry Collins, who, having praised Alan Hardill's splendid production, complained that *Hiss the Villain* should not have been presented to a paying audience.

But, of course, it's the men who make the city, not the walls. What of the thousand or so boys who attended Heath in the course of the sixties? Despite the authoritarian persona of their headmaster, Heathens were not closely regimented, and the ethos of the school was - notwithstanding the myriad little unkindnesses and odd acts of violence that any body of teenage boys will produce - broadly tolerant of individual foibles: provided their desires were not egregiously anti-social, most Heathens could be what they wanted to be, though some felt it was an uphill struggle. "I am sad to report," began a bitter item in the 1965 *Heathen*, "the shameful lack of interest taken by the School as a whole in the activities of the Musical Society." Certainly an appreciation of the importance of not being earnest was both a strength and weakness of Heath. The sixth form debating society, the Favorites, was resolutely – nay, tiresomely - flippant, insisting on discussing such motions as "That the landlord of the Upper George be invited to take over the School gymnasium", and turning with reluctance and dwindling attendances to comprehension versus selection, the death penalty and Vietnam. Mock General Elections, when attempted, were overwhelmed by determined facetiousness.

Yet by modern standards prefects and sub-prefects, distinguished by their ties and blazer trimmings, were invested with considerable responsibility in the day-to-day running of the school. WRS selected his Head Boy, and trusted him to get on with it. He was rarely disappointed, even if no one in the Sixties quite matched the seemingly effortless authority of Grayham Smith in 1958-9, partly because the development of the School House reduced the contact between the sixth form and the rest of the school. Three who come to mind are Chris Garbutt in 1961-2, not an obvious leader, but efficient, imaginative and indefatigable; Philip Highley in 1965-6, a large, talented cricketer and hard worker, whose deep religious convictions were hardly typical, but who commanded much respect; and Phil Grabham five years later, a talented late arrival of such calm that he seemed to have been born middle-aged.

Rugby remained Heath's predominant sport, particularly Harry Birchall's favourite seven-a-side version, though there was a shock in 1961 when the massively-supported Heath side, having won in the previous two years, went out in the first round. Year after year the Heath XV, particularly when playing on its splendid Kensington ground, was more than a match for teams from far larger schools, such as Bradford Grammar, Leeds Grammar, Huddersfield New College and QEGS, Wakefield. Robert Broughton was perhaps the most talented player of the decade, but Heathens regularly secured county honours: in 1965, for example, Geoff Baggaley, Roger Dixon and David Littlefair all played for Yorkshire. Later in the decade Richard Brearley was a quite exceptional talent in this or any other sport.

Cricket tended to be overshadowed, partly because the school did not have its own pitch – playing, as a rule, either at King Cross or Thrum Hall - and, until the development of Conway's, no nets. This did not prevent a remarkable under 14 result at Woodhouse Grove in 1960, where the minor public school side was dismissed for 5, of which 4 were extras, and Eddie Halliday took 8 for 0. Indeed, there were plenty of good Heath cricketers, the best of the decade probably being Stuart Bradley, but they tended to have learned the game elsewhere.

The same was partly true of Athletics; the school encouraged, rather than coached its athletes, and, despite fine individual achievements, tended to come second to Crossley's in the Inter-Grammar School Sports. Cross-Country had mixed fortunes after being established at the beginning of the decade through the efforts of individuals: Brian Marney was an exceptional runner; and Chris Kenyon, nearly as good, was an exceptional publicist, who once wrote a *Heathen* report on Cross-Country that mentioned his own name seven times, and concluded by offering himself grateful thanks. Chess teams flourished quietly under the stewardship of 'Polly' Hallowes; the most talented player of the decade was perhaps Roger Nelson, though Stephen Ellis, who played Chess as he played Cricket, rarely made a mistake.

