



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter

Issue December 2006

Website: www.heatholdboys.org.uk

WORDS FROM THE HEAD

Prize Giving Speech - 18 November 2006

"Mister Mayor, Mr Guest Speaker, Mr Chairman, Governors, Honoured Guests, Ladies, Gentlemen and members of the School.

As that famous headmaster Albus Dumbledore says at one of those magnificent start-of-term feasts at Hogwarts School, "I'd like to say a few words". Dumbledore goes on to allow a few round, friendly, satisfying words to roll off his tongue. My choice of words tonight would be rather more spiky:

TEAMWORK
SUCCESS
TRADITION
OFSTED
COMMUNITY SPIRIT
PERSONALISATION
COLLABORATION

Let me try and weave them together into something vaguely coherent.

First, we've had another successful year at Crossley Heath – as most of you have seen or heard from my letters, termly newsletters, articles, photographs, published results, the Ofsted report, our newly designed website, media reports, the school Profile and in tonight's programme. At the end of it came another very good set of A level, GCSE and SAT's results, the dependably high level of achievement that students and parents alike rely on us to deliver. By the end of results day the majority of our A Level candidates had places confirmed at their first choice institutions. It takes excellent TEAMWORK, with advice given and taken between teachers, students and parents, to manage that. It's the students who achieve SUCCESS through their hard work, but a fantastic teaching staff, loyal non-teaching support and parents who involve themselves in their child's learning who, together, make sure it happens for them.

This year we celebrated the twenty-first birthday of The Crossley Heath School.

The school, as most of you already know, was formed from the amalgamation of the former Crossley and Porter and Heath schools in 1985. A range of events marked this birthday all leading to our International Day on Friday 30 June when the Mayor of Calderdale, parents, business partners and other guests joined us to celebrate the occasion. It was also the day on which this book (Images of England) was released and on which former students returned to join in our celebrations.

The book, entitled "Images of England" was produced earlier this year. It is the result of the endeavours of a number of people who have been associated with one or other of the three schools; it takes the reader through 421 years of traditions and historical events leading to the present day and it will prompt fond memories for many whose photographs have been included.

We know our school is steeped in TRADITION and we also know that those associated with the school (including the very youngest of our students) deem those traditions to be a very important aspect of the school. But what do we mean by the word tradition?

Among the definitions I found on the Internet are the following:

- 1 The passing down of beliefs, legends, customs etc. usually to each generation and
- 2 A continuum of gradational culture change through time representing the unbroken development of a single culture.

Whatever your preferred definition, it is only on reading the book you can really start to understand and to appreciate the enormous wealth of tradition of which each and everyone of us has become a part.

The first significant date in the history of the three schools is 15 February 1585, when Queen Elizabeth I signed the charter establishing the "free grammar school of Queen Elizabeth". Dr John Favour, vicar of Halifax from 1593 to 1624, is regarded as the founder of the school, having obtained the piece of land upon which the first school was built. The seventeenth-century statue of Dr Favour is displayed in this Church. In 1603, Dr Favour bestowed three books on the School, which are housed in the current school library along with many of the school's archives.

Heath Grammar School, situated on Free School Lane, was the first school to be built. It is documented that in 1612 school started at 6am and finished at 5pm with a 2-hour break between 11am and 1pm and Sundays free. I feel sure that students would probably not relish starting and finishing school at those times. However, many of my colleagues will probably be thinking that current working hours and conditions for teachers have changed little - except possibly for getting worse.

The Crossley Heath School building, on Free School Lane, owes its existence to the philanthropy of the Crossley brothers. It was designed by architect John Hogg of Halifax and cost the princely sum of £56,000. Compare and contrast that with costs now. The two-storey extension to the languages wing, which increased our total stock of classrooms by two, cost almost half a million pounds just three years ago. A sports hall development would cost well in excess of two million pounds! And, if we were to address all of the issues identified in preparing the building as a School fit for the 21st century the estimate is in excess of £6million.

