



Thou who art my pupil

I was wondering where to start a speech for a school whose heritage began over 440 years ago, whilst staying relevant to the Crossley Heathens of today. Staring at the school crest (which dates from 1587 when used as a wax seal), I noticed an open book and inside the book the following abbreviated words:

Qui mihi discipulus, Puer, es, cupis atque doceri, Huc ades, haec animo concipe dicta tuo

translated as:

Thou who art my pupil, boy, and desirest to be taught, come here, grasp these sayings with thy mind.

This is the beginning of the introduction to William Lily's Latin Grammar textbook, first published in 1540 telling students what is expected of them. I wondered if any expectations from 485 years ago would still apply to today's students, half a millennium later. Well, let's see by considering a selection of twelve sayings in turn:

1. 'From a prone position flee your bed in the morning, shake off soft sleep' — well hopefully you sleep prone horizontally, but whether or not you flee your bed or stagger out might vary.
2. 'Among the first things you do let your face and hands be washed, let your clothes be clean and your hair combed' — again, hopefully the vast majority of us have a wash and wear clean clothes, although there have definitely been students who, after a Monday on the Moor, spend the week wearing mud-covered trousers just to avoid the effort of using the washing machine.
3. 'When our school will have called you, come, putting aside your idleness and let there be no cause of sluggish delay in you' — absolutely still relevant, as late gate is waiting for anyone sluggish who arrives too close to 8.30am.

Friday, 25 September 2026 Reunion Dinner at Heath RUFC, West Vale, Halifax
6.45pm AGM
7pm onwards social/reunion
7.30pm Reunion Dinner
Dress: Lounge suits/smart casual.
Guests welcome.
£25 per person payable to HOBA via [Jon Hamer](#)^a
Mob: 07770 697176/Duncan Turner.
Sunday, 9 May 2027 Russell Smith Memorial Trophy Bowling Challenge
1.30 for 2 pm Halifax Bowling Club
Sunday, 20 June 2027 Founder's Day Commemoration
4 pm Halifax Minster

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

4. 'When you see me, the teacher, greet me with a "good morning" and also your fellow students in turn' — we like a friendly greeting and handshake around school, yet the idea that every student has to say 'Good morning' to every single student they pass in a school of nearly 1200 might be interesting to try.
5. 'Take your seat where I order you to have a seat and remain in that place unless you are ordered to leave' — woe betide anyone who doesn't sit in the seating plan. This is so important it is recorded on Arbor and the fury of a teacher when someone sits in the wrong place is still akin to that of 1519 without doubt!
6. 'Let there not be any blots or defects in your writings. Do not entrust to loose pages your dictation or poems which it is fitting that you have inserted in a book' — PROUD presentation people, stick your sheets in and no graffiti. 500 years of commitment to neatness remains!
7. 'May you often review to yourself the things read and repeat them in your own mind' — do your revision!
8. 'Learn, I beseech you, be unwilling to forget anything; let not the mind, desirous of laziness, indict you. And may you be attentive with your mind, for what will be the use of having learned if you press my words in a heart which is not firm' — get

off your phones! They are distracting you. Put them in a different room when you study. Don't have them in your pocket in classes. I beseech you!

9. 'A rule must always be observed in speaking lest shameful babbling offend us. Applying yourself to your studies, you will speak with a subdued voice. And whatever you respond to me, you will be melodious with your voice' — Be quiet. Three — finish what you are doing, two — pens down, one — absolute silence. Now answer in full sentences and project your voice. Still relevant.
10. 'If I ask anything, you will be so eager to answer that I praise you with words and that you deserve honour' — get ready for cold calling and if your answer is decent I'll give you a house point.
11. 'Let shouting, quarrelling, joking, lies, stealth and loud laughter be far away from you; and let the arms of war be far away also' — be quiet on the corridors and in the common room. Try not to punch each other. Equally sound modern day advice!
12. 'Finally, you will protect all things and books and you will carry them with you as often as you come and go' — unless you are in Year 7 and lucky enough to have a locker, you have six years of carrying a school bag with 10 books in it, a PE kit and an instrument from 7am when you catch the CTS bus till 5pm when you get home. No better system has been found in 500 years!

So there we have it; less has changed in the past 500 years of education than we may have realised and nor should it need to. After all, the values of kindness to others, courage to work hard and aspiration for excellence remain as important now as ever.

Turning to the wonderful people in this room, staff and students, all members of our Crossley Heath family, what a fantastic team you made and what great achievements you demonstrated. Those of you now in Year 12 were part of the highest achieving GCSE year group in our school's modern history. Those of you who graduated from our Sixth Form achieved a larger uplift in exam results from one year to the next than we have seen in recent times.

We hope you have forged some truly wonderful memories of your times at Crossley Heath. From school trips spanning the globe from France to Belgium, Germany to Iceland, New York to the Isle of Man and even Doncaster! Doncaster for a revision retreat memorable for the simple pleasures of an open fire and £1000 of Domino's pizza! You might have a favourite house event, ranging from sports day to swimming gala to the infamous House Open! You will have other memories too that will forever remain special, ranging from friendships to performances to sporting victories and some that will always make you smile ... like seeing Reuben

and Katherine arrive for a date and get given a table in the restaurant right next to our table full of their teachers!

Sports and the Arts at our Heart

Of equal importance to academic excellence are the strength of character and happiness fostered by sports and the arts! It is therefore with great pride that we see our centuries of heritage for sport and performing arts shine as brightly as ever from the students of today.

Sporting Success

When asked "Is Crossley Heath a rugby school?", we absolutely are, for boys and for girls. Yet we are also a football, netball, cricket, badminton, tennis, basketball, table tennis, athletics, rounders, dance, swimming and martial arts school. We love sport and aim to encourage participation and excellence in all possible sports for our boys and our girls.

It has been wonderful to see the growth and success of our school sports programmes this last year thanks to the whole Crossley Heath School family and our community:

- In Rugby: We have established weekly girls' rugby coaching and see a number of our girls playing for local clubs like the Crocs, Heath, Rish and Brods. Our boys' teams have now reached three Yorkshire finals in the past two years and the Canada tours are back, as we currently play host to our Canadian friends ahead of returning across the Atlantic in 2027!
- In Football: We have girls' and boys' teams competing across Calderdale and Yorkshire on a regular basis, with an appearance in the cup final under our belt and several students playing for professional clubs!
- In Netball: We are bringing home Calderdale cups on an annual basis, with many students playing for West Yorkshire and netball at the heart of our girls' tour schedule in Dubai and on our next tour to Sri Lanka!
- In Cricket: We have professional coaching underway each week for our girls and boys as part of our Cricket Excellence Programme. We have students playing and touring internationally, whilst every lunchtime girls and boys hone their skills in our wonderful outdoor nets!
- In Badminton: We have achieved an unprecedented feat as both our girls and boys have reached the National Schools Badminton finals. We are so very proud of them!

Sport is so very important to our school that we have launched a Sporting Excellence Programme in our sixth form. Created in partnership with leading northern

university, Leeds Beckett, this will support our top sports performers pursuing dual careers by excelling both academically and athletically. Crossley Heath has already seen students combine outstanding A-levels with sporting success, such as Olympian judoka Sophie Cox and Olympic runner Max Burgin. We want to help many more students achieve these dual ambitions, thus retaining and attracting outstanding sporting students to be part of our sixth form.

Performing Arts Excellence

We love music, drama and dance! There is so much talent in the performing arts from our wonderful students and we are determined to create all possible opportunities to showcase their talents in school, alongside championing their individual performances outside school too.

Since the start of this school year, we have already seen so much variety in our performing arts:

- In Music: Every single day our school is alive with music, thanks to daily instrumental lessons, students playing on entry to assemblies and even playing the pianos on our corridors. Our performance showcase events for families have been amazing, ranging from piano festivals to varied solo performances and, of course, our choir and band sparkling for prize giving and the Minster. Crossley Heath musicians are also getting used to travelling with our bi-annual European tour approaching and our big band's performance at the Royal Albert Hall!
- In Drama and Dance: The return of our annual school productions has been a joy. Our team of staff and students are working away each week, acting, dancing, singing and making props ready for the summer sensation of Matilda. The promotion on TikTok has reached legendary status, with over a quarter of a million views!
- In House Events: The legendary House Music and House Drama events have been as big and bright as ever, creating memories to last. This year also sees the inception of House Dance as part of our Arts Showcase, where visual arts, fashion and dance fuse into a wonderful evening of performance!

This amazing range of sporting and performing arts experiences only exists because of the teamwork of staff, students, partner coaches, parents/carers and business sponsors. There are countless hours invested by our wonderful staff into extra-curricular clubs, training, supporting fixtures, leading trips and organising events, inspired by the motivation our students give us through their kindness, hard work and talent. We are so grateful to the coaches who come into schools each week to further grow the range of sports we offer, many of these supporting us voluntarily. We are equally grateful to the staff and instrumental teachers who develop our students love and skill in music and acting. Furthermore, the cost of new facilities (the cricket nets and soon-to-arrive 2G pitches), tours and kit would be beyond our reach without the generosity of our alumni, parent and community donors and sponsors. It is a true school family effort and we hope you can all see the amazing difference it is making! Thank you!

You have all been kind, which is why we are so proud to have you either still here with us or as part of our alumni for life. The power of our alumni is growing, supporting the most fabulous investments in our sporting facilities with the cricket nets opened this autumn and the 2G pitch development taking its first steps. We also see the power of our alumni in acts of kindness that matter greatly too — inspirational talks, careers mentoring, work experience offers and LinkedIn networks from Crossley alumni far and wide. You are the alumni of our future and we dearly hope that as your careers develop you too can help our next generation of Crossley Heathens to excel like you.

So, what next for our Crossley Heath family? Well, like the book at the heart of our school crest, we have our own chapters to write. There will be great successes, wonderful experiences and yet there will also be blots or defects in your writings because you are human. Just make sure to do your best to be kind people, have the courage to bounce back from failure and unceasingly pursue excellence. Thank you all for being here with us tonight. What a wonderful team of students, teachers, parents and community you have made to achieve these successes. Please give yourselves a round of applause.

Dean Jones Headteacher

Annual Reunion Dinner

THE Association's 778th Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Heath RUFC, West Vale, on Friday, 26th September 2025.

The AGM revealed another successful year and an identical surplus of £810 to that of the previous year along with another slight decline in the number of members. The officers and committee were re-elected *en bloque*.

In his inimitable way, Jim Farrell marked the 60th birthday of Dominic Potter [Heath 1977–1982]. Dean Jones, headteacher at Crossley Heath, noted the academic prowess of the pupils, that the size of the sixth form had risen to 150, the opening of the cricket nets earlier in the week which replaced the ones put up at Crossley & Porter in 1910, the revival of other sporting events such as the swimming gala and the overseas trips which pupils are making.

The raffle raised £533.25 and was drawn after Jon's favourite stand up sit down bingo. In his speech Jim Farrell proposed that the association should think about

something to leave in the form of endowments to Crossley Heath and the Heath RUFC while John Bunch endorsed the idea, pointing out that in ten years time it would be 450 years since the granting of the charter in 1585.

Present: J Farrell J Hamer D Jones A Smith R Worthington J Bunch J Hudson J Hall S Eggleton R Kaye A Hoyle Z Kosanovic D Owen S Horsefield (V) T Calvert P Mottram C Mallinson C Shannon D Craven S Bowyer N Sladdin D Potter B Butterworth P Opacic P Stollery N Holden M Hynes A Ellis N Tobin G Mount I Baldwin T Stringer M Orlic C Tindal C Scott M Baxendale O Schofield D O'Callaghan C Morley P Innes U Cuzzo J Hoggard J Greenwood J Charnock A Connell P Goulden J Robertshaw R Brearley R Morley D Turner P Turner E Broughton G Parr B Stoker A Hobson G Stansfield P Keenan J Russell K Clay R Taylor (V) R Eastwood

John Hudson [1957–1960 and 1962]

2026 HOBA Bowling Challenge (Russell Smith Memorial Trophy)

THE 17th edition of the legendary Russell Smith Memorial Trophy was contested at the excellent and vast Halifax Bowling Club which was once home to Thrum Hall and the Scratching Shed.

Only six Heath Old Boys competed, playing singles and scoring first to 11 points.

The competitors were Jon Hamer, Andrew Waite, John Robertshaw, Peter Greenwood, Chris Gostridge and Richard Crosland.

The final standings put Hamer, Waite and Greenwood at the top of the leader board, all losing just one game, with the points difference propelling Greenwood to Champion status and raising the trophy.

An excellent and substantial buffet was freshly made and served by John Hudson with thanks to Peter for booking his Club.

Moving forward the number of competitors this year puts this annual competition and social gathering in jeopardy with regard to its continuation.

Jon Hamer Secretary HOBA

Founder's Day Celebration: Sunday, 21st June 2026

THE 2026 Founder's Day Celebration took place as part of the Minster's regular Sunday evensong service at 4 pm on Sunday, 21st June 2026.