Academically Heath would probably have been in competition with Princess Mary's for top spot in Halifax league tables had such things then existed. But the teaching style of the times was to lead horses to water rather than make them drink. The school took pride in those who won Oxbridge awards, put their names in gold lettering on the honours boards, and noted with satisfaction such achievements as that of John Feather, who, having gone up to Queen's College, Oxford as an exhibitor before he was eighteen, went on to win the university's Shakespeare Prize. But, in common with other grammar schools, Heath did not blame itself overmuch for those who left school nothing more than one or two O levels. The 11+ examination could certainly put square pegs in round holes, particularly when intensive coaching, in which Warley Road Junior School took pride, produced borderline passes. Some never came to terms with the demands of an 'academic' curriculum, saw their time through in more or less rebellious mode, and departed without regret. The relationship between the school and a few boys was so mutually unrewarding that they were evicted at the end of the second form. Conversely, there were some successful transfers from Clare Hall into Heath sixth form.

Andrew Connell
16 November 2004

Heath in the Eighties

The year before closure of the School saw the departure of Albert Crosby (1971-1984), the 22nd and penultimate Headmaster of the School since inception. Ironically Mr Crosby ("Bing" to the boys) had taken over the office of Headmaster at a time when official talk first came to light over the subject of School closures and mergers. Still for over a decade he ran the School through periods of uncertainty and not only continued its success but developed it through his years in charge. He was a mathematician and had a reputation for being a Wizard when it came to putting together the timetable annually.

John Bunch (known to the boys as "Mr Bunch" or "Sir") succeeded Mr Crosby. John had the unenviable task of overseeing the transition from Heath Grammar School to The Crossley Heath School and it's probably fair to say that if you wanted a man to oversee this specific task you couldn't have found one

better or more capable. John would go on to be Headmaster of the Crossley Heath School between the years 1991 and 2001 and will always be credited with developing The Crossley Heath School in to the revered school it is today, with a reputation recognised not just locally but nationally.

John was one of a number of long serving Heath Schoolmasters who would move on to teach at Crossley Heath. One cannot comment individually on all those members of staff who remained at Heath until the end of the day or moved on to the new school. This piece refers in more detail to a number of members of Staff who retired or moved on to pastures new in the 1980's but unfortunately it's a fact of

life that people generally only say nice things about you when you've left somewhere, retired or you're dead.

The most notable of those Masters who were there to "switch the lights off" included: J.M. Newton ("Joey"), D.R.A.Morton ("Moggy"), J.E.M.Blythe ("Jemb"), P.F.Hand ("Captain Hand"), A.V.Edwards ("Stumpy Joe"), G.M.Stansfield ("Stanny") I.C.Hogley ("Chogley"), R.F.Eastwood ("Clint") and R.A.Kay ("Fat Geoff"). Between them they contributed a huge amount to Heath Grammar School, both in terms of years served and in pure dedication to the job.

The decision to close the school was made in December 1984. It is probably incorrect to use the word "close" as much was made at the time that Heath were merely merging with The Crossley and Porter School and that this would not be the end of Heath's long history. Whether this stance was supposed to pacify the traditionalists all but the most blinkered must have considered what was proposed as closure in all but name. Some may argue this was merely progression but many would apply the old adage ..If it ain't broke etc...etc..

By some cruel twist the news was broken (if you can "break" inevitable news) during the run up to the School's four hundredth Anniversary. The 400th celebration was not geared around the date the first foundation stone was laid on site in 1598, nor the ringing of the first bell signalling commencement of lessons in 1600. The anniversary was to celebrate the signing of documentation by Queen Elizabeth I granting the Royal Charter for a free grammar school in Halifax.

The anniversary was celebrated at a dinner on February 15th 1985, exactly 400 years on from the granting of the Charter and was attended by the three remaining living headmasters of the school, Mr W R Swale (1946-1971), Mr A Crosby (1971-1984) and Heaths last Headmaster Mr J Bunch. Further events included a commemorative Rugby match, an Elizabethan evening and the production of limited addition plates, beakers etc..

What of the decision to merge Heath with its age old, deadliest rival, The Crossley and Porter School? This raised many an eyebrow at the time and in more recent times may have warranted some discussion over the necessity to provide a significant Police presence at the new school on the first day of term. If nothing else the decision would seem to negate the perceived view that the local education authority members, who were fundamental in making the decisions to close/merge the School, did not have a sense of humour!