The building work began in 1857, in 1861 the brothers decided to establish an Orphan Home and School for Boys and Girls, in 1864 the school opened and the Deed of Foundation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1868. Although the quality of education was initially entrusted to family and church, the Elementary Education Act in 1870 prompted the first of a series of annual inspections to monitor educational standards. So, inspections were going on even back in the 19th century!!!!!!

Knowing about the origins of the school helps us to appreciate not only why we have such strong traditions but also about our place within the community of Halifax. The building in which Crossley Heath School is housed is an integral element of the architectural heritage of Halifax, which includes many outstanding examples including the Victoria Hall, Dean Clough Mills, the Wainhouse Tower, Halifax Town Hall and, not least of all, Halifax Parish Church, which dates back to the 11th Century, although most of the current building is 15th Century.

Allow me to draw some comparisons between Crossley Heath and the Parish Church.

The church is a living, evolving building – a community within a community - regularly used by parishioners. In addition to its more traditional uses, the parish community also greatly enjoys and welcomes the use of the church for community events. In essence it encourages and embraces anything that promotes a sense of positive COMMUNITY SPIRIT. This is something we are constantly striving to promote at Crossley Heath. Staff, students, governors and other visitors to the school experience that sense of community spirit.

Our student intake comes from up to 80 feeder schools, which are widely spread out, and many of our students travel long distances to school. So we do not have a local community as do schools with a specific catchment area. But, we are working towards placing Crossley Heath at the heart of our local community through the development of a federation of local schools.

Returning briefly to Halifax Parish Church, the current vicar is Wendy Wilby, who came here in 2001 as the first female vicar of this church. I know that Wendy has enjoyed working with the town. She said: "I love the hills. I have got very used to those. There are many good things about a town such as Halifax because we've got such a diversity of people here. They haven't got any airs or graces."

Now – what of the more recent past and what of the future for our school and schools in general?

In 1997, following an HMI inspection, Crossley Heath was awarded Beacon status in recognition of the good work being carried out at that time. In 2001 Ofsted reported that insufficient progress had been made in the previous four years. Around that time, the government decided to abolish Beacon status and to replace Beacon Schools with Leading Edge schools.

Crossley Heath School lost its chance to become a Leading Edge School, and to have all of the associated advantages that came with the status, partly due to the lack of adequate progress that had been made between 1997 and 2001. Privileges enjoyed by Leading Edge Schools have included increased income and major capital-build programmes – for example new sixth form centres – and funded research programmes.

Since 2001 many challenges have been faced and many changes have been necessary in order to take the school forward. Not only have we addressed the areas for development identified in 2001, we have worked tirelessly to make up lost ground and to move the school forward into what is now a very strong position. The whole school community has met those challenges admirably and everyone who has had a part to play deserves to be pleased with, and be congratulated for, the progress that has been made between 2001 and 2006.

In 2006, OFSTED described our school as good with aspects of outstanding provision. Every aspect was at least good. Some of the outstanding aspects include the personal development and well-being of students; spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; health and safety; contribution to the community; work-related learning; Post 16 and KS3 achievement; aspects of teaching and learning and the major contribution to whole school development that has been provided via language college status. Ofsted also confirmed robust systems for self-evaluation and a strong capacity for further improvement.

However, can we afford to be complacent? Research communicated via the media tells us that currently in excess of 60% of schools have been categorised by Ofsted as good to outstanding and that 10% of schools fall into the outstanding category.

Therefore, the question is: "Are we satisfied with being a school that falls into the category - good with elements of outstanding?"

A leading American industrialist said, "Be delighted with what you've achieved – but never satisfied." If you're delighted but never satisfied, you get constant improvement, which is organic, dynamic change, a logical progression from one thing to the next. I believe we have COLLECTIVELY become very successful at managing such change at Crossley Heath.

But it is very different from the kind of change that is constantly visited upon us by the government!