Revd Canon Hilary Barber welcomed us all and led the service.

The choir sang an *Introit* written by Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650), Psalm 80, the *Magnificat*, the *Nunc Dimittis* and an Anthem composed by John Ireland (1879–1962).

The familiar readings were delivered by John Hudson — 'Let us now praise famous men' — and John Robertshaw — 'Finally, my brethren' — and the familiar hymns sung: Bunyan's great hymn and the one bidding us to be 'free from sloth and sensual snare.'

After the service we gathered at the West End beneath the stern bust of our founder, where Jim Farrell explained the origin of the Latin inscription on the school house and read its translation to draw the successful event to a close.

Thanks to all those who attended, especially the school representatives: Adam Smith, the Assistant Head, Reshem Noor (Head Student) and Jmama Khan (Deputy Head Student).

Thanks also to the Revd Canon Hilary Barber for allowing us to use the Minster and to the HOBA Committee.

Requests for information or contacts

Become a Crossley Heath Trustee

Crossley Heath is looking for new Trustees and would welcome applications from Heath Old Boys.

The job of the Crossley Heath Trustees is set out on the [school website](#) which says:

Our Trustees are volunteers who play an important part in setting the strategic direction of The Crossley Heath School, ensuring we continue to raise standards and strive for excellence in everything that we do. All Crossley Heath School Trustees are passionate about improving the lives of every single young person and they are fully committed to our aim of being ‘outstanding

and beyond’.

For more information and to express an interest please contact the [Clerk to the Trustees](#).

Thank you

Did you know Oliver Smithies?

Dr John Krege is writing a biography of Oliver Smithies and is seeking information about his time at Heath [1936–1943].

If you have or know anyone who has memories or other material relevant to Oliver Smithies’ time at Heath, please contact the [Editor](#).

Thank you

News

Jim Farrell wins England cap

OUR esteemed chairman, Jim Farrell [Heath 1977–1982], aged 59, won an England cap at the The ICTSC Home International 2025 held in Omagh on 4th and 5th September 2025 (figure 1). He was part of the winning England

team at the 2025 Home international (figure 2). Teams from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland competed over two days and 200 targets.

The Heathen

THE history of The Heathen is not straightforward. Thanks to Jim Farrell [Heath 1977–1982] we have an almost complete 1898 copy on which John Bunch [Heath 1972–1985] makes [some observations](#).

But we have no subsequent copies of this publication. The next publication of which we have copies is *The New Heathen* which was published from 1919 to 1923 and is described as the ‘Magazine of Heath Grammar School Debating Society.’ This is more of a literary than a school magazine and had adverts; it appears to have been on general sale rather than just a magazine for those associated with the school.

Apart from issues 2 and 3, issues of *The New Heathen*

have been created from photographs of a bound copy in the Crossley Heath Archives too fragile to scan which lacks the covers and adverts and is missing a few pages. Interestingly, ‘The Heathen in his blindness would like to know’ appears in issue 5 of *The New Heathen* in 1920. It is not clear whether it had appeared in earlier editions of *The Heathen*.

From issue 13 in 1923, which the Editor says should have been labelled Vol. II(1), we have magazines with *The Heathen* clearly emblazoned on the cover but the title ‘The New Heathen. Heath Grammar School Magazine’ inside. It is only in 1931 that the title *The Heathen* becomes clearly established once more as the title of the school magazine.



Figure 1: Jim Farrell ready for action



Figure 2: The England team at Omagh

Heath history

Old Heath School

Duncan Turner [Heath 1953–1958] has shared this undated etching of the Old Heath School.



The Heath Old Boys Club

THE Heath Old Boys Club was revived on October 29th 1923 in part as a result of the work of the Heath Old Boys Association.

The original club had used a room beneath the school which had become a dining room before the outbreak of World War I to support the growth of the school. Without a room and with the outbreak of War the club ceased to exist. But with the end of the War, the Heath Old Boys Association had been formed on 20 June 1919 to bring Old Heathens together. They found a room to accommodate the club at 21 King Cross Lane which they redecorated and furnished and in which they installed a billiard table. The plan was for the club to run cricket and football teams.

The Right Hon. J.H. Whitley MP was present at the General Meeting and he congratulated those elected to the first committee and hoped that the club would offer 'something special' [unspecified] beyond just being a social club.

Rules as drafted and proposed by the Sub-committee on Sept. 5th, 1923, and passed at the General Meeting on October 29th 1923:—

1. —That the Club be called the 'Heath Old Boys' Club.'
2. —That the Governors, Masters, and old Boys of Heath Grammar School shall be eligible for membership, and, subject to the Committee's approval, shall become members on payment of the current subscription.
3. —That the objects of the Club shall be to promote social and athletic intercourse amongst the members and amongst associations of a similar character, and to afford to its members and visitors all the advantages of the club.

4. —That the management of the Club be vested in a committee, which shall consist of: President, vice-president, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer, and 12 full members of the Club, and five members shall form a quorum.
5. —That the officers and committee shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting; one-third of the committee shall retire annually in rotation, retiring members being eligible for re-election. Nominations to fill vacancies to be sent to the Secretary in writing, ten days prior to the Annual General Meeting (of which the Secretary shall give 14 days' clear notice), which shall be held in the month of October.
6. —That the Subscription, payable in advance on October 1st in each year shall be as follows:— Full members £2 2s. per annum (21 years and over); Junior Members, £1 1s. per annum (under 21 years of age).
7. —That any member intending to withdraw must signify his intention in writing to the Secretary on or before Sept. 30th, otherwise the member shall be responsible for his subscription for the ensuing year.
 - 7a.—That in case the conduct of any member, either in or out of the club premises, shall, in the opinion of the committee, be injurious to the character and interests of the club, the committee shall be empowered to request such member to resign, and if the member so requested does not resign within a month after such request, he shall cease to be a member of the Club.
8. —That temporary members, being Old Heath Boys, may be elected on such terms, and subject to such conditions as the committee may from time to time determine.
9. —That a member may introduce a visitor once per week, at a charge of 6d. The names of the introducing member and visitor shall be entered in the Visitors' Book, and any charges incurred by the visitor shall be defrayed by the introducing member.
10. —That the committee shall have power to deal with all affairs of the club not provided for in the foregoing rules.
11. —The above rules can only be varied or added to at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting, Notice of any proposed alteration or addition to rules must be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least ten days before such meeting, and he shall post such proposal on the notice board seven days prior to the meeting.

12. —That the Club shall be open daily, with the exception of Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m., except on special occasions, when the committee may, on application, accord such extensions as they in their discretion deem reasonable.
13. —That the hours for the sale of intoxicants shall be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Scholarships

The Milner scholarships

John Milner of Skircoat attended Heath [1640–1642] and later became the vicar of St John's Church, Leeds; he had an only son, Thomas, who became vicar of Bexhill; in 1721 he bequeathed a sum of money to Magdalene College, Cambridge to provide scholarships for boys from Westmorland, Leeds and Halifax including Heath. During the 19th century a majority of Heath pupils who went to university went to Magdalene College, Cambridge but we do not know whether they all had Milner scholarships or whether they chose Magdalene College because of its connection with Heath.

The Hastings awards

In the early 18th century Lady Elizabeth Hastings gave some land in Wheldale, better known today as Airedale, near Castleford, to The Queen's College, Oxford, to fund five students each year selected from pupils of two Cumbrian schools and ten Yorkshire schools. Taking her inspiration from the account of the selection of Matthias to succeed Judas in Acts 1:26, she instructed the fellows to select eight candidates from the applicants and then to cast lots to select the five who would receive the awards so that the Holy Spirit might have the final say on who would be accepted for an award.

In the spring of 1879 the Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford informed Thomas Cox that some of the twelve schools in the Hastings scheme had forfeited their privilege and asked whether Heath would be interested. As Thomas Cox did not have any pupils whom he thought he could present, the Provost advised Cox to postpone an application to join the Hastings Scheme until the school had a candidate to submit. Archibald William Reith made a successful application and in 1897 B. E. Taylor [1889–1898] became the first Heath pupil to be a recipient of a Hastings award.

It would appear that The Queen's College, Oxford was more keen to have Heath join the Hastings Scheme than Heath was to join; after all Heath had access to the Milner Scholarships and had been consistently successful in getting pupils into Oxbridge; so Heath did not need access to another closed scholarship.

But this consistency may have been the very thing which attracted The Queen's College to Heath; they wanted a school which could consistently put forward candidates for Oxbridge to replace the schools which had failed to do this. Heath's reputation in this area may also explain why the governors were able to recruit such a well-qualified set of masters when the school reopened in 1887.

Ghosts at Heath Grammar School

In March 1944 Heath Grammar School hosted The Thespians for a week's performances of *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen. Thanks to Evan Knight for sharing this with us.



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HALIFAX THESPIANS

President: J. W. SUTCLIFFE Esq.

Hon. Sec.: I. EMERSON Esq., 2 Parkside, Manor Heath Rd., Halifax. Phone Hs. 2281.

SEVENTEENTH SEASON

GHOSTS

A Family Tragedy in Three Acts by HENRIK IBSEN

English Translation by Norman Gashbury.

Monday to Saturday, March 20th to March 25th, 1944, at 6-30 p.m. each evening

MATINEE, Saturday, March 25th, at 2-30 p.m.

Admission: 2/6 and 1/-

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WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 20th, 1944.

**AL SHAW AND HIS
BLUE HAWAIIANS**
AND STAR VARIETY.

WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 27th, 1944.

The Famous Blackpool
ARCADIAN FOLLIES

THE HALIFAX THESPIANS
present

GHOSTS

A Family tragedy in Three Acts. By Henrik Ibsen.

CHARACTERS in order of their appearance:

Region Engstrom	FAIRLINE MOORE
Joseph Engstrom	WILFRED JACKSON
Pastor Manders	SIDNEY SMITH
Mrs. Helen Alving	BARBARA STARKES-JONES
Osvald Alving	ALLAN R. GRACEWELL

Directed by Dora Garnett.

The Action throughout takes place at Mrs. Alving's house on one of the large South of Western Norway.

Setting designed by Norman J. Somers.

Plants by Conrags Ltd., Halifax.

Stage Director: NORMAN J. SOMERS

Music: WILFRED JACKSON

Property Mistress: M. GWEDDOLINE MAIR

Business Managers: DOREEN COATES and EDITH M. THOMAS

F. S. BENTLEY

There will be intervals of five minutes between the Acts.

We regret that Smoking is not permitted in the building.

In the event of an Air Raid Warning being given, you will be notified immediately from the Stage. The nearest Air Raid Shelters are the Town Sheds, where there is ample accommodation. They can be reached in two minutes.

SPECIAL CHARITY WEEK
MAY 15th to 20th, 1944.

**IN AID OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS
PRISONERS OF WAR FUND.**

During the above week The Halifax Thespians will present at THE GRAND THEATRE two of their outstanding Post Office successes; namely, *Easters McCracken's Delightful Comedy QUIET WEDDING* and *Enigma Williams' Famous Psychological Thriller NIGHT MUST FALL*. These Plays will be presented on alternative evenings at 7 p.m.

QUIET WEDDING, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

NIGHT MUST FALL, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Special Matinee of QUIET WEDDING, Saturday at 2-30 p.m.

PRICES.

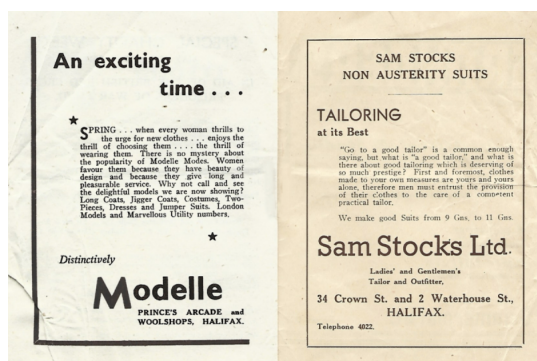
Dress Circle and Orchestra Stalls 4/- Pit Stalls 3/-

Family Circle 2/6 Pit 2/- Gallery (Unreserved) 1/-

PRIORITY BOOKING VOUCHERS are now on sale, and can be purchased HERE during the intervals, or from any official of the Society, or from Messrs. Grangers, 13 Commercial Street, Halifax. These Vouchers MUST be exchanged at Messrs. Grangers for Standard Seat Tickets when PRIORITY BOOKING commences on MONDAY, APRIL 26th, 1944.

YOU may have seen these Shows before. We hope you will come again and bring your friends.

We are out to make this a Record Effort. Buy your vouchers early and avoid disappointment.



The 2nd (Heath Grammar School) Halifax Scout Group

THE group of scouts which evolved into the 2nd (Heath Grammar School) Halifax Scout Group was formed in 1909, two years after the publication of *Scouting for Boys*, though, as noted below, this date has been queried.