Heath Grammar School (1585-1985), the establishment, undoubtedly has it's place in History. The ethos and values of the School are still and always will be present under the guise of The Crossley Heath School. In addition Heath and all it stood for will live on through its Old Boys and after that through future generations that follow.

Rob Stollery
Heath Grammar School (1977-1984)

S.P.B. Mais

David Bottomley has sent a fascinating account of the life of prolific author and broadcaster S.P.B. Mais (1885-1975) who was educated at Heath.

Stuart Mais is not a well-known name nowadays, but throughout the 1920's to 1950's was widely read and listened to. He wrote over 200 books, alas long out of print, but easy to find in secondhand

bookshops. A man of prodigious energy, he apparently was once working on 14 books at the same time! Churchill was quoted as saying, "That man makes me feel tired". Many of his books are accounts of his travels around Britain.

He also became one of the best-known voices on radio, and in 1932 started a series of tables that made him widely known. His best book is considered to be *'This Unknown Island'*, a collection of his talks and essays. If you want to read more about this Heathen, a biography has recently been published, entitled *'An Unrepentant Englishman: The Life of SPB Mais'* by Maisie Robson, published by The King's England press at £7.99.

The Best Heath Rugby Team?

1984/85 saw the re-emergence of what had been a recently debated subject (last considered in 1979), that of the best Rugby team ever to represent the School. A somewhat emotive and subjective topic. For some considerable time the mantle had been in little doubt with the team led by the main who would play for England, Phil Horrocks-Taylor.

The title was challenged for by the 1st XV of the 1977/78 season, coached by Tony Edwards (fondly known as "Stumpy Joe"), led by Robert Schofield and boasting players the likes of Headey, Taylor, Marshall and the Bates Brothers. Indeed the 1st XV report in the 1979 Heathen commended with the statement "This season can undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most successful in the History of the School." The suspicion may be that the Heathens Editor of the day used his licence to add the words "one of".

The 1st XV of 1984/85 (referred to in the well known rugby song as "Rodney's Aces" even though the coach Rod Kay was actually, to the First team's great amusement, eventually identified as Roderick) looked to claim the position of the best ever. In possibly a slightly more modest approach the author of the 1985 1st XV report in the Heathen commenced his passage... "Last season was undoubtedly the best since 1977"...

So who was the best?

Let's ignore P H-T's lot. The seasons of 77/78 and 84/85 bore great similarities. The former played 20 games and won 18 with narrow losses to Q.E.G.S. and Cardinal Hindley while the later played 17 games and won 14 with narrow losses to Q.E.G.S, Ilkley and Bradford Grammar. The former won The Calderdale Shield (the first time in the history of the School) by beating Crossley & Porters in the final 45-15. The latter won the Calderdale Shield by beating Crossley & Porters in the final 24-0.

Purely on the basis of the statistics the crown for the best single 1st XV team must by a neck go to the 1st XV of 77/78. However the Crown for the best team of a School generation must surely go to those who ended the 84/85 season. From the Under 13 team who won the Calderdale shield in 1979/80 of the XV who started the game against Crossley & Porter to win their third Calderdale Shield in 84/85 ten of those original members were still present:

Hynes, Tobin, Hamer, Butterworth, Stollery, Opacic, Scrimshaw, Harrison, Blackburn & Potts.

Three Calderdale Shields and a combined playing record over their School lives of:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	For	Against	
U12	7	3	2	2	135	26	
U13	10	8	0	2	300	71	Calderdale Shield Winners
U14	21	16	5	0	443	117	Calderdale Shield Winners
U15	18	15	3	0	461	99	
2nd XV	19	12	6	1	332	160	
1st XV	17	14	3	0	?	?	Calderdale Shield Winners

Coached between U13 & 1st XV by Roderick "Rodney" Kay.

Comments or details of other legitimate contenders welcomed.

Rob Stollery, Heath 1st XV 1984/85

HEATH CELEBRATE TRIUMPH IN THE CALDERDALE SHIELD

Heath GS won the Calderdale Shield by beating local rivals Crossley and Porter 24-0 in the final at Ovenden Park.

Jonathan Hamer's opening try was converted by John Wasyliw, but Crossley's were unlucky not to score before the break.