Ofsted recognises that the government sees schooling as preparing children for employment, filling a niche in society and being 'good citizens' (which I suspect means keeping your head down and not rocking the boat, rather than fighting for equity and justice). It is a purely functional view. Colleague heads and I (and those who work with us) share a vision of education very different from that held by the government. We see it as preparing children for life, which is something altogether bigger and deeper.

At Crossley Heath, I hope that we are doing delighted but never satisfied.

Our COMMON MORAL PURPOSE, on behalf of all learners, has to be to aim to become outstanding in every aspect. This means further developing the all important personalisation agenda and GENUINELY putting the learner at the heart of everything that we do. AND If we accept that we cannot work any harder, then we must work smarter, we must work differently;

we must get to know every student really well, what makes them tick, how they learn and what excites them; we must find different ways of enabling them to learn effectively; we must become more creative in the way we deliver the curriculum; we must make effective use of new technologies and we must broaden student entitlement through partnership and collaborative work. As teachers, we need to accept that our roles are changing and will continue to change. Rather than delivering content we have to provide the right climate for learning – a climate that will inspire children to become lifelong learners.

Teachers should not underestimate their capacity to influence young people - a decision or a comment made by a teacher in a split second can make the difference between a child becoming inspired and becoming disaffected. Both outcomes will have a profound impact on the child's future.

Perhaps we should remember the words of William Arthur Ward –
"The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

Let us consider for a moment how rapidly education and technology have progressed. 20 years ago computers were scarce in schools, now the ratio of computers to students in most secondary schools is more than 1 to 7. Only 5 years ago many teachers still used blackboards – now we use interactive whiteboards. Instead of paper worksheets students are now being provided with on-line resources. Until recently, there were simple staffing structures in schools and teacher and support staff roles were clearly defined. Now the workforce has a complex structure. When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, he could not have told the time using a digital watch – it had not been invented. Since then there have been more inventions than there had been in totality prior to 1969. In fact, more technology is involved in a mobile phone than was used to put the first man on the moon.

So - what will learning look like in the future? What will learning look like for our particular students and what will our school systems and structures look like?

We do not have all of the answers to those questions as yet. The challenge for us as teachers is to research and explore new developments – around the globe. It is the only way forward if we are to fulfil our vision to provide world class education.

We started to explore these issues at Crossley Heath some time ago and developments have already started to take place. There are, however, many challenges ahead of us and many opportunities worthy of our consideration as we strive to address the question, “what will learning look like in the future?”

I have already referred to aspects of our work that must come under further scrutiny if we are to actively engage in developing a more personalised approach to learning for all students. These come under the broad headings: Assessment for Learning, Learning to Learn, Student Engagement and the Student Voice, Curriculum and the new technologies, Support and Guidance, Collaboration and Partnerships and Systems and Procedures.

Assessment for Learning is uncomplicated. There is overwhelming evidence that students make more progress if they know about their own performance, where they are at, where they need to be and what they need to do to improve further. We have been focussing on Assessment for Learning for the past five years and it remains a priority area for us.

At the heart of successful learning is the student voice and student engagement. When this engagement with learning and life becomes active rather than passive; responsibility for learning and behaviour is facilitated; independence in, and control over, learning can be achieved; confidence in oneself as a learner is consolidated and maturity in relationships with staff and fellow students grows. Ideally, the learner is not simply receiving instruction from the teacher, but will help to construct and design the learning with the teacher. We have a strong Student Voice at Crossley Heath. Students are represented on working parties such as Schools of the Future and the Strategic ICT group;

our active Student Council has a budget allocation and the students themselves manage that budget; they lead in respect of charity fundraising - indeed our students chair and run the first official Interact club in Calderdale, being linked to the Halifax Rotary club; student feedback is actively solicited in respect of the quality of teaching and learning; students have worked with an external consultant to develop their own ECM audit; they take part in interviews for new members of staff; take on leadership and management responsibilities, act as form prefects and house officials and make presentations to visitors at open evenings. We have yet to reach the stage where we are involving students in planning their own learning, which is something worthy of serious consideration if we are to thoroughly address Student Engagement and we consider this to be a real priority.