To mark its 50th anniversary, [Michael Roper](#) [Heath 1943–1951] put together the [history](#) which you can read in PDF format. In 2003 Michael Roper briefly updated his history.

The 2003 annual dinner of former 2nd (HGS) Halifax Scouts prompted me to compile this potted history of scouting at Heath. Down to 1959 it is based on the group's fiftieth-anniversary history and thereafter on (often rather sketchy) reports in *The Heathen*. If you have reminiscences of your own scouting days to flesh out these bare bones, I am sure the editor would be delighted to include them.

The origin of boy scouts at Heath is largely undocumented. A troop of three patrols is recorded in June 1909, but Ray Greenwood, a founder member, reminiscing at the 1959 jubilee dinner, was sure that the first patrol (Peewits) had been formed at least a year earlier. Its patrol leader, chosen by lot, was [Lionel Fox](#), later Sir Lionel Fox, MC, CB, chairman of the Prison Commission. Hugh Seaton, a master at Heath, agreed to become the first scoutmaster, provided he did not have to wear uniform.

The troop survived the First World War, though with reduced numbers, and it was not until 'Doc' Browning became scoutmaster in 1922 that scouting at Heath began to flourish again. Summer camps were held in various places in England and on two occasions in France. A cub pack for boys in the junior school was formed in 1922 and a rover crew for older scouts in 1925.

Prior to 1930 the scouts had met first in a box room over the gym and then at Spring Hall, but in that year the scout hut, well known to generations of Heathens, was purchased and placed in the lower school yard to provide the group with its own headquarters. Also in 1930 the familiar claret and gold neckerchief with the school cap badge at its point was adopted.

In 1936 two additional scout troops (B and C Sections) were formed, the original troop becoming A Section, and in the following year D Section was added. 1936 also saw the introduction of the distinctive group tie as a permitted alternative to the school tie. In 1937 a senior sea scout patrol (Seagulls) was formed under the leadership of Peter Walker. Camping continuing to be a favourite activity and in the 1930s the district camping competition was won by teams from the group on seven occasions, including a run of five successive wins by the original troop — A Section, with four second places and two third places. Stainforth, near Settle, was a favourite site for summer camps.

The Second World War seriously disrupted scouting at Heath. Thirteen members of the rover crew, including all the scouters of A Section and all the ASMs of B Section, were called up immediately and others were to follow. The blackout, rationing and other shortages also presented difficulties. Nevertheless, the scout troops continued to meet and still managed to hold summer camps, though in October 1940 D Section had to be merged into B Section, which changed its name to Beavers in 1941, and in July 1942 C Section had to be disbanded, its members being shared between the two surviving troops. In 1943 A Section changed its name to Badgers. The senior sea scout section (Seagulls), composed mainly of Beavers, was re-established in 1941 and continued to provide additional activities for the older scouts until 1945, when it merged back into Beavers. The cub pack also survived the war, only to be wound up when the junior school closed in 1946.

The end of the war did not bring about a restoration of the golden days of the 1930s. Finding scouters continued to be a problem. Nevertheless, Badgers under George Cobb and Beavers under George Littlefair and Gordon ('Nipper') Bentley continued to be strong troops, performing well in

district competitions and providing a full range of scouting activities, including, of course, camping, a regular venue now being West Tanfield.

In 1947 the older boys from Badgers and Beavers came together to form a new senior scout section under first 'Fishy' Hull and Ron ('Funf') Fawkes and later 'Micky' Mitchell and John ('Pia') Iredale. They indulged in a wide range of adventure pursuits, adding pot-holing to the more traditional activities of hiking and camping. Also in 1947 the rover crew was re-activated by 'Da' Carlin, but it petered out in the 1950s, when it met, if at all, only during university vacations.

The shortage of leaders, as potential scouters went off to national service or to university or left Halifax in the course of their work, continued to affect the scout troops. Temporarily between 1952 and 1956 and then permanently from the early 1960s it became necessary to merge Badgers and Beavers into a combined junior troop. For a brief period from late 1955 to the end of 1956 the senior scouts also had to merge with the junior troop, though they continued to carry out advanced activities as a separate patrol. In 1976 the senior troop became a venture scout unit. Sailing on Fly Flats reservoir was added to the regular activities.

At the end of 1981, facing the departure of three scouters and declining numbers of scouts, the group scout leader, John Hartley, had regretfully to announce the disbandment of both the scout troop and the venture scout unit, though dinghy sailing and small-bore rifle shooting continued for a few years longer as activities for those with scout group connections.

However, one link has survived in the form of the annual group dinner (originating in 1947 as a rover crew dinner), when former members of the group and their wives met to reminisce about their scouting days.

The last annual reunion dinner was held at the Imperial Crown Hotel on Saturday, 29th March 2003 attended by a dwindling band of old scouts and their wives. The youngest old scout attending being already a pensioner! The next reunion dinner was proposed for Saturday, 27 March 2004 but the Editor is unclear whether this went ahead.

A list of old scouts who had attended in previous years is as follows:

J. P. Allatt, J. C. Allingham, C. R. Ambler,
Mrs E. Andrews, M. Bailey, C. Barrett,
Mrs S. Bentley, K. Berry, C. J. L. Bowes,
G. Brearley, G. Butterfield, B. Capener,
Mrs L. Cobb, A. N. Connell, R. L. Fawkes,
R. J. Firth, N. Foster, D. Fox,
G. W. Hanson, D. Hey, Mrs K. Iredale,
J. A. Jackson, W. R. Lofthouse, R. Makin,
P. Mansley, P. L. Massey, J. I. McCarroll,
K. Pollit, I. Pratt, M. Roper, N. A. Shields,
N. B. Shields, J. H. Shoesmith, J. Stoddart,
M. Swale, A. Swinger, R. J. Taylor,
A. B. Thomas, A. Titley, M. Titley,
P. Walker, T. Whitaker, D. I. Whittle,
D. V. Williams

Research by Heidi Bain, Masters student

Following contact with Dani Dolan of Halifax Heritage Tours in 2023, it was suggested that we should partner with them to submit an application to York University History Department to offer one of their post-graduate students a specific area of investigation in our school history. The application would be for the student to be funded for the work. Jim Farrell agreed to mentor the student.

Heidi Bain, a Masters student, was appointed as the Intern on the Heath project over the summer of 2024 and produced the [attached report](#) in which she collated all the available evidence on the school charter and the location of the original school buildings, providing an excellent foundation for further research into the history of the school.

Following completion of her degree she secured a post as an archaeologist with [SLR Consulting](#).

We are grateful to Heidi for the commitment and quality which she brought to this work.

Sports Memories

The opportunity has been taken this summer to fill the gaps in our photographic record of sport at Heath by scanning the photographs missing from the website which are in the Archives at Crossley Heath and adding them to the website. There are two examples, the 1909 Fives team and the 1980/81 Under 15 Rugby team on the following page.

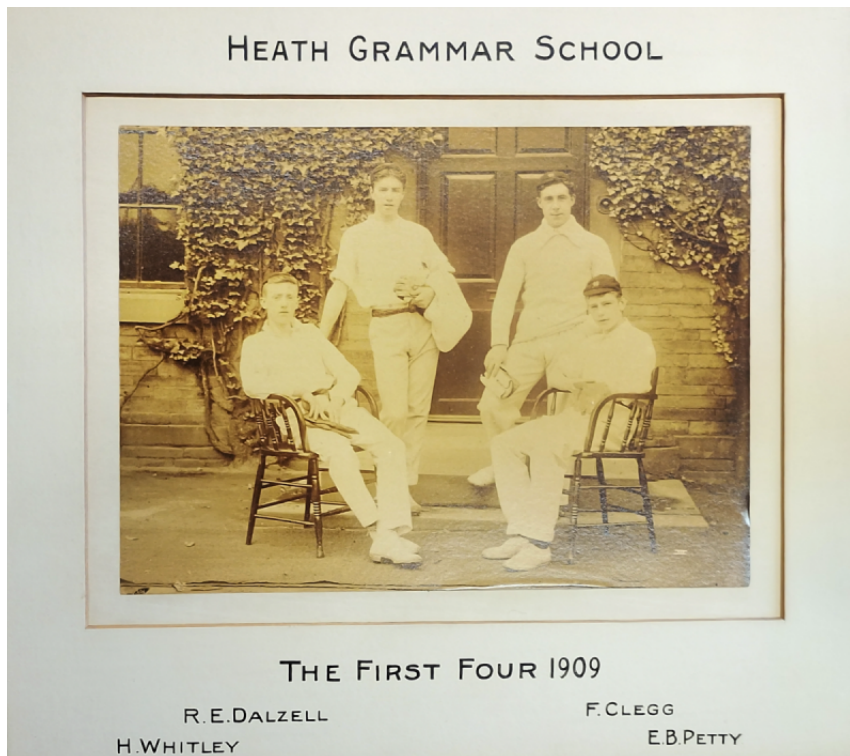


Figure 3: 1909 Fives team



Figure 4: *S. Blackburn, P. Bull, A. Cocker, P. Opacic, N. Tobin, J. Hamer, J. Scrimshaw, P. Ambler, M. Younas, Mr R. Kay, M. Potts, R. Stollery, B. Butterworth, M. Hynes, M. Priestley, S. Harrison, D. Collins*

Soccer at Heath

THE 19th century photographs of the school and Old Boys teams are of rugby teams but with the turn of the century the school teams are soccer teams.

Following World War I Heath are playing soccer with a variety of teams including Almondbury and Old Almondburians, Crossleys, Elland, Halifax Secondary School, Halifax Technical College, Heath Old Boys (presumably because they had mostly played soccer at school), Hipperholme, Huddersfield College, Rishworth and Wheelwright in Dewsbury.

Crossley and Porter may have swapped codes before Heath because they lend Heath a film about playing rugby and in 1928 Heath and Rishworth swap codes. Mr Kemp [1927–1931] and Mr Woodward [1926–1931] are the masters who manage the swap.

Among the teams they play in the first year are Bingley, Bradford, Crossley & Porter, Heath Old Boys, Hipperholme, Keighley, Rishworth and Wakefield. Their record for this first year is: Played 10, Won 2, Lost 8, For 51 Against 341.

Obituaries

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

John Milner: 1628–1702 [Heath 1640–1642]

John Milner was the son of John Milner and Mary Ramsden of Skircoat. He went to Heath Grammar School and then to Christ's College, Cambridge. He did not finish his degree and appears to have spent the years of the Civil War and the Commonwealth in the north of England.

After the Restoration, he was appointed curate at Beeston in Leeds and, following receipt of a BD (Bachelor of Divinity) in 1662, appointed priest at St John's Church, Leeds, rising to Vicar. However, in 1688 he refused a swear an oath of allegiance to William and Mary and was stripped of his position but obtained a post at St John's College, Cambridge, where he remained until his death, writing a number of books including a critique of the work of John Locke.

His only son, Thomas, provided scholarships at Magdalene College, Cambridge, for boys from schools in Westmorland, Leeds and Halifax. As his father had connections with Leeds and Halifax, perhaps his father had worked in Westmorland during the Commonwealth and/or Thomas had been to school in Westmorland.

John Cartwright 17 September 1740–23 September 1824 [Heath 1750–1758]

Major John Cartwright was born on 17 September 1740 in Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire to Anne and William Cartwright of Marnham Hall. His older brother was George Cartwright, the trader and explorer, and his younger brother was Edmund Cartwright, the designer of the power loom. After a brief spell at Newark Grammar School, he went to Heath in 1750 where he appears

to have stayed until 1758 when he joined the Royal Navy. (His younger brother, Edmund, went to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield and from there to University College, Oxford.)

He saw immediate service in a raid on Cherbourg but was later posted to the Newfoundland Station where he commanded HM Cutter *Sherborne* from 1763 to 1766 and served as chief magistrate of the settlement from 1765 to 1770. He retired from the Navy in 1771 on grounds of ill-health.

He was appointed a major in the Nottinghamshire Militia but he did not achieve any further promotion probably on account of his liberal views. In 1774 he published *American Independence the Interest and Glory of Great Britain* in which he supported the arguments of the colonists and in 1776 *Take your Choice! Representation and respect; imposition and contempt. Annual Parliaments and liberty, long Parliaments and slavery* in which he argued for annual parliaments, universal suffrage and secret ballots. He remained active in arguing for constitutional reform to the end, only escaping the Peterloo massacre because he was late getting to Manchester.

An anonymous biography of him appeared in [The Heathen 1925 III\(3\)](#) pp. 46–47:

Born in 1740, Major Cartwright was one of the earliest and most honourable of English Parliamentary reformers. He was educated at Heath Grammar School, and at eighteen years of age entered the Navy. He took part in the capture of Cherbourg, and in the following year in the action between Sir Edward Hawke and Admiral Conflans. Engaged afterwards under Admiral Byron on the Newfoundland station, he was appoin-

ted as chief magistrate of the Settlement; and the duties of this position he discharged with exceptional uprightness and efficiency for five years, during which period he undertook explorations in the interior of the island and discovered Lieutenant's Lake. His health, however, broke down and necessitated his retirement from active service for a time in 1771.