Heath took control of the second half, the forwards winning good second-phase ball and the threequarters producing some fast and exciting rugby. Further tries were scored by James Scrimshaw, Simon Harrison and Michael Hynes, all of which were converted by Wasyliw.

Heath had beaten Hipperholme GS 26-18 in the semi-final while Crossley's beat Batley.

Picture: Heath's winners, back, from left; James Scrimshaw, Rob Stollery, Paul Opacic, Jonathan Hamer, Nick Tobin, Bryan Butterworth, Darrel Nicoll, Chris Berridge and Nigel Holden. Front: Simon Harrison, Steven Blackburn, Stephen Greenwood, Robert Robinson, Michael Hynes, John Wasyliw, Mark Baxendale, Martin Potts and Michael Orlie.



MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

Change of Address

Harold & Heather Gilmour write on 22 October 2004:

"As you will see from the above, we have returned to live in New Zealand. We have been here just over 12 weeks now, and our household goods arrived just 2 weeks ago, including our Personal Computer, which is now up and running. In all there were 79 boxes

We sold all our furniture before we left Halifax, and have been very busy searching the shops here to find what we wanted. There is only a headboard for the second bedroom to be delivered, and new curtains for the lounge/dining room and No.1 bedroom. They are due in a week or two.

We became very unsettled at the apartment in Halifax. There were far too many problems associated with flat-dwelling which we certainly did not foresee when we decided to go for an apartment two years ago. We did make some very good friends there, but we are glad to be away from the difficulties we all suffered with the Builder. Some other residents simply have no idea how to live in an apartment complex with 23 other families, and they make life very difficult for others.

So, we were determined to leave there, and thought carefully about where we should move to. England has changed such a lot in recent years, what with the increased number of people and cars, that we finally decided that being nearer to our daughter, Melissa, was becoming very important. Therefore, we decided to return here.

We very quickly bought a bungalow, similar to the one we had before, but a bit smaller, and with a smaller garden. It is less than 2 years old and is in excellent condition. The large double garage would make our friends at the apartment quite envious.

Well, that's the news. We are now looking forward to the NZ Summer, we are just into Spring and it is getting pleasantly warmer now. We see Melissa Reasonably often, and it is good to be able to pop over to see her, and Don, on the odd occasion. She lives 45Km away which is only about 35 mins by car, and, taking the back road through the countryside, we might only see 5 or 6 cars. The fields are full of lambs and calves just now, and the driver can even find the time to look at the scenery without being run into.

If you have access to the internet or wish to send the odd e-mail our address is hgilmour@ihug.co.nz

The following addition was made to the letter:

"During our time in York and Halifax we renewed our friendship with John Lord, and visited him often in his caravan. Also enjoyed some good lunches in the local hostelrys.

Co-incident - our address 'Tauranga Place' has the name of Tauranga in the N. Island where John's sister Margaret visits one of her sons occasionally. Heather and I visited Tauranga a few years ago for a short holiday - the coastline is beautiful with excellent beaches. A lot of retirees go to live there for the benefit of the pleasant climate. It suffers from the young 'roudie's' around Christmas time when they take over the beaches and drink more than we ever did in our youth, to say nothing of the drug scene!

Best wishes to you all."

A Letter from Harry L Breaks

The following letter was sent to the Editor on 29 April 2004.

"The culture shock from moving from a Primary School to HGS was quite a shock to the system. The first morning assembly, all gowns, mortarboards etc, was really something. At the end of the day, the guardians of the gate (prefects) to ensure that caps were worn and that eatables were not being chewed.

Oscar Bird was Headmaster, a portly gentleman, who once caused barely concealed mirth by taking a Latin class with his watch chain fastened to his braces with a piece of string. On another occasion on a very cold and frosty day he had to decide whether or not Rugby could be played. He was hacking away at what he imagined was the lawn, but was really the stone edging. Result - no rugby.