We believe that “If you vary the activities that you use in your lessons you are sure to cater for learners with different learning styles at least some of the time”. Is this satisfactory? The difficulty for teachers comes down to the numerous categories into which learners preferred styles can be placed. Visual, Audio and Kinaesthetic are among the most well known.

All teachers at Crossley Heath have started to develop a range of strategies to address the individual learning needs of the students they teach. But should we consider grouping by learning style, as opposed to, for example, by ability? Schools up and down the country are restructuring their forms, some into vertical learning groups, in which children of all ages learn with and from each other. We will need to consider whether different structures would provide for more effective learning experiences for our students.

What of the curriculum and support and guidance? Personalisation does not logically demand unlimited student choice but it is effectively endorsing it. We have begun the process of developing a new curriculum (which has received unanimous support from parents and students) and which will rise to the challenge of national initiatives such as Every Child Matters and the reform of KS3.

We will allow students to develop the important skills at their own pace with fewer artificial restrictions imposed by traditional time scales and course content. More students will be able to take exams early in some subjects and move on to higher levels of learning.

We are continuing to expand our links with the community. We are committed to extending the work we have begun on sharing provision with our partner schools across and beyond Calderdale so that we can jointly provide a wider range of choices for our students.

Research has shown that the single biggest barrier to fulfilling potential is low self-esteem. We have well developed systems in place to identify students who are not achieving to the best of their ability. We are constantly enhancing provision for support and guidance. We are developing tutorial programmes aimed at helping students improve their self-esteem, increase their confidence and develop their emotional intelligence. We are providing sessions for parents to enable them to better support their children's learning in the home environment. A bigger challenge for us will be to engage the disaffected parent!

I hope that I have painted a picture of a school that is actively engaging in 21st century education albeit in a 19th century building! Tonight, I hope you will join with me in celebrating the achievements of our prizewinners. Perhaps, in years to come they will be sitting here as parents listening to the Head of the School jokingly talk about extinct teaching resources such as interactive whiteboards, Ipods and so on. The school day as we may know it could be a thing of the past. Who knows – the Head may be a virtual figure.

Whatever happens to the nature of schooling in the future, Mr Chairman and members of the governing body, I trust that Crossley Heath is in it for the long term, not finding political quick fixes.

As in a fine wine, there's painstaking production, a period of maturing, and a good, long, lasting finish!"

Helen Gaunt
Head Teacher

REPORT FROM THE GOVERNORS

Crossley Heath School Governor's Letter - 26th October 2006

Early this term and, as is now the norm, with minimal notice the School Inspectors descended on the school and stayed for three days or so. The early reports are very encouraging with the School marked good to outstanding in all areas. The application of the Governors was good. Amongst them still number Rod Atkinson Chairman of Premises Committee, David Armitage [Chairman of Personnel], John Robertshaw [Chairman of Finance] and Grayham Smith - all Heath Old Boys and, from those chairmanship roles, playing a pivotal part in the governance of the school.

Hopefully the positive report on those [and other Governors] was reached after the Inspectors had seen the results of a 'Self Evaluation Exercise' conducted by Mr Smith and which was aimed at identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Governing Body and how it should address the task of supporting, guiding and helping the School.

The exam results have once again been excellent and the School maintains its position in the higher echelons of the National League tables. It also continues to maintain a fine sporting performance and will be a particular interest to Old Boys that the senior boys have just returned from another highly successful tour in Australia - under the guidance of [inter alia] Steve Donlan {HOB, Junior teacher at Heath, present teacher at CHS and Staff Governor}. There is a serious deficiency in sports facilities provision, i.e. the lack of a Sports Hall. The School manages remarkably well despite this but before long, he position is due to be attacked by a campaign to raise funds to build such a hall - the target is £1,000,000 - or thereabouts. All with interest in the School [including HOB and Old Crossleyans alike] may expect to hear further details about this serious money raising effort.