During the early history of the disputes with the American colonies he perceived that the Colonists had right on their side, and warmly supported their cause. At the beginning of the war he was offered the appointment of First Lieutenant to the Duke of Cumberland, which would have put him on the path of certain promotion. But he resolutely refused to fight against the cause which he felt to be just, and thus nobly renounced the prospects of advancement in his profession. The year 1774 marks the publication of his first plea on behalf of the Colonists, entitled *American Independence the Glory and Interest of Great Britain*.

In the following year, when the Nottinghamshire Militia was first raised, he was appointed major, and in this capacity he served for seventeen years. He was at last superseded on account of his political opinions. In 1776 appeared his first work on Parliamentary reform, which, with the solitary exception of Earl Stanhope's pamphlets, seems to have been the earliest publication on the subject. Thenceforth he devoted his life chiefly to the attainment of universal suffrage and annual Parliaments. In 1778 he unsuccessfully contested the county elections of Nottinghamshire, and in the same year he conceived the project of a political association, which took shape in 1780 as the Society for Constitutional Information, and which included among its members some of the most distinguished men of the day. From this organisation sprang the more famous Corresponding Society. Major Cartwright worked assiduously for the promotion of Parliamentary reform; published several pamphlets; carried on a very extensive correspondence, and attended a host of political meetings.

He was included in the witnesses at the trial of his confreres, Horne Tooke, Thelwall, and Hardy in 1794, and was himself arraigned for conspiracy in 1819. He was found guilty, and condemned to pay a fine of £100. He took up his abode in London, and there spent the last years of his

life. He was warmly loved by all who knew him intimately; for while outsiders looked chiefly at his inflexibility of political principle, and styled him the Father of Parliamentary Reform, personal friends saw his unfaltering integrity, his gentleheartedness, his warm affections, his unfailing courtesy, and Spartan simplicity of life. His health waned in 1822, and his unconquerable spirit, was greatly depressed at the same time by public sorrows and private bereavements. The reverses in Spain, occurring simultaneously with the illness of a sister and the death of his brother conspired to snuff out a feebly flickering flame, and his death occurred in 1824.

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

This is an update of the 2019 obituary to take account of new material which has become available recently.

Ernest Faber Fookes was born on 31 May 1874 in Waverley, Taranaki, New Zealand, the fifth child of Albert Cracroft Fookes (1839–1916) and Harriet Hirst (1839–1918), who had been born in Luddenden and emigrated to New Zealand with her father, Thomas Hirst JP (1805–1883), in 1851.

Though his first name was Ernest, he was always known as Faber; he travelled to England in 1889, living in Midgley with his great aunt, Elizabeth Bracken, and attending Heath Grammar School from 1890 to 1892, paying his way as a clerk in a paper mills and playing in the [Rugby First XV](#). In 1892 he entered Owens College in Manchester to study medicine, qualifying as a doctor in 1899.

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

[The Heathen 1929 VII\(1\) p. 4](#), in a piece about Harry Wilkinson [Heath 1919–1927] being the second Heath Old Boy to gain an England cap after Faber Fookes, mentions that the Heath Old Boys Club had a farewell dinner for Faber Fookes on 3 November 1900 to mark his return to New Zealand.

He returned to New Zealand, becoming a medical practitioner at 41 Courtney Street, New Plymouth.² On 11 February 1902, he married Evelyn McLeod Farrington, who had been born in 1872 in Fyrabad, Oude, India, in St Mary's Church, New Plymouth but she died on 19

February 1903, nine days after giving birth to twins, one of whom died at birth, the other being Evelyn Grace Farrington (1903–1977).

On 7 March 1905, he married Winifred Laura Capel (?1876–1927), daughter of Captain Sydney Augustus Berkeley Capel, at St Mary's Church, New Plymouth and they had four children, Sydney (1906–1983), Kenneth (1907–1984), Harold (1909–1972) and Ernestine Emily (1912–2006). All three sons became rugby players in New Zealand.

He became first president of New Plymouth Old Boys cricket club and continued to play rugby, representing Taranaki. He was nominated for the 1905 All Blacks trials but announced his unavailability possibly because of work commitments and his recent marriage. In 1933 he was President of Taranaki Rugby Union. He died in New Plymouth on 3 March 1948 and is buried at [Te Henui Cemetery](#).

Thanks to Laraine Sole whose article on page 4 of the April 2026 edition of [Patea & Waverley Press](#) mentions his use of Faber rather than Ernest and throws light on his life in New Zealand.

1. *Wanganui Chronicle* XXIX(12287) 3 December 1897
2. [Calderdale Companion](#).

Henry Fleet: 12 December 1895–1 October 1968 [Heath 1941–1960]

Henry Fleet was born on 12 December 1895 in Arnold, Nottingham to James Fleet. By the time Henry entered St Catherine's College, Cambridge the family had moved to 'Glenthorne', Woodthorpe Avenue — described today as a 'four to five bedroom family house' — in the suburb of Sherwood. He went to Nottingham High School and University College, Nottingham — which was then a senior school, not a degree awarding institution.

He was 18 when World War I broke out but, according to the Imperial War Museum, he did not enlist until 1918 when, from 1 January 1918–31 December 1919, he is listed as serving as a general administrator in the Air Ministry: Department of the Master-General of Personnel: Officers' Service Records. It seems that the Heath Grammar School story that he had served in the Royal Flying Corps, which became part of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918, relates to his appointment as a general administrator in January 1918.

Whatever the case, he was released from these duties to attend St Catherine's College, Cambridge, matriculating on 22 October 1919. Initially he studied Chemistry but switched to Geography receiving his BA in 1922 and claiming his MA in 1927.

By his third year he was representing the college in association football, perhaps giving some credence to the

story that he had played on the wing as an amateur for Notts County.

At some point he did a doctorate but we have no information on when or where. However, the Editor recalls being told that he was associated with the discovery of a particular geological formation in Wales. So perhaps that was the subject of his doctoral thesis.

We have no further information until he joins Heath Grammar School in 1941 but he may have become a preparatory school teacher and this may have led him to apply for the temporary appointment to the Junior School in September 1941 to replace James Chisholm who had been given leave of absence for the duration of the war. When James Chisholm did not return, he was given a permanent post in 1947.

Andy Connell [Heath 1958–1965] writes:

I remember him as kindly and diminutive; he was unmarried and a heavy smoker, living in lodgings. At Heath he taught only first, second and third forms — Geography, Maths and Science. He retired in 1960.

On retirement he moved back to Nottingham, living at 2 Conway Gardens, Arnold where he died on 1 October 1968.

Thank you to **Andy Connell** for doing the spadework, to the **Archivist** at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, who provided the details of his time at St Catherine's and the illustrations and to **Chris Tidswell** [Heath 1967–1972] who provided the information about his retirement and death.

Walter Ronald Swale: 28 July 1904–1993 [Headmaster 1946–1971]

Walter Ronald Swale died on 21st March 1993; a Thanksgiving Service for his life was held at Heath United Reformed Church, Halifax on Friday 26th March 1993. Karen Phillips, daughter of Michael Roper [Heath 1943–1951], has kindly sent us a copy of the tribute to W. R. Swale written by Stephen Fearnley [Heath 1931–1936] and delivered during that service.

Tribute to the Life of Walter Ronald Swale, TD MA

There are many of us here this afternoon ... and we come from a diversity of associations ... but with a single purpose.

That fact alone would attest to the personal qualities of our old and dear friend, Ron Swale.

But some words need to be added to justify his life and works.

Ron was a Freeman of the City of London.

He grew up with Unitarian parents but soon became attracted to the traditional faith of



Figure 5: *St Catherine's College, Cambridge, 1919 Freshers: Henry Fleet is third from the left in the back row*



Figure 6: *St Catherine's College, Cambridge, 1921-22 Football team: Henry Fleet is sitting crosslegged on the left*

a Congregationalist. In his formative years as a young teacher in Birmingham he was a regular attender at the Carrs Lane Church whose Minister was that great preacher and teacher, the Rev. Doctor Sidney Berry.

When war threatened in 1938 he joined the Territorial Army in the ranks. He was commissioned in 1939 and there followed a distinguished war service. Mentioned in Dispatches, he finished the War as a Lt. Colonel Staff officer. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Ron could have gone on to a Military life with the Allied Occupation Forces but he chose to return to his vocation of Teaching.

This decision led him to Heath Grammar School in 1946 as its Head Master in succession to Douglas Smith. At Heath he was a brilliant Head, sustaining and furthering the School's fine record of scholarship in all disciplines, relishing its successes at Rugby Football (especially 7-a-sides) and achieving remarkable levels of competence in its Dramatic Society productions with many memorable performances.

He was good at delegation and was supported by an outstanding staff — devoted and loyal — many of very long standing.

Year after year, he told parents of new entrants to the School that his watchword was a liberal education. 'Liberal with a small I,' he would say, and to be interpreted as a general broadening of the mind, generous and open-handed. 'In that sense,' he said, 'it is a Free Grammar School.'

And he added to all this, a fine record of public service. A founder member of the Halifax Film Club, an energetic 41-Club member. He became a member of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee and then Chairman of the Royal Halifax Infirmary House Committee where he was held in high esteem for many years. He gave 23 years of service to these hospital duties.

In 1959, supported by the then Vicar of Halifax, Eric Treacy, and by mustering skilled assistance he helped to form the Halifax Marriage Guidance Council, becoming its first Chairman — a position he held for many years.

In all these important endeavours he was known for his loyalty, his powers of persuasion, his supportiveness under all circumstances.

In 1959 he suffered the tragic loss of his wife Lucy and he bore this deep sadness

with dignity and great fortitude. He loved his family and as it became more and more an extended family he took care to keep in touch, displaying obvious delight in all its doings.

Ron was, above all, a man of faith. He believed that the Christian life was further sustained by Literature, by Poetry and by the English Language itself. He was devoted to the language of the King James Bible.

We have discussed together so many readings in recent times — readings dear to his heart, maintaining his faith in life — so to select just one is an almost daunting task.

But I know that one short reading moved him more than any other. It's found towards the end of *The Tempest*.

And so I share with you — Ron's family and all his good friends here this afternoon — in his memory — these words, spoken by Prospero:—

... be cheerful, Sir,
Our revels now are ended.
These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits,
And are melted into thin air:
And like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud capp'd towers, the gorgeous
palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on: and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.

Stephen Fearnley [Heath 1931–1936]

His life

Apart from what is in the Tribute, we have a short summary of his life from the [November 1998 Newsletter](#) and some detective work undertaken by Richard Taylor [Heath 1969–1976]:

He attended Birmingham University and, in 1925, he had a student placement at King Edward VI School in Birmingham, presumably as part of teacher training, and was appointed in 1931 to succeed the English master on his retirement. Richard Taylor found an image of him probably from soon after this in a [King Edward VI Grammar School](#) photo. Select the one in the bottom row labelled 'Five Ways' and double click on it to see the whole photo. There is an option to enlarge the size of the photo. He is seated towards the left of the row of masters.

As noted above, he spent most of World War II away from the school and chose to apply for the post at Heath Grammar School not long after his return from active service. There is a fulsome tribute to him on pp. 7–8 of the July 1946 edition of *The Five Ways Magazine* mentioning, among other things, his work as a teacher, in the Dramatic Society and in the Library, his strenuous walking holidays and cycle trips and his Army service during the War.

The Five Ways Magazine

Reading through *The Five Ways Magazine*, we get a picture of W. R. Swale somewhat different from the one we saw at Heath. The first mention comes in No. 28 Summer 1926 when, as a student teacher, he is credited with producing *School for Scandal* by Sheridan along with others.

Following his arrival at King Edward VI Grammar School in 1931, he is credited with being involved in the production of *Julius Caesar in Britain*, an Operetta in 3 Acts (1932), the Christmas Entertainment (1932), *The Taming of the Shrew* (no date), *The Rivals* (1935), a School Entertainment (1936), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1937), *King Henry the Fourth, Part I* (1938) and *The Mikado* (1939)

in the traditional Savoy manner; complete with a fine make-up, a commanding presence, a sardonic smile that would not come off, an unusual dexterity in the manipulation of his expressive fan, the sinister gloating with which he desired to make the punishment fit the crime, he portrayed the pseudo-philanthropic monarch to the life,

a performance which was being recalled in 1998.

The last mention of his involvement in dramatics comes in 1945:

Last September one or two very amusing evenings were spent in dramatic exercises, in which boys learnt to eat imaginary meals (a useful knack in these days), put on imaginary coats and answer imaginary telephones. These were continued by Mr Swale in his acting classes.