As ever was, even my time at Heath saw numerous changes in the teaching staff. Mr Dudley, Mr Phoenix (Bill Stinks), Bidy Taylor, C.O. Mackley, Harry Gains and Tobusky Haigh lasted the course. Mr Brown (Oddo Giant) of whom word was put about that his degree was from the University of Michigan (by correspondence course). We never saw eye to eye, and he once came at me with a Laing's Arithmetic when I questioned his sanity. He did his hand no favours when I ducked and he hit the wall.

Berkly S Frazer, H.V. Wiseman, Mr Corney (he could bowl very fast) were of my time. Master Collinsen who prowled the Physics Lab wielding a length of bunsen burner tubing indiscriminately. I wonder who pushed a potato up the exhaust pipe of his beloved Alvis. Maybe it was the same person who put the sugar in the petrol tank of the aforementioned Mr Brown.

In the early 1950's my wife and I on our travels called to see Bill Phoenix at his retirement home in North Wales. A real gentleman. Harry Birchall came to Heath from Carnegie College. Not much older than some of the Upper Sixth, or so it seemed. Harry Birchall followed Arthur Bilborough (a fine singing voice) in the PT Dept. School camps were excellent. I went to Primrose Valley and 3 camps at St Helens in the Isle of Wight. D.J.D. Smith ran the camps very efficiently, morning tent inspection, kit inspection. The lighter side was good. Treasure hunts, evening sing songs, enough food to keep very hungry youths happy. At the dedication of the Memorial Gates at school, D.J.D. Smith, whom I had not seen for many years, said, " Ah, Breaks, you have put some weight on."

Further to the remarks regarding school secretaries, my sister was in this post in the late 1930's, probably as Peggy Benson for some of the time. She was followed I think by Jean (?) Shoemith, whose brother was a Heathen.

I saw my first Test Match at Headingley in 1935 in a party organised by dear old Tishy Holt. England vs S Africa. Very hot, I got sunstroke, which must be worthy of note for a match at Leeds.

I hope that you can find things of interest in these jumbled recollections."

Michael Priestley

Michael emails on 31 March 2005:

"Hope all is well.

It was good to see the School at Twickenham last week in their Vase Final and a solid winning performance they put in too.

I was there as an official for the Daily Mail Under 15 Finals and enjoyed a very good day. I am now on the RFU National Panel of Officials in my second season although I had a late start to this season after spending six months in Basra, Iraq as the Operations Officer for RAF Medical Evacuation Teams. A very interesting time from a work and personal survival point of view.

Unfortunately not been to Halifax now for at least 2 years but keep in touch through the website. Always a shame that I can't make it to the AGM's / Dinners but hope to do so in the not too distant future.

Best wishes to all Old Heathens.

Regards
Mick"

OBITUARIES

Steven Darlington

[Press Article, undated/credited]

A physiotherapist to Halifax Rugby League Club's 1987 Challenge Cup winning team has died (shown on the right. of the photograph).

Steven Darlington, 42, of Wyvern Terrace, Pellon, Halifax, died on Sunday at Sheffield Hospital from Huntington's Disease, a hereditary condition which affects the nervous system.

Mr Darlington had suffered from the disease for 10 years and had been cared for by staff at Rainbow Villas, Sheffield. He attended the former Heath Grammar School, Halifax, and then completed physiotherapy training at Leeds University in 1979.

While at university he played with the Great Britain Universities team against a New Zealand side, and also for Huddersfield Rugby Union Club and Heath Rugby Union Club, Halifax, where he was also a physiotherapist.

After graduating he worked for the Calderdale NHS Trust and has been described as the best physiotherapist in Halifax by friend of 30 years Martin Nolan.

"He was employed as physiotherapist by the Halifax Rugby League coach Chris Anderson and became good friends with the club's star Australian player Graham Eadie. He worked as the team's physiotherapist for four years. He was instrumental in helping Chris Anderson take the team to Wembley in 1987 when they beat St Helens in the final", he said.

His funeral will be held on September 5. The venue is still to be confirmed.



D A Gillett : ? - 2005 [Heath 1945 - 1953]

"We have to report the sad news of the sudden death on Monday 5 September 2005 of "Doug" Gillett who attended Heath 1945-1953. He died in the Friarage Hospital Northallerton where some years ago he had surgery for stomach cancer from which he made a strong recovery.