The Head Teacher, Mrs Helen Gaunt, is likely to attend the HOB Annual Dinner at Heath Rugby Club on Friday 11th November next and no doubt she will report on such issues and how they might be met.

Grayham P. Smith
[1952-59]

NEWS

Heath Grammar School 2006 Reunion Dinner

Some photos from the event:

[Kindly supplied by Mike Burnitt (1977-84). More are available on the website.]



Heath Grammar School Archive Launch/Pictorial History Book Launch and Reunion

'An excellent reunion and trip down memory lane'

More than 80 people attended at Crossley Heath school on the evening of Fri 30th June 06 for the Archive and book launch.

Following a brief HOBA AGM former Heathens joined other guests in the main hall where vice chairman/secretary Jon Hamer formerly opened the event thanking the efforts of old boy Russell Smith and Librarian Rose Taylor and others for their efforts with the Archive and book. Rose and Russell also made brief speeches before 'birthday boy' Alan Brearley [see subsequent letter] was called forward for a surprise celebration on his 85th birthday. Alan joyfully reminisced about his time at Heath in the 1930's A fully stocked bar and fabulous buffet was then enjoyed whilst watching old Heath Grammar school footage and pictures of all era s on a huge projector screen.

Next stop was the schools Learning Resource Centre where a multitude of material, pictures and memorabilia were on show, allowing old boys the opportunity to study and scrutinise them at will - sometimes cringing at their youthful appearance and fashion style.

The Pictorial History Book has been snapped up for the bargain price of £10 as well as old school prints for £1.

Some of the old boys attending and enjoying the reunion and launch were Messrs. Washington, Birch, Binks, Hartley, Bottomley, Morley, Williams, Simpson, Eastwood, Bunch, Fawthrop, Smith, Turner, Bowes, Brearley, Robinson, Robertshaw, Potter, Gibson, Denby, Bridge, Beaumont, Hollas, Connell, Hardy, Gaukroger, Lord, Stollery, Depledge, Sanderson, Arnold, Charnock, Jones, Lucas

The Pictorial History Book can be bought and posted out - contact Rose Taylor, Crossley Heath School telephone 01422 360272 for more details.

Some photos from the event:

[More are available on the website.]



MICHAEL GRAVE [1958-1965]

Chemical Engineering Leeds University, 1965-1969 and currently working for Mitsui Babcock Energy Ltd in Gateshead. Became Vice President of the British Nuclear Energy Society in May 2006.

He also completed 30 years as Organist & Choirmaster of Whickham Parish Church near Gateshead in 2005 and became Director of Music in honour of the occasion.

He has recently moved from Whickham to Iveston near Consett, Co Durham.

PAUL INNES

A Potted History

"I left the school as I said before in 1985 and trained as a chef for two years and did other odds and sods before deciding to join the Royal Marines in 1990.

In 1991 I transferred to the Royal navy and trained as a troop medic. I travelled the world and served with the Royal Marines in Belize, Brunei and Norway. In 1997 I trained as a Royal Navy Operating department Practitioner at the Royal collage of defence Medicine and since 1999 have served in operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am now working (still in the navy) at the University of Central England in Birmingham as a lecturer, lecturing in Perioperative Practice; Surgery, anaesthetics and post-anaesthetic care and also run a communication module."

Paul Innes
Chief Petty Officer Medical Assistant.
SODP, UCE

PAUL TOWNEND [1983-88]

Ever since graduating from Lancaster University Paul has worked as a translator.

He has now been in Ljubljana some eight years and last week received a letter from the President of the Slovenian Republic, asking him to translate his memoirs into English - a great honour!

He will be getting married in August.

Malcolm R SCOTT [1949-1955]

From an email received 18 August 2006:

"Just came across the site on the Internet.