Following his departure a 'Swale' Prize for work with the Dramatic Society was established.

On his arrival he also took over responsibility for the library. Over the Summer Term of 1933 he arranged for many books not in circulation to be re-bound. On his departure it was said, 'He re-created the Library.'

He quickly became involved with the Literary and Debating Society for which he organised mock trials (1931, 1933, 1934), lectures on hypnotism (1933, 1938) and a lantern lectures (1933: 'Shakespeare and two of his plays').

Issue No. 49 Summer 1933 offers congratulations on his obtaining his M.A. Degree from Birmingham University.

He also became involved with the Photographic Society, giving lectures on 'How to use your camera' (1933), lantern slide making (1937) and another with no title (1938).

When the Gramophone Society was formed in 1934 he gave the first lecture.

In 1934 he was involved in the first of many walking tours, this one to Shropshire and Wales and the following year to Denmark. In 1938 the tour was nicknamed 'Round Ulster as the fly crawls.' To this he added cycling tours, to the Netherlands in 1936 and to Denmark in 1937.

In 1935 he became involved with the Fencing Club and in 1937, in a match with the Lucas Club, the report says;

This time we presented teams of five and included for the first time a master, Mr Swale, who had been an ardent member of the club for nearly three years. We completely turned the tables in this match and won quite comfortably.

However, in the Autumn of 1938, the club reports that 'Mr Fletcher and Mr Swale have been unable to attend owing to the rehearsals of the 'Mikado.'

In 1936 he took a small party of Community Service Corps members to the Council House to attend the meeting of the City Council and to hear a debate on Birmingham's housing problem.

However, perhaps the most significant involvement was with the League of Nations Union Junior Branch. He had become Secretary of the Birmingham and District Branch of the League of Nations Union in 1932 and for the Junior Branch organised exhibitions (1934, 1937), a debate with Holly Lodge High School, Smethwick (1935), a discussion at George Dixon's Secondary School on 'Causes of War' (1937), a lecture on the advantages of foreign travel abroad:

1. One makes new and foreign acquaintances and is so able to foster international co-operation;
2. One appreciates the change;
3. One can use one's knowledge of languages (and 'language');
4. One sees places, people and things of historical and other interest (1937) and

a lecture on the 'The Danish-German Problem' (1938) in which

Mr Swale expressed his sympathy with the Danes whom he described as a peace-loving, friendly nation, with an army, navy, and air force which were mere toys by the side of the German war machine.

A report in the Summer of 1937 states that

Mr Swale, our assistant House Master, and C. B. Benson, Secretary of the L.N.U. Junior Branch, have done much to keep the movement in front of the School at a time when opposition and criticisms have been forthcoming.

However, by 1939 the League of Nations Union Junior Branch had been superseded by the Foreign Affairs Society at whose first meeting on February 15th Mr Swale opened the debate proposing that 'This Society prefers Democracy to Dictatorship.' A fortnight later he gave a lantern lecture, entitled 'Foreign Youth Hostels,' saying that

in his opinion the finest way to promote co-operation and friendship amongst the young people of Europe was by means of the various Youth Hostel Associations.

By Christmas 1939 Mr Swale had enlisted and sent in a report on the four members of staff who had joined the 34th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Company of the R.A.S.C. stationed at Smethwick. A separate note mentioned that

A self-willed car, in the care of Lieutenant Swale, violently assaulted a traffic island some time ago. The car, for its folly, suffered some damage but Mr Swale luckily escaped from his ordeal unharmed ... We learn, however, that Mr Swale does not care to discuss this in the concrete.

By Spring 1940 he had been appointed Brigade Supply Officer; by the summer he had, beginning as a Second Lieutenant and rising to Lieutenant, now become a Captain.+

Issue No. 75 Spring 1943 reported: 'Staff Capt. W. R. Swale has been leading physical activities compared with which his pre-war hikes over wild crags in Northern Ireland pale into insignificance.'

In 1945 he was Mentioned in Dispatches. The tributes to him on his departure in 1946 mentions that 'As a Staff Officer he worked tirelessly for months to help plan D-Day and, that successfully achieved, he was seconded to the Army Education Corps, where he was 2nd i/c of the Education of the B.L.A. At the same time he seems to have visited every town in Liberated Europe.'

Much later in November 1983, the King Edward VI Grammar School Newsletter reports:

He could not come to the dinner as he says that he will be in Kent in Mid-October. He still, at 79, goes walking over the hills and says that his cataract is moving about as fast as a Swiss glacier. His 'eye-man' says he'll operate 'when he's older!' He can still read and watch T.V. in tolerable comfort and has a cast-iron excuse for not recognising people encountered in the street.

Same old Ron!

In the January 1989 Newsletter we hear that:

These days Mr Swale admits to being 'feeble of foot and rheumatic of shoulder.' He is recovering from an eye operation and trying to cultivate patience. 'Difficult,' he says, at eighty four.

Finally, a bit of humour in the July 1996 Newsletter when Trevor W. B. Cull [1924–32] remembers Mr Swale arriving in 1932:

I remember him asking 5A 'Why do you think Coleridge did not finish Kubla Khan?' There was complete silence; whereupon Mr Swale said, 'The gas man called to read the meter.'

He also gave an amusing talk:

about Wordsworth getting up tight about his sister having an affair with a junkie called Coleridge.

John Anthony Wilson: 16 July 1938–7 October 2013 [Heath 1949–1957]

Dr John Wilson, retired George Wills Senior Research Fellow in Physics, died on 7 October 2013 after a short bout of intense illness, following prostate cancer with which he battled from 2001.

John Wilson was born in Halifax in Calderdale, West Yorkshire and went to school there. After studying at Heath Grammar School, John obtained a State Scholarship and Open Exhibition to St Catherine's College, Cambridge, entering in 1957. He graduated four years later with a degree in Natural Sciences with Chemical Physics.

John was the only person to follow this mixed course and the particular combination of subjects was to provide an ideal base for him to develop his subsequent academic career. John's field was Solid State Physics, informed by a strong element of inorganic/solid state chemistry.

Initially John followed Pat, his wife-to-be, to London University where he acquired a PGCE from the Institute of Education, before taking up a teaching appointment at Kings College School, Wimbledon. In 1964 John returned to the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge to start a PhD within the Physics and Chemistry of Solids units under a redoubtable trio of Australians, namely Professors Bowden, Tabor and his immediate supervisor, Dr A. D. Yoffe.

During this early part of his career, John made two ground-breaking discoveries in the study of phase transitions in AX₂ binary systems: charge density waves in layered dichalcogenides and the Mott (metal-insulator) transition in nickel pyrites. In the late 1960s, and still in Cambridge, John noted anomalies in his diffraction, electrical transport and optical data on TaS₂.

Later, in 1972, when he took up a permanent research post at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey, John showed that his observations were indeed the first experimental manifestations of charge density waves. His two review articles on this topic, published in the journal *Advances in Physics*, have been cited over 1,000 times and, for many, John is regarded as the father of the charge density wave phenomenon, a major sub-field of condensed matter physics and one that continues to generate worldwide interest.

A clear manifestation of the Mott transition was first discovered in 1970 in Cr-doped V2O3 by McWhan and co-workers at Bell. Two years later, John discovered the Mott transition in NiS2, an insulator that can be brought to electron delocalization (forming a metal) either by increasing pressure or by substitution of S, without any accompanying symmetry change.

NiS2 is now recognised as an ideal (text-book) system for revealing phenomena associated with the Mott transition and John's legacy features heavily in Mott's famous book *Metal-Insulator Transitions*, 2nd edition (1990).

John returned to the UK in 1979, when he was awarded a Royal Society Senior Research Fellowship at Bristol. In the years that followed, John produced an influential body of work in the area of charge density waves, including other notable discoveries such as discommensurations and the excitonic insulating state.

In the last two decades, John's sphere of interest migrated towards understanding high temperature superconductivity. This is a controversial field; the jury is still out regarding what the underlying physics is that gives rise to the rich phenomena that are observed. John was a vociferous advocate of the, so-called, negative-U scenario.

John's unrivalled grounding in both physics and chemistry gave him a unique perspective on condensed matter research. He was respected by his colleagues, not only for his exceptionally deep understanding of the phenomenon of charge density wave formation, but also for his encyclopaedic knowledge of materials and their physical/chemical properties.

His insistence that the physics of an individual compound could be of such complexity that understanding its behaviour might require knowledge of all facets of the material, not just a selected few, was often lost on those physicists who sought a more generic explanation. Nevertheless, John persevered and over time, proved to be a great source of information and inspiration to his more junior colleagues.

His singular devotion to his negative-U picture of high temperature superconductivity may not have won him many direct followers, but his energy in pursuing the theme certainly earned him admirers and, in time, his contributions to this iconic field might well add to his already substantial legacy.

In 1998, John received a ScD Cantab for his long-term contributions to highly correlated materials research. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and of the American Institute of Physics.

Professors **Nigel Hussey** and **Stephen Hayden**

Thanks to **Allen Clegg** [Heath 1949–1956] for drawing our attention to this tribute to John Wilson.

James Stephen Donohue: 9 July 1943–4 January 2024 [Heath 1954–1961]

James Stephen Donohue, known as Steve, was born on 9 July 1943 to J. Donohue of 6 Devon Street, Parkinson Lane. On leaving Heath, he went on to study medicine at Leeds University and spent most of his career as a GP in Beverley.

A loving husband, father, grandpa and brother, he passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, 4th January 2024 aged 80 years. A service of thanksgiving for his life was held at St Marys Church, Beverley on Monday 29th January at 12.30pm. Donations much appreciated for the Alzheimer's Society.

With thanks to **Catherine Donohue**

Christopher John Burnett 25 September 1964–6 March 2025 [Heath 1976–1983]

Chris Burnett was born on 25 September 1964 and lived at 7 Craven Terrace, Hopwood Lane when he was admitted to Heath. He went on to university, after which he joined the West Yorkshire Police based at Todmorden. He then progressed onto the Diving Unit and later worked as patrol officer at Killingbeck, Leeds. He served for 31 years in the police and then worked for Wakefield Council in the licencing department.

He lost his battle with depression and passed away on 6 March 2025.

With thanks to **Neil Skelton** for sharing this.

Brandon Shackleton: 5 November 1940–22 August 2025 [Heath 1952–1957]

Brandon Shackleton passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Leeds General Infirmary on 22 August 2025, aged 84 years. Dearly beloved husband and best friend of Susan, devoted father of Guy, special father-in-law of Karen, cherished grandad of Freya and Erin, a loving brother to Rodger, the late Brenda and brother-in-law, a caring uncle and a good friend to many.

A celebration of his life was held on Thursday, 11 September 2025 at 10:45am at St. Jude's Church, Hal-

ifax, followed by the committal at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland. In lieu of flowers, Brandon's chosen charity was [Yorkshire Air Ambulance](#).



Brandon Shackleton

His son, Guy, paid tribute:

We are all here today to celebrate the life of Brandon Shackleton, a true gentleman. He was born on Bonfire Night, the 5th November, in 1940 to Ronnie and Evelyn. The middle child — his elder sister was Brenda and Rodger was his younger brother — and there were seven years between each of them. The Shackletons had a farm and a haulage business; so from the beginning, wheels were always a significant part of his life. As a child, his dad nicknamed him 'Nimrod' — hence the piece of music Dad came in to today.

Dad's childhood saw him attend Southowram Junior School before moving to Holy Trinity aged nine to improve his chances of passing the 11 Plus exam, which he did, to attend Heath Grammar school.

As a teenager, he was a budding musician and rockstar! ... in a band called 4Square — it was a skiffle band ... and he played — the washboard!

He was also in the Boys' Brigade which led to the habit of always having a razor sharp pen knife in his pocket, a habit which stuck with him in the police force and beyond. He also spent many happy hours cycling and camping with his mates; they thought

nothing of pedalling to Lincoln ... a mere 90 miles away — in a day!

Dad was one of the first three police cadets in Halifax, joining at just 17 years old. His 30-year career saw him spend time in Brighouse, Halifax, Todmorden, Sowerby Bridge, Hebden Bridge and Bradford. He served as a 'Bobby' on the beat, in traffic, leading the collators office, training at Headquarters and rising through the ranks to inspector.

Later in his career, he served as the community liaison officer, where he did much to build positive relationships within the local community, including giving anti-drug talks in schools and taking fingerprints of excited kids who visited the police station. He even had a PR function in the Halifax police and was the conduit to the Royal Household when King Charles — then Prince Charles — came to Halifax.

He had an incredible memory for stories from his time in the force, including former colleague's collar numbers and car registrations from decades past. There's a story about a new inspector who, trying to catch him out for some reason with an eye-sight test, pointed to a car in the distance. Dad not only gave him the registration ... but also the name of the owner ... who happened to be a local villain!