He also attended Trinity Junior School and such was his interest in history and world events that he took a keen interest in the progress of the 8th Army and the retreat of Field Marshal Rommel across North Africa and could draw detailed maps of the campaign.

That interest continued at Heath and St Bede's College, Durham where he qualified as a teacher of history. Whilst at Heath he was a fearsome rugby player at Junior and I XV levels and that interest continued into his adult life when he dedicated three decades to the Under 20's Yorkshire County rugby teams.

Many young men will have known Doug as the most enthusiastic of men in the cause of Yorkshire Rugby and he kept tabs on any young players in the county who displayed talent and that knowledge extended to Heath RUFC.

He settled in Bedale and taught there for many years but kept in touch with his contemporaries at Heath and "dropped in" from time to time and was not shy to share his strong views on politics, education and the world.

He remained a bachelor and is survived by his sister Shirley to whom we send our sincere condolences. He will be sadly missed by those who knew him. There is only one "Doug" Gillett."

R Smith

Philip MAYLOR : ? - 2003 [Heath ? - 1950]

Philip Maylor, who lived in Malvern, died at Christmas, 2003.

He left Heath in 1950, carried out his National Service in the Royal Air Force and then went to Borough Road College to train as a teacher. He subsequently taught nine year olds at a school in the City of London; however he left after three years when he married one of his colleagues. He then taught at a boys' Secondary Modern School in Hitchin in Hertfordshire until 1960.

Philip then moved from teaching to computing, but after short spells of operating and programming, he found himself teaching again! However, this was teaching adults on behalf of computer manufacturers - a very different environment to school teaching, and one in which he worked for fifteen years, before spending five years as a computer advisor for the Department of Employment. This was followed by ten years as Head of the Department of Computing in a college of Further Education in Hertfordshire, until he took early retirement in 1989, when he moved to Worcestershire. There, he enjoyed watching cricket and travelling on the steam trains of the Severn Valley Railway.

In a letter to then Editor of the Heath Old Boys Newsletter some eight years ago, Philip recalled his days in Halifax (where his parents had been the wardens of the Waterhouse Homes in Harrison Road for twenty-five years from 1942) and memories of Heath, and particularly of the school dramatic society productions such as the 1948 staging of *'Caesar and Cleopatra'*, in which he, suitably blacked-up, played the part of a Nubian. He also recalled other plays, *'The Rivals'* and *'Scuttleboom's Treasurer'*. *'Lady Audley's Secret'*, performed by the staff, was another memorable event, with Lady Audley being played by 'Bidley' Taylor, and 'Larry' Gain taking another female role.

We extend our condolences to his wife Pat and family.

Derek STOLLERY : 1932 - 2003 [Heath 1943 -1949]

Derek Stollery died on 11th November 2003 age 71.

He had suffered from a short illness and was then diagnosed with cancer and given a few months to live, but potentially longer with treatment. He declined treatment and died three weeks after diagnosis.

During his illness, he kept his quiet, calm and almost enigmatic public exterior and yet he couldn't help letting the person inside out every now and again. After having flirted with his 30-year-old female Oncologist following his diagnosis, he then went on to charm the Macmillan nurse who came to see him shortly afterwards. When she asked if he wanted to see the dietician, his reply of ..."Dunno, is she blonde?" had her lost for words for some considerable time.

Crossley Carpets formed the majority of his working life. He had a period of time after the closure of Crossleys when he owned a toyshop in Bradford and then he went on to build his own wooden toys, having been disappointed at the cost of and quality of the items that he had previously had available to sell on to the public. It was more down to the quality of the toys that he made rather than the profit margins which drove him to do this. Despite the many professional successes he had in his life prior to this point it was at this time that it always gave his sons great pleasure when filling out official paperwork to be able to state their father's profession as "Toymaker"!

After he retired he spent his spare time designing and building model aircraft engines, forming each individual part from stock on his lathe in his garage. His last project, a 9-cylinder rotary engine, remains unfinished and will stay as such since he was designing it as he went along and the necessary information on how to complete it went when Derek departed.