I attended Heath from 1949 to 1955. Eventually progressed to Leeds University and ended up spending most of my time exploring for Oil in West Africa, Libya, Iran and the Middle East and eventually South America and the USSR.

Finally moved to Houston, Texas and ultimately settled in California where I am now retired and playing lots of Golf.

Never have heard anything from any of my old Heath classmates and presume they are scattered over all the corners of the World. I remember W.R Swales quite well as I was a recipient on two occasions of his most severe punishment. I also shared an interest with his son Colin in Tropical Fish much to the old man's chagrin.

Malcolm R Scott"

If you want to contact Malcolm by email you can do so via tfgone@hotmail.com.

MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

IAN DALZELL [1960-1966]

Ian Dalzell emails us about The Dalzell Cup

I attended Heath 1960 - 1966. My father, Tom, attended Heath, as did my Uncle Brian and Grandfather Robert.

My Grandmother presented The Dalzell Cup to Heath for the 100 yards athletics in memory of her husband and my late father (who died at 32 in 1958). However, no Dalzells ever won the cup (we did win others! - Brian was athletics victor ludorum and I won the swimming victor ludorum from the 2nd to 5th year).

But what happened to The Dalzell Cup after Crossley Heath came into existence?

I left Heath at 16, trained as a chartered accountant in Halifax with Matthews Brooke Taylor (Partners - Albert Horrocks Taylor, Jim Brearley, Ron Hainsworth and Duncan Turner - all HOBs. Staff included HOBs Peter Brearley, Dave Travis, Robin Eames, John Robertshaw). I now have my own firm of Chartered Accountants in the Lake District.

Regards
Ian Dalzell

Editor's Note: The Dalzell Cup is now in the archive section but was presented up to 2001.

ALAN BREARLEY

Letter from Alan Brearley - dated 2nd July 2006- who celebrated his 85th birthday on the Reunion/launch day of the Heath Grammar School Archive and Pictorial History Book at Crossley Heath School

Dear Jon

I would like you to convey my sincere thanks to Mrs Rose Taylor, Russell Smith and all concerned with making the evening of my birthday such a happy occasion (including yourself, of course!) I was very grateful to receive the card and presents - one eatable, one drinkable and the other very readable! I can assure you I certainly 'burned the midnight oil' when I returned home, especially with the book which is a very laudable effort that should be on every 'old Heathen's' bookshelf.

My only regret was that I did not get inkling of what was to come, so that I could have prepared a more adequate thank you speech.

Again, very many thanks to you and the members (and their guests) of HOBA, who made me feel so welcome on Friday. The happy occasion will always remain in my memory.

With kind regards and best wishes for the future- to you and HOBA

Yours Sincerely
Alan Brearley

MASTER.....REV. THOS. COX, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

(Formerly Pupil of the Dean of Lincoln and of the Bishop of Manchester, and a First-Class Man.)

"I would like to communicate about Rev. Thos. Cox, my g-grandfather on my mother's side.

My name is Patricia C. von Salden my mothers name is Mary Elizabeth Scott Cox, her fathers name is Rev. Richard Buchanan Cox born there at Halifax, England. His mother died same time frame that he was born. He came to Canada to teach the Cree Indians and met my grandmother Eliza Scott missionary for the church of Ireland, working from Toronto, Canada up the river to the Cree Indian site. She had a portable organ which she played hymns.

My family knows about my mothers side of the family but not about Rev Thos. Cox. I would like as much information I can get on Him. Photos, Paintings, His writings Certificates, I don't know about relatives there about. I know Rev. Richard Cox mother had 2 spinster sisters in a big house there about, but no knowledge of what happened. Like to know where they are buried; Rev Thos Cox and his wife (Buchanan). Her first name I don't recall. His son Rev. Richard didn't get back to England to see his father which was his goal before his father died.