I remember being in a supermarket in Brighouse one day, when he saw a lady down the aisle getting her bread; suddenly he turned on his heel and disappeared. When I caught up with him and asked him why, he simply replied, 'Hmm, last week, I arrested her!'

Dad was very proud of his Police career and was a member of the National Association of Retired Police Officers. On notice of his death, common themes from the social media comments of his former colleagues was that he was a real gentleman, fair, and a great boss. He retired from the police aged just 47! and then went on to work at Polar Motor Company in internal systems auditing and then at McLarens Topliss/Capita in the claims department before finally retiring.

Dad had a wide range of passions and interests. His love for cars and anything that went fast — like the motorbikes he had as a young man — never faded. He was always known to 'make progress,' but he was a police-trained advanced driver. His speed and skill behind the wheel once saved the

life of a friend, who needed to get to the hospital in less time than the ambulance could reach him. His love for cars was passed on to me, and a toy car he gave me led to one of my first words being ‘Lamborghini!’ He was also the President of the Halifax Motor Club, organising rallies and treasure hunts. Dad took his first car, a Minivan racing — and, on a trip to Italy in his Cortina GT, he knew the clutch was on the way out ... when it finally went, he pulled over and simply changed it at the roadside! Even in his 80s his car was a BMW M35i, and he was known to really enjoy its performance.

His passion for motorsport included the speedway in Halifax, going to the Le Mans 24hour race several times with my ‘Uncle Paul,’ including with me twice ... and in contrast with dawn in a damp, Dalby forest, watching the Lombard RAC rally with Uncle Rodger, his nephew Neil and I, we both delighted in being at the Monaco Grand Prix on the day of my 21st birthday — although in true Dad style, he found the glamour and wealth somewhat ostentatious! Much more recently, he and I thoroughly enjoyed a trip to watch the British Touring cars at Oulton Park.

Dad relished his holidays and travelling — whether as a family caravanning, or with Mum, and sometimes with good friends. They had many trips around Europe and The Canary Isles, plus motoring holidays, and cruises to the Baltics, Fjords, Mediterranean and Caribbean — and he had some wonderful memories from the West Coast of America ... I always said he and Mum had more trips than Judith Calmers!

When I was a youngster, I recall Dad attending confirmation classes here at St. Jude’s and, since that time over 49 years ago, he has been an active member of this congregation, including as a sidesman and even taking part in the Passiontide Play dressed as a Roman soldier. A regular and willing volunteer for church fundraising activities, he and Mum worked on the Bash the Rat and Tombola stands at the Christmas fairs for many, many years, Dad drumming up trade with an incredibly loud klaxon horn from a 1920s Bentley.

Music was another real interest, started from his early skiffle band days. His record collection was eclectic, ranging from jazz like Aker Bilk who we’ll hear at the crematorium, classical such as Rachmaninov’s piano concertos, plus brass and military

bands, to rock — including Queen and Status Quo. He also had a passion for photography and was a member of the Police photographic club in Brighouse, where I spent many an hour with him in the darkroom — developing and adjusting photos before Photoshop was even thought of.

Dad was a member and two-time Chairman of the ‘Coiners Wine Circle’ in Mytholmroyd. In recent years, he gave up wine and alcohol, because his doctor said it might improve the effectiveness of his medication. If it meant he got more time with his devoted ‘Sue,’ then so be it.

For 18 years, Dad was a very well-liked and respected member of the Stafford Bowling Club here in Skircoat Green, serving as President from 2021 to 2022. He won the President’s Cup, Rosebowl and mixed pairs with Mum, doing so with pride, but also a quiet and humble modesty. Even when he wasn’t well, just before he passed away, he was determined to attend the club’s 15-yearly photo in July. He was so looking forward to it and looked splendid and smart, as he always did — the front cover photo on your order of Service is him that day — proudly wearing his Stafford Club tie and International Police Association lapel badge. He told Mum he had had a wonderful time — it is so very fitting that was Dad’s final public activity before he went into hospital that final time.

Dad was the definition of a loving husband, dad, brother, uncle, father in law and grandad — a real ‘family man.’ He met his wife, Susan — or ‘My Sue,’ as he called her — over 50 years ago. Their first date started with him being late! Mum said ‘you’re lucky — I nearly went home!’ but it was well worth the wait for the ensuing years of closeness, affection and true love — leading to them enjoying their Golden Wedding Anniversary as much in love as when they were getting married. In Leeds hospital recently, as he was drifting in and out of consciousness, he saw Mum who was at his bedside, and with his blue eyes lighting up and a broad smile on his lips, he looked at her fondly and managed to say, ‘I love you!’ In recent months, whenever he and I spoke, he would invariably refer to mum as ‘my rock.’

He absolutely adored his granddaughters, Freya and Erin, calling them ‘my treasures’ — and they were always a huge tonic for him. He thought his daughter-in-law, Karen my wife, was wonderful. Clearly, he

was a great judge of character! He also was a special part of the lives of his brother Rodger and his late sister Brenda, and a loving uncle to Neil, Julie and Susan — and ‘Uncle Brandon’ to many more.

And of course, he was a fantastic dad. I simply could not have asked for better! He was a first-class role model, and I remain immensely proud of him, the full life he lived, and everything he stood for. If, when I sign off, I have been half the man he was, I’ll have done OK!

Dad was fun to be around and always made people smile with his quick wit and humour and self-deprecating nature. Neighbours would find him ready to have a chat while he was gardening, nacking something in the garage or washing the car. The hospital staff, who we thank for caring so lovingly for Dad, doing everything they could for him in his last weeks, said, ‘he always had a smile for us and Brandon would really make our day.’

Underneath his calm and controlled exterior, Dad had an inner strength and resilience that’s an example to us all. Twice during the pandemic he was in hospital with COVID, and in the last few years also survived a heart attack, endocarditis, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, a heart valve replacement, and had two pacemakers fitted. Even in his final days, his vital signs meant his medical team said ‘he was a real trooper and a courageous fighter, right to the very end.’

Dad was a considerate soul, principled, and a giver, not a taker. A hard worker, loyal, honest, dependable — generous in spirit and with his time and help for anyone who needed it . . . a good friend and a good man.

He was a fantastic, genuine human being and to repeat for emphasis — a great role model for me — and others — respected and very well liked by so, so many. The evidence of that is all of you who have turned up today and the huge number of cards, messages and floral tributes Mum’s received — thank you — they mean so much to mum and I — as does all the love and support Mum has received from family, friends and neighbours whilst Dad was ill and since he died. There are too many of you to mention individually, but you know who you are. Mum and I are forever grateful and our sincerest of thanks.

Before I finish, I want you to take a moment to pause and reflect on what Brandon

meant to you and the man he was — what stands out to you? Think of a memory of him that will make you smile — as I said at the start, we’re here to celebrate his life.

Dad, you were always loved, and you will be forever missed. But the memories of the full and fulfilling life you lived, and the gentleman you were, will always give us comfort and cause us to smile.

Thank you, Dad. Love you!

Guy Shackleton

Brian Crowther: 28 August 1943–30 July 2025 [Heath 1954–1959]

Brian Crowther died peacefully on 30 July 2025, aged 81. Devoted husband of Heather, loving and caring dad of Adam and Victoria, also a precious granddad, brother of Eric and friend of many.

The funeral service was held at Park Wood Crematorium on 21st August 2025. Donations may be made to the [Alzheimer’s Society](#).

Kenneth Wilson Cully: 28 December 1942–17 September 2025 [Heath 1954–1961]

Kenneth Wilson Cully passed away at his home on 17th September 2025, aged 82 years. Beloved father to Sam and Sarah. Grandad to Megan, Alicia, Taryn, Alex, Emily and Elliot. Great Grandad to Beau, Tillie, Winnie, Tucker and River and friend to many.

The funeral service at took place at Octon Crematorium on Friday 10th October 2025 followed by a gathering at the Bosville Arms Pub in Rudston. Any donations to the [British Heart Foundation](#).

Eulogy

Ken was born in Halifax on 28th December 1942 to parents Gertrude and Fredrick. Up until the age of thirteen, he lived with his parents in a late Georgian mansion called Woodside Hall where he was surrounded by an extended family of grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousins.

Ken was an only child; however his childhood in the forties and fifties were far from quiet or lonely. His friends, some known from being toddlers, were an important part of his life. His best friend,

soul mate and 'blood brother' Keith Ormerod lived next door to his lifelong friend Chris Fernyhough (Ken and Chris lost touch when seven years old due to moving). Cousin Pete also lived at Woodside Hall with Ken.

Back then, as young boys, times were simpler, yet rich with the kind of freedom that modern childhoods rarely taste. Ken spoke of those carefree years where there was always the promise of excitement around the next corner and that he never knew what adventures the coming day may bring.

They learned loyalty, resilience and the value of laughter from those early days. Even decades later, when sat together, their stories would often begin with, 'Remember when . . .?' They had the kind of friendships that don't just survive time — they define it. Those years formed who they were.

Ken with his parents were the first family to move into 183 Mixenden Road in 1956 when he was a young teenager. He described 'Mixy' as a great place to grow up and was very proud to be a 'Mixy kid.'

When fourteen years old Ken's father sadly passed away. Ken spoke about how lucky he was to have such kind and loving parents.

Ken, a clever lad, saw his secondary school years at Heath Grammar School for boys. He passed English, Maths, British History, RE and Latin and was awarded advanced levels in subjects French and German.

It was at Heath that Ken met another lifelong friend Rod Eastwood [Heath 1954–1961]; they went through school together and stayed in touch following them leaving school.

Rod shared that Ken started a football team, which he captained, called Royleshead Wanderers. Rod taught overseas for a few years and recalled that, when back in Halifax, he saw Ken playing at a folk club in the Royal Oak in Halifax — this was 1969; he said their friendship took off again from there and they then both went around the folk clubs together. Rod said in recent years he and Ken spoke frequently on the phone and Ken used to send him the Rudston Newsletter. So Rod knows Rudston as much as he knows Halifax. Rod described Ken as a faithful friend and will miss him.

When Ken was 17½ he answered an advertisement to audition in a band. He didn't know it at that time, but it was his old

friend Chris Fernyhough who placed the ad. The band was formed 'Tina and the Minute Men.' Their first gig was held at a Valentines dance at Ovenden Secondary School. Ken spoke of having to walk back to Mixenden that night in two metres of snow, carrying his guitar and amplifier, whilst wearing his winkle pickers.

Ken was a talented guitarist, songwriter and singer. He was a creative person. He kept his music going for his entire life, writing his own material. At family celebrations or just with friends he would get his guitar out and start jamming.

From 1963 to 1966 Ken studied at Bishop Otter College in Chichester, obtaining his teachers certificate. He shared digs with Neil Ferguson.

In 1966, Ken was appointed at Dean Field Junior School where he was initially in charge of a second-year class, and then a fourth-year class. His seniors described him as having 'an excellent relationship with the pupils' and that his 'teaching methods and class control were of a high standard.'

In April 1972, Ken was offered a deputy Head role at Stanningley Green Junior School and later acting Head. He loved working at this school and loved teaching the pupils. He told hundreds of stories about his time here, taking the kids to Scarborough beach where they all stripped off and ran into the sea, taking kids to Staithes in North Yorkshire, staying in hostels, playing rounders/cricket, teaching kids music and giving up his break times and getting his guitar out. He read Lord of the Rings to his class.

Ken often gave his pupils nick-names; many are still known as the names he gave them.

It was at Stanningley Green that he and fellow teacher Mike Muff formed P&P inc. They were aptly named 'captain crazy' and 'uncle mad.' Together this duo produced the school performances, which according to all that remember or were involved, were, literally hilarious. Ken had kept some of the scripts.

In 1980, the pupils performed *Snow White and the Five Dwarfs*. In scene 3, the queen didn't go to her mirror, but to her magic colour telly on the wall to ask who is the fairest of them all. The TV was broke she said, 'Darn it, this TV wont work,' and picked up the phone: 'Hello is this Wigfalls; this is the queen speaking; my telly doesn't

work; send a man to look at it immediately.’
!!

The script for *Aladdin* saw the market trader call, ‘Roll up, roll up, for the biggest bargain in nose warmers, this side of Hong Kong. No more red conks and dripping hooters. Only 25p each, or have some slightly soiled ones on offer for just 10p.’

One of Ken’s regrets is that there are no recordings of these shows. He spoke of how he would have loved to watch these productions again.

Ken met Pat in 1984; leaving Bridlington she, Sam (14) and Sarah (7) moved to Halifax, moving into his home on Woodlesford Crescent. This was Ken’s first time as a dad. It’s fair to say he was strict; however, he was also fun, kind, and patient. Sam recalls he did a great job in raising us and always told us he was proud of us. She also said she wouldn’t have got through her degree if it wasn’t for him proofreading all her work. Sam said it was difficult to pin point the significant memories as there were many, but she will remember Ken as always having time for her, which is a quality she does not take for granted.