Before his four boys came along (all four of whom are former Heathens), he was in his element as a Sports car driver, building and driving his own cars. In the early 50's, when you have to drive your car to the racing circuit, he took part in races at the likes of Oulton Park and Silverstone. This was a passion he gave up totally for forty years on becoming a family man but resurrected to an extent in his latter years. Following the death of his wife Rena, in 2000 he announced to his four boys that he intended to spend their entire inheritance on a Ferrari 308GTB.



As a result of this purchase he had to demonstrate his ability to target his remaining finances to those things that really mattered. The car was taken out at every opportunity and kept properly maintained by time served Ferrari mechanics but to compensate, if you opened his kitchen cupboard it was packed with the blue and white striped livery of Tesco own-brand produce.

Having owned the 308 for some time, he talked about wanting to change it to something else. He considered a Caterham7 or a TVR Griffith 500. Instead, he decided to upgrade and he left this

world in his 70's as a driver and owner of a Ferrari 328GTS as in the end he said he didn't want to be known as - "a man who used to own a Ferrari".

He will be greatly missed by his four sons who will always take comfort in the fact that they were able to spend almost all of Derek's last week together at his home in Pye Nest.

Dave Stollery - Heath Grammar School 1974-1981

John Roger WILKINSON : 1931 - 2004 [Heath ?-1949]

After a long illness, patiently borne, and increasingly poor eyesight, the death took place of John Roger Wilkinson (always known as Roger) on 29th September 2004. Born in Halifax on 15th June 1931, his father and two uncles had a family engineering business, William Wilkinson and Co. just above Cow Green, where they produced small parts for the woollen mills of the West Riding. His mother, who became librarian at the Boothtown branch library, was adamant that he should not enter the family business and work such long hours, so that after he left Heath, he took up a place at Manchester University to study Mathematics.

Roger left Heath Grammar School in 1949 - remembered as a tall, statesman-like character with dark hair and glasses giving him a wise and learned countenance, always welcoming and helpful, but with a slightly distant air. His poor eyesight exempted him from active National Service, and he spent six years at De Havilland's at Hatfield in Hertfordshire, where he worked on the aerodynamics of military planes. At the end of this compulsory stint, he ventured into oil exploration with Seismographic Services Ltd. As an engineer he produced field data and records which were then computed into sub-surface contour maps for companies like Shell and Mobil. At this time he met and married Muriel, one of the team responsible for the production of the maps. They were married on 19th August 1959 during Roger's mid-contract leave from the company, and Muriel joined him for his second year in the Niger Delta, where she taught geography in one of the few girls' boarding schools in Nigeria which happened to be near-by.

They then returned to Britain, and settled down in Derby with Roger working in the aero engine division of Rolls Royce, and enjoyed ten years of family life when all three of the children - two daughters and a son - were born. Roger moved into management services, but a growing dislike for military hardware led him in 1971 to Kendal to join Westmorland Country Council, which a few years later became Cumbria County Council. He became a roving trouble-shooter in management services for the County Council, which gave rise to a family joke that when their children were asked "What does your daddy do?" they usually replied "He walks around, looking inscrutable, carrying a notebook!"

Sadly, he contracted Hodgkin's disease in 1984, and although chemotherapy and radiation cured the cancer, they affected his lungs, and about 2000 his lungs and heart began to weaken. However, Muriel and the family felt that they were fortunate that he had twenty years of "borrowed" time, as at the time he was cured of cancer, a five year survival rate was thought to be a success. He took early retirement in 1988, and by the time he died, all three children had married and had produced two grandchildren each. The greatest development in his life was when he met, in the course of his work, a member of the Bahá'í Faith and finding their beliefs matched his own in survival and ecology he became a member in 1973. After his retirement he continued active Bahá'í work, and also worked for WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), WDM (World Development Movement), UNA (United Nations Association) and FOE (Friends of the Earth). He also had a lifelong love of music, developed through the use of a pianola belonging to come relatives, and which now stands in the lounge at home. His short sight had prevented him ever learning to play an instrument.

The Heath Old Boys' Association sends their deepest sympathy and condolences to his widow, Muriel, their children, Susan, Elizabeth and Andrew, their husbands and wife, his six grandchildren, and also to his sister, Margaret.

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