Thank you for your time,
Pat von Salden
drachenfels1@aol.com"

Response from the secretary

The HOBA secretary Jon Hamer and Archive Coordinator Russell Smith have sent Patricia a package containing information about most of the above - if you have any further info feel free to contact Patricia direct.

OBITUARIES

Stuart Rodney GIDLEY: 1944 - 2004 [Heath 1954-1961]

Belatedly, and with much sadness, we report the death in June 2004 of 'Rod' (or 'Gid') as he was known to his family, many friends and acquaintances. He suffered prostate cancer very bravely, privately and with immense dignity and slipped away having bid farewell to many of those whose life he had enriched.

He was an accomplished sportsman and represented the School at rugby and cricket, continuing cricket into his fifties and captaining Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Halifax Nomads. His long reach and athleticism also fitted him well for goal-keeping. For many years Rhodes Street Amateurs and on occasion Halifax Town, benefited from his skills. He flirted with rugby mid-week for many years, finally making it his preferred Saturday game when well into his thirties. When he hung up his boots two decades later it was after distinguishing himself first as fullback then as second row forward for Heath RUFC (where he was also a dedicated committee member).

Gid's phenomenal memory and comprehensive general knowledge made him the source of reference on many varied topics and, of course, he was everyone's first choice for their quiz team, helping to win many local and regional competitions. He was rarely mischievous in his recall of events past, but his undying sense of humour and infectious love of fun often helped those in his company to re-live funny episodes.

He used these powers of memory and recall to qualify in Law at the University of Liverpool and subsequently to succeed in his chosen profession as a local solicitor, serving his clients and friends well. He was very generous with his time, totally non-judgemental and most loyal. He started his career in Elland, where he became a partner in a small, established firm; then he worked as sole practitioner in his West Vale practice until ill-health overtook him. His commitment to work allowed few holidays although he regularly attended sports tours either as an active participant or a well-informed spectator. There were always sounds of laughter emanating from his close circle.

He leaves a wife, Linda; a daughter, Amy; and a son Oliver – as well as countless friends.

[Submitted by: Roger Morley]

Donald Foster HUDSON 1916-2003 [Heath ?]

John Hudson has sent us the following funeral oration for his father, Donald:

REFLECTIONS

We are all here today - from many different places - because in one way or another, we have been touched by Dan's life. And we will each have our own special memories Here we gather together just a few of them.

Donald Foster Hudson was born on 29th April 1916 to John and Kate in Halifax. He attended Battinson Road Council School and later went to Heath Grammar School. He was brought up within Baptist church life and went with his parents to Trinity Road Baptist Church. Here were sown the seeds of his desire to serve God overseas. As a young person in the church, he was part of the Ropeholders, a children's group which supported the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS). This was run by Christine Young, sister of Revd George Young who served as a missionary in China for many years.

Following school success, Don was accepted for training as a missionary candidate at Regents Park College, Oxford, where he spent five years in study and preparation for ministry. He was ordained as a Baptist minister on 6 July 1940 and set sail for India on Christmas Eve that year.

Before we consider a little of his work in India, it is right to note here that he first met Miriam Shaw when they were both children in Halifax. Miriam then moved with her family to Canada, returning to Halifax when she was 18 years old. Donald and Miriam met up again and a friendship was established. Once Don left for India, he and Miriam corresponded regularly although, given that it was war-time, their letters often took a long time to arrive; many were censored, others went missing. After about 2 years, Don wrote a special letter to Miriam asking her to come out to India and marry him! She accepted this written proposal but was unable to travel out to India for another couple of years. Don and Miriam's marriage in March 1945 marked the beginning of a strong and precious marriage partnership of 53 years, until Miriam's death in 1998. Over the next few years, John, Rosemary and Andrew were born.

India was 'on Dan's heart' all his life.