Sarah will always remember that her dad was always supportive, loving and kind. Sarah legally took her dad’s name when she was 16 years old; it was a special day and she will cherish that memory.

Ken remained at Stanningley Green until 1991, when he retired at 48 years as acting Head. He’d had enough of the red tape; that had increased, making teaching in his style difficult to continue.

Ken moved to Bridlington in February 1999, initially living several months with Sam and Andy, before renting a Cottage on Nightingale Row, where he lived for a few years until he bought his cottage, Meadow View, in 2003.

Ken loved living in Rudston, walking every-day round the village; he especially loved walking up the track. He loved the peace and tranquility of village life.

He re-entered study and started researching the impact of living in a toxic environment. He was interested in ADHD and childhood vaccinations. He completed a thesis ‘The Influence of Dietary, Environmental, and Iatrogenic Factors on the Development of Symptoms Associated with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder’. He received a PhD degree in Science of Education in 2000.

Ken shone at being a Grandad. He named himself GDC (Grandad Cully).

Barry Herbert Seal: 28 October 1937–17 September 2025 [Heath 1948–1954]

Barry Herbert Seal passed away peacefully at home with his family on 17 September 2025, aged 87 years. He leaves behind his wife Frances, two children Catherine and Robert and two granddaughters Peggy and Ivie.

The funeral took place at 9.45am on Friday 10th October 2025 at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland; if desired, donations would be appreciated for [Alzheimer’s Research](#).

You can download the [Order of Service](#) which contains some tributes or the full text of the [tributes to Barry Seal](#) in PDF format.

Barry recorded his memories of Heath on the [audio-tape](#) compiled to celebrate 400 years since the granting of the charter.

In Tribute to Barry: Sarah Garg, Civil Celebrant

Barry was born in Halifax in 1937, the son of Herbert and Rose Seal. His early years were far from easy. His father left when Barry was young, but that experience — of resilience, independence, and growing up in a working-class household — helped shape the strong sense of fairness and justice that would later define his political life.

He was the second youngest of five children — with brothers John and Tommy, and sisters Mary and Margaret — all of whom he has now outlived.

It was a lively household; Barry would often recall stories of having to eat his dinner quickly, or risk having it snatched by one of his brothers! His sharp mind and determination earned him a scholarship to Heath Grammar School, a significant achievement at the time.

After National Service in the RAF, Barry trained as a chemical engineer with ICI, and went on to earn both a Master of Science and PhD in control engineering at the University of Bradford — remarkable milestones for someone from his background.

He worked with Murex, then as a senior engineer with BOC International, while also studying at the European Business School in Fontainebleau.

From 1971 to 1979, he served as Principal Lecturer in Systems at Huddersfield Polytechnic, inspiring a generation of students with his intellect and enthusiasm.

Barry's commitment to public service began at home in Yorkshire. He was elected to Bradford Council in 1971, becoming Leader of the Labour Group in 1976. When the first direct elections to the European Parliament were held in 1979, Barry stood for the Yorkshire West constituency, which included Bradford, Halifax and surrounding towns.

He won the seat by just 2,997 votes — a narrow victory over the Conservative Lord St. Oswald, who had even brought Harold Macmillan out of retirement to campaign against him! By 1994, Barry had increased that majority to nearly 49,000, a testament to the respect and trust he earned over two decades as an MEP for Labour.

Barry served in the European Parliament for 20 years, a period that saw profound change in Britain and Europe.

He was known as a tireless advocate for his region, securing European funding that helped transform landmarks such as Wardley House in Bradford, which became an IMAX cinema and student flats, and helping to restore the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford and the Square Chapel in Halifax.

After leaving the European Parliament, Barry continued his lifelong dedication to public service. He was a passionate supporter of the NHS, serving as Chairman of Kirklees Primary Care NHS Trust from 2002, then of the Bradford District Care Trust from 2007 to 2012.

From 2013 until 2021, he chaired Age UK Leeds, continuing to champion fairness, dignity, and community.

In 2000, Barry was honoured as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Calderdale — a fitting recognition of his lifelong service to the people of Yorkshire.

Barry was also, above all, a survivor.

He battled serious illnesses for many years, including chronic leukaemia and heart problems. Even during treatment at St James's Hospital in Leeds, where he took part in clinical trials, he kept his humour, his optimism, and his trademark determination.

Sadly, the illness developed into acute myeloid leukaemia in the final months of his

life, and Barry passed away on 17 September 2025, aged 87.

But Barry's life was far more than his work. He met Frances, the love of his life, when she worked at a library — and tried to impress her with his kit car. It clearly worked. They married in 1963 and shared 62 years together, a partnership filled with love, laughter, and mutual support.

Barry was also blessed with many close friendships — with Graham and Alida, Ann and Eddy, Max and Eileen, the late Alf Lomax MEP and his wife Chris, the late Tom Megahy MEP and his wife Jean, and his late personal assistant Ann Martin, who became a dear family friend.

Barry Seal lived a life of purpose — guided by principle, driven by curiosity, and sustained by love. He showed that no matter where you start, with determination, compassion, and courage, you can make a lasting difference.

He will be remembered not only for his achievements, but for his warmth, humour, and enthusiasm for life — one of life's great doers, thinkers, and believers in people.

But Barry was also a family man; says Cath: 'the one thing he would take with him from this world is my mum, he was a real fighter, surviving serious illness and many political battles. We are grateful that he died peacefully at home with his family and wonderful carers looking after him.'

But to tell us more about Barry the father, please welcome Rob

Dr Barry Seal — our Dad: Robert Seal

A big recollection of Dad when we were growing up was that he was always busy. He'd come home from work at precisely 5.40pm just in time for the news, he'd read the local papers the T&A and the Courier, wolfed down his tea and go straight back out to council or Labour party meetings.

We realised from an early age he wasn't a regular Dad — he had so much energy and was a real force.

I put him on a pedestal, not because he was in the public eye, I found that embarrassing, but because he seemed to know or could do everything.

He fit the central heating at home, he built a trailer tent that we camped in every year, he built all the foundations of our house

extension and he fit a replacement engine in his Triumph — he just seemed to know what to do, he was like super-Dad.

He was a strict though, we always had jobs to do, like washing up and washing his cars but that was typical of a child in the 70s. When I was 11 I really, I wanted a chopper bike for Christmas and he said if I washed up after every meal for six months there was a chance that Father Christmas might bring me one.

So, I did, and how he wound me up, right up to Christmas Eve — but to my relief Father Christmas delivered.

Our Dad was ultra-competitive whether it was running, chess, table tennis, or Monopoly. He'd turn everything into a competition which he always had to win.

'It's better to win and cheat a bit than play fair and lose,' he told me!

We loved our weekend trips to Queensbury to see family and particularly at Christmas when Dad, relaxed, bantering laughing and bickering with his family.

He also loved his cars, especially British cars, and because I'm also car mad, we had a real connection.

Some of our happiest childhood memories were driving and camping holidays.

One year we drove round Europe in his favourite Triumph Stag, towing his hand-built trailer-tent. The first stop was Germany to see family who sadly couldn't make it here today who are thinking of us — then Austria, and through Switzerland to buy a Tissot watch because he loved his watches and finally to Italy, our favourite place.

Cath and I squeezed into the back of the Stag singing along to Bob Dylan, Art Garfunkel, the Hollies, and Buddy Holly — over and over, tunes implanted in our brains, we knew every word and Dad.

We loved this family time together with Mum.

Our Dad was a tenacious man — which was both a good and a bad trait — it stood him well in his career where he persuaded people of his beliefs and battled to climb the political ladder.

However, it led him into many arguments, particularly when we were out socially in supermarket queues or trying to get entry into the VIP airport lounges — while we cringed in embarrassment, he just had to get his way.

In 1979, when Cath and I were teenagers, he was elected as a Euro MP which meant adjustments to our family life.

For 3-4 days a week, he was abroad in Brussels, Strasbourg or Luxembourg; so his time at home was rarer.

He was mixing with high-profile UK politicians and leaders from around the world. One day I came home from school to find Barbara Castle sleeping on the couch or he'd be meeting Tony Benn, Tony Blair, Neil Kinnock, Prince Charles, and even the Queen. At 17, Dad went into the RAF with a dream of flying planes — and that dream became a reality in later life.

After quickly realising flying to Europe every week was costing the parliament a small fortune, he decided to embark on his next venture and learnt to fly.

After hours of study and practice, he got his pilot licence and started to fly himself to meetings on a weekly basis.

But Dad being Dad, it didn't stop there — he joined two plane consortiums and managed to convince his family, friends and political colleagues to join him on flights. Anyone who's ever flown in a 4-seater Cessna plane will understand that they are particularly hairy.

Once with Mum as his passenger, after take-off, and thousands of feet up in the air, she realised her door was open.

'You're going to have to hold it shut, Frances' — so she did all the way back from Brussels.

He flew John Prescott and a terrified Euro MP Richard Balfe, abroad to Parliament.

On one occasion, he had a very close scrape when his wheels failed to come down on approaching Leeds Bradford airport, forcing him to crash land where luckily the fire service were ready and waiting, but to be honest he was quite chuffed about it because it made the local papers — any publicity was good publicity!

He really enjoyed his time in the European Parliament, chairing many committees — Cath went to live and work with him for four years in Brussels and often joined Dad and fellow Euro MPs Alf and Tom as they sought out the best champagne receptions. Mum and Dad enjoyed travelling round the world, on many delegation trips, but not in a Cessna flown by Dad.

At 62, he had a triple heart bypass and stood down as an MEP. This was a huge

life change for him and mum, which took a lot of adjusting to but helped him mellow. So how could he fill this extra time? Well, he decided 64 would be a good time to take his motorbike test and start horse-riding. But he wasn't satisfied just trotting along bridal paths — so he built a show jumping arena, set up a breeding laboratory and started to breed Dutch, warm-blood stallions and race horses.

This lasted for 10 years before taking up a more sedate hobby — bridge. But again, not content with just playing, he started negotiations to buy out the bridge club.

Covid times were a difficult period for our parents.

Dad had to come to terms with mum's having Alzheimer's and was wary of being in crowded places due to his own health problems and isolated a lot at home — as a result he lost a bit of his confidence.

But we still got together regularly for family gatherings and Cath and Andy frequently took Mum and Dad to the cinema, theatre, restaurants and trips to the seaside.

We refer to his 80s as his forgetful phase — particularly when we were out for meals and he'd was forever forgetting his pin number and blocking his credit card — we were never quite sure if this was his tactic to get out of paying.

Dad was 85 when I treated myself to an electric Porsche capable of 0-60 in 3.9 seconds. Still being his competitive self, a few days later, he called to tell me he was ordering a MG4 Xpower — just because it was a fraction of a second faster than mine.

Latterly, his routine centred around weekly doctor's and hospital visits; however, he never gave in — he was a fighter and fought right until the end.

His loss has left an enormous hole in our lives. Our parents were married for 62 years, and he was a constant in our lives. We knew we could always depend on him for help, support and advice, no matter what.

He lived his life to the full and made sure Mum, Cath and I were safe and secure.

We received a message from a close friend of Dad's who said: 'He was a special man who made a difference to many people - truly a life well lived.'

If there's one word, I'd use to sum up our Dad, it's impressive. He was an impressive man who lived an impressive life.

Mum, Cath and I are proud of him, proud of what he achieved in his life, and proud to be his family.

Barry the friend: Graeme Sunderland

I started writing this, hoping to capture something of Barry through a small number of the very many memories of him that we all hold.

Whilst it's over 45 years or so since we first met, it's really in the last two decades we became firm friends.

I think it was 2007 when Barry joined our illustrious walking group, KOCAS (Kirklees Old Codgers Ambling Society). Barry was a regular walker each Tuesday until relatively recently, when it became too challenging for him.

Towards the back end, to avoid giving up walking, he devised a system of getting up hills. A sort of hiker's Stannah chair lift. Oscar, a large and powerful retriever, would literally tow him up hills rather like a sled dog. In this way, he would often reach the top before the rest of us. And he liked to be in a gold medal position.

Our relationship with Barry was based very much on humour, banter and political discourse.

Barry and Frances became very much a part of our wider friendship group, enjoying trips out and events together. Barry enjoyed good food and good wine, and eight of us would go together somewhere interesting for dinner. We rather pretentiously called it the Fine Dining Club, but we had some good nights out.

Barry was a Yorkshire man through and through who had achieved a master's degree in what we call 'the philosophy of being careful.' He was a good teacher and I confess I learnt a lot from him.

One illustrative incident was at a cafe in Istanbul. Barry had somewhat unexpectedly volunteered to pay for the drinks of tea. He went off and disappeared in his search for the cash desk. Suddenly rising above the general hubbub, Barry's disembodied voice rang out around the place — 'how much?'

Now there's a true Yorkshireman.

You may not know that Barry promised me a valuable part of his legacy. He intended to leave to me the entire contents of his compost bin. That's the entire contents. As

always, he was generous to a fault. However, you will not be surprised to hear I felt unworthy to accept such a wonderful gift.

To many of us Barry was a good pal who will be dearly missed. We will miss the laughs, the political arguments and obviously the banter.

Finally, I know Barry would be devastated if I failed to mention his driving. As we all know he was an enthusiastic rally driver. Except he didn't actually drive in rallies.

Barry loved his fast cars and as you will know he hated it when someone attempted to overtake him. Those of us lucky enough to travel with him on these occasions felt grateful to arrive.

So, it's an affectionate farewell to Barry our good friend. You've left us with some good memories that will continue to bring smiles and laughter. We will not forget you, Barry.

John Palmer: 13 November 1928–7 February 2026 [Heath 1939–1946]

John Palmer CB was born on 13 November 1928 to William Nathaniel Palmer and Grace Dorothy May née Procter; after attending Heath Grammar School he went up to The Queen's College, Oxford to read Greats and did military service in the RAMC (1946–1948).



Photograph of John Palmer by Ander McIntyre

He was an accomplished linguist and met his French wife, Lyliane Palmer Jeanjean, in London. They

brought up their daughters Catherine and Sophie in a bi-lingual, bi-cultural household.

He had a successful career in government and then with the railways.

He entered the Home Civil Service by open written competition in October 1952, achieving the best Latin unseen of his year. During his civil service career from 1952 to 1989, he served in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, private secretary successively to Dame Evelyn Sharp, Mr Enoch Powell MP and Mr Reg Bevin MP, the Cabinet Office, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport.

From December 1989, he was employed successively by the British Rail Board as Managing Director Channel Tunnel, Chairman of European Passenger Services which we now know as Eurostar and adviser to the Chairman Bob Reid on privatisation.

John was a Companion of the Order of the Bath, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Liveryman of the Livery Company of Carmen and a Freeman of the City of London.

He retired in 1997, travelled extensively, followed politics closely, learned more languages, spent summers with his grand-daughters in South-West France, supported several charities and started his artistic career. His preferred medium was watercolour and he took part in exhibitions of local artists in Dulwich.

Lyliane Palmer Jeanjean passed away in 2022.

John is survived by his daughters Sophie and Catherine, grand-daughters Jeanne and Eugenie, son-in-law Ander McIntyre, close friends and family.

With thanks to **Ander McIntyre**.

Peter Melvyn Wilby: 25 October 1947–8 February 2026 [Heath 1959–1967]

Peter Wilby died peacefully on Sunday, 8 February 2026, at home, surrounded by his loving family, a perfect husband of Nora, inspirational dad of Sally, Louise and Ryan, a dear father in law of Jamie, Neil and Laura, loving Dandad of Scarlett, Freya, Holly, Lily, Harrison and Hugo, a dear brother, brother in law, uncle and friend to so many.

His funeral service was held in a packed Halifax Minster on Monday, 9 March 2026 at 11am. You can download the [Order of Service](#) in PDF format.

The Eulogy written by the Wilby Family and read by Revd Sam Crook

Peter Melvyn Wilby was born on 25th October 1947, the son of Laura and Gordon Wilby, and brother of Joan and Andrew.

The family lived in a back-to-back terrace in Millbank, and Peter attended St Mary's Junior School. In his first year, he won

a prize for perseverance — a quality that would define him throughout his life.

Peter and his brother Andrew were choir-boys at St Mary's Church in Mill Bank, and later, when the family moved to Highroad Well at St John's church in Warley.

After passing his 11 plus, Peter gained a place at Heath Grammar School. At Heath, Peter began his lifelong love of rugby and was selected to play for Halifax Boys and joined Heath Rugby Club. Peter played at Heath until the age of fifty. After retiring, his passion for rugby never faded; he enjoyed going to watch Leeds Tykes, taking trips away with his Rugby friends, and watching rugby on TV, being a supporter of both England and the All Blacks — due to his connection to New Zealand.

When Peter started at Heath Grammar, he was given a bike to cycle to school, which ignited his lifelong passion for cycling. At just thirteen, with a determined spirit, Peter cycled all the way to Nottingham, on his own, to visit family.

At sixteen, Peter hitchhiked with friends to Bridlington. Walking along the promenade with his pal Malcolm, Peter spotted a beautiful girl and said to Malcolm, 'She's nice.' Malcolm replied, 'Don't bother with her, she's from Boothtown!' The girl was Nora, aged fifteen, on holiday with her parents and her best friend, Lynn. Later that day, they bumped into each other at the coffee bar club and met there every night on holiday. Once back in Halifax, Peter asked Nora on a date; ever the romantic, he had planned a bus trip to Bradford, treating her to a packet of Sherbet Lemons for the journey.

In the years that followed, they enjoyed many a night down the Plebians jazz club with friends.

Three years later, on Valentine's Day 1968, in a nightclub above the Bradford ice rink, Peter proposed. During their engagement, the pair did extensive research and decided that, once married, they would take advantage of the £10 POM scheme, with the plan to travel to Australia and later return to the UK to start a business.

On a snowy February 15th in 1969, Peter and Nora married at St Bernard's Church in Boothtown. Peter was twenty-one and Nora nineteen. Just three weeks later, the new Mr and Mrs Wilby set sail for Australia, where they lived in Adelaide for

three years. Whilst there, they made many lifelong friends, and Peter continued his passion for rugby — joining Old Collegians Rugby Club, where he was selected to trial for South Australia.

Before leaving for Australia, Peter had already begun his insurance career at The Royal and was studying for his insurance exams. Peter, who was determined to succeed in his plan of starting a business, continued studying whilst in Australia and completed his AAI qualification, alongside working at Harvey Trinders Insurance Brokers.

In 1972, Peter and Nora returned to the UK and bought a motorhome. They planned to initially travel around Europe. However, a good opportunity came up for Peter at Clarkson, Tyley and Hargreaves Insurance Brokers and, with Peter also keen to return to play rugby at Heath, they decided to settle back in Halifax.

In 1974, Sally was born, followed by Louise in 1976 and Ryan in 1978. At the time, Peter was working at Bush Hodgson Insurance Brokers. Once Ryan had started school, Peter and Nora made the bold decision to start their own business. In 1984, Wilby Insurance Brokers was founded. It took immense dedication, long hours and determination to build the business, but no matter how busy Peter was, he always came home for bedtime and would kneel at the bottom of the stairs, so all three children could climb on his back and have a horse ride up to bed — before Peter headed back to the office for the evening.

In 1995, Caravan Guard was launched, and eventually all three children officially joined the business, even though they had 'unofficially' been helping whilst at school. Peter's children will continue his legacy with pride, together with their wonderful team at Caravan Guard.

Peter was a passionate supporter of many charities; he completed numerous Great Yorkshire bike rides and made significant donations to Overgate Hospice, Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Heart Research, as well as funding advanced cancer treatment equipment in Yorkshire. He also responded to Paralympian Dame Hannah Cockroft's plea, in the *Halifax Courier*, to support the purchase of her first training wheelchair ... little did he realise the success that would follow for Hannah.

Following the sale of Wilby Insurance

brokers and with the continued success of Caravan Guard, Peter and Nora were fortunate enough to be able to buy holiday homes in both Nelson, New Zealand and Whitby to enjoy with their family.

In later years, Peter and Nora spent their UK winters in New Zealand. Every day, Peter would jump on his bike and head off along the coastal path from Nelson to Richmond, where he would enjoy a flat white at Ambrosia — before heading home to go aqua jogging with Nora!

Peter certainly enjoyed holidays — caravanning when the children were small, and later holidays to Portugal and Northern Spain with friends and an around the world trip with Nora. Peter organised many cycling holidays and Sail Croatia adventures with close friends, enjoyed motorhome trips with Trish and Geoff and the Edinburgh Fringe with Chris and Christa. Playa Blanca was a firm favourite too, and of course Whitby, where he would always start the day with a coffee at Clara's.

The great outdoors was Peter's happy place. He loved cycling, walking and kayaking. He enjoyed riding his bike to Haworth, Hebden Bridge, the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors — always with a coffee stop along the way, where he was often on first-name terms with the owner. He loved walking trips with the 'first team' group, and his favourite regular walks were across the moors to the Dog and Gun, the Thornton Viaduct and the coastal path at Whitby.

Peter had an extraordinary circle of friends: his rugby friends, clients and business contacts who became lifelong friends, neighbours and friends in Bradshaw, Ogden, Whitby, Australia and New Zealand. Wherever he went, he built connections that lasted.

Peter was a wonderful father-in-law and friend to Laura, Neil and Jamie, and the most caring, fun and devoted Dandad to Scarlett, Freya, Holly, Lily, Harrison and Hugo. Peter's granddaughters fondly nicknamed him 'Idol' and liked to get a recharge of Idol energy from him through quickly repeated high fives. Harrison and Hugo, meanwhile, enjoyed nothing more than an ice cream with their Dandad at Clara's.

Above all, Peter was one half of the most remarkable double act, 'Nora and Peter'. For 57 years he was a wonderful husband

to Nora, and certainly lived up to his affectionate nickname — 'Peter Perfect'!

The family would like to thank Peter's oncologist, Dr Turnbull, who was simply wonderful, and Peter enjoyed their shared connection to Whitby. The care he received from the NHS was first-class.

It meant so much to Peter when family and friends visited, called or messaged during his illness. He was particularly thankful to Chris, his bestie, for keeping a smile on his face and a sense of normality. Also, a huge thanks must go to Maureen and Ann for their delicious cooking and baked treats.

I know how much Peter meant to so many, and how greatly he will be missed. Peter's perseverance in everything he did enabled him to live the most wonderful life, full of love, surrounded by family and friends.

Tribute by Ryan (Peter's son)

On behalf of the whole family, I wanted to thank everyone for the overwhelming number of flowers, cards, letters and messages we have received.

They reflected not only the love for Dad and his warm, cheeky smile, which Mum used to call his 'Billy Fury' smile, but also the admiration for his many virtues.

The messages reflected Dad's kindness, generosity and integrity. Many people shared their recollections of simple acts of kindness.

Dad's brother Andrew summed him up as 'the most honest and genuine guy you will ever meet.' Another friend described him as 'not only a gentleman, but a true gentleman.'

Those that knew him well knew Dad's kindness should not be mistaken for weakness. He was a very principled person, with a deep inner strength and an unshakeable determination that he could apply to any situation when it was required, whether that was fighting for something he believed in, or just pedalling up a big hill.

I think Dad was successful in life because he genuinely cared and wanted the best for other people, whether that was clients, employees, friends or family. Dad was a wise and inspirational mentor to many. He was always very supportive and had a reassuring aura that inspired confidence in others. He was a quiet mentor who led by example.

Dad faced his illness with characteristic positivity and strength. Following his pre-op fitness assessment, the doctor remarked that Dad was the fittest 76-year-old he'd ever seen, no doubt due to his love of cycling.

Some of my favourite memories with Dad were made on two wheels. From our first Great Yorkshire Bike Ride when I was just 14, and the *Evening Courier* came to take our picture to help raise sponsorship, to the more recent 30-mile bike rides to Hebden Bridge for a bacon sandwich and a flat white.

I am so proud that even in his seventies, Dad would ride his mountain bike down Stairs Lane in Oxenhope. Anyone who knows that path knows it's not for the faint-hearted.

Looking back through all the photos reminds us how incredibly lucky we have been

to create so many happy memories that we will hold close.

From Dad building us a full-size igloo in the garden and taking us sledging behind Southlands, to the familiar sound of his laugh drifting from the conservatory while watching *Blackadder* or *The Young Ones*.

If it wasn't laughter we could hear, it would be the sound of records played at high volume. Dad loved his music. I clearly remember one holiday where we slept out on the balcony, looking at the stars and listening to Cat Stevens, and we were once lucky enough to see his two favourite artists, Bob Dylan and Van Morrison, on the same bill.

We will all miss him so much, but we are grateful to have made so many precious memories with such an inspirational man. His legacy and values will live on, and continue to inspire us all to be our best, and to do him proud.

Subscriptions

Your Association needs you NOW

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

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

Why do we need your subscriptions?

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

The Association does all it can to help and support the Crossley Heath School. We provide four prizes annually — for Excellence in Sport girls/boys, A level Textiles and Further Maths. Periodically we make donations to the school.

The Association also does all it can to help and support Savile Park Primary School which officially moved into the historic Heath Grammar School building in October 2015. We provide prizes to the school for academic and outstanding achievements.

The Association donates to a variety of local good causes and charities, most recently to the [Royal British Legion](#).

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

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

What do you need to do?

Sort out your subs now.

- *Existing members:* Simply contact your bank to increase your subs to £10 pa.

- *New members:* Simply contact our treasurer Duncan Turner to arrange setting up your annual subs/donations:

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The views presented in this Newsletter are the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the HOBA.

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