Don was quite a scholar and had three major books published:

1. Teach yourself New Testament Greek

For those of you with any knowledge of Greek, Don proposed NOT using the usual accents on the Greek letters. This caused quite a stir in its day in academic circles but actually led to a significant change in the next major textbook. Some of us here learnt Greek through a book written by J.W. Wenham. This became a widely used text and in his introduction, Wenham notes that he does not use the accents on letters either: 'We are indebted to D.F. Hudson's 'Teach Yourself Greek' for pioneering this revolution. "

2. Teach Yourself Bengali

Regarding this book, a critic paid tribute "to the author's grasp of the people, whose language he has interpreted in this book. "

3. The Life and Letters of St. Paul

Anyone hearing Don's teaching and preaching would soon discover his enthusiasm for the writings of Paul. Speaking as one of Don's colleagues, I know I speak for many in expressing deep gratitude for the way he helped us gain fresh insights into the meaning of Greek words.

Don was also a consultant for the Apocrypha section of the publication of the Good News Bible in 1977. Throughout his life, he helped check proofs of Bible translations.

He was a man of the highest intelligence. Mary and I recall organising a team party one Christmas when we were in Bradford. Mary had spent the best part of a day searching for the most obscure words possible and creating plausible but false definitions to sit alongside the accurate definition in a game of 'Call My Bluff. Don knew EVERY one of these words - but did not spoil the fun by letting on too early in the game!!

BACK TO ENGLAND

When Don and Miriam returned to England in 1967 he was able to develop his gifts. After staying briefly in a BMS house in Leeds, they moved to Bradford where Don worked in one of the earliest 'Immigrant Centres' (as they were then called!) in the city. Then he began teaching RE in Wyke and later in Garforth.

Don has made a significant impact on the life of the city here in Bradford. He worked in translating local authority documents into Bengali; he also helped to establish the Agreed Syllabus in Religious Education; he assisted in the Census work for the Bengali community and was an early member of the Community Relations Council where a Muslim leader showed his respect for Don describing him as a "father figure whose wisdom and counsel were very highly valued by those of other faith communities. "

Both Don and Miriam soon became immersed in church life here in Bradford when Rev. David Milner was based as minister at Tetley Street. They became members and that particular church community was very special to them (and I know Tetley St felt the same mutual respect).

Don would get involved in all kinds of activities in church life, including the Church School Club (now the 'Adventure Centre') where he became Life Governor. He was called to serve the Ministry Team of the West Bradford Baptist Fellowship and, in 1975, the Central Bradford Baptist Fellowship. That is when I first got to know Don well as a colleague and friend. He actively served the Team until just a few months ago. Whether it was in preparing preaching plans; special series for preaching or helping us to develop the Asian Project in the 1970s, no job was too small or too big! As Revd Tony Peck has written: "Don was the 'steady point' of the CBBF for nearly 30 years."

In March 1997, in recognition of Don's contribution to the life of the city and the churches in Bradford, he was one of two Baptists (Melba Goodwin was the other - she may be here today!!) to receive the Maundy Money from HM Queen Elizabeth at a special service at Bradford Cathedral.

His gifts were also affirmed by the wider Baptist community. He actively supported the Baptist Men's Movement and became its national president in 1979. He attended annual conferences regularly until this year. He served our Yorkshire Baptist Association in many capacities, including its Council and Ministerial Recognition Committee, and was honoured as president in 1984. The Ministers meet annually at Cober Hill, near Scarborough and - apart from the time spent in India - Don attended each year from the 1930s until this year. Don also served the General Committee of BMS until quite recently. When the Baptist Assembly was held in Bradford in 1986, Don took responsibility for collecting money from the delegates and arranging accommodation. Apparently, for the FIRST time in living memory, all the delegates had paid up by the end of Assembly!!!

So - a multi -faceted person with hidden depths - some of them unknown to me until this last fortnight. The last one I want to share with you is his poetry. When he came out of hospital in April, he showed me an album of love poems which he had written when he was courting my mother. These are too personal to share with you, but at the end of the album is one which illustrates his humour and his love of written and spoken words. This was a warning to my mother before she made the journey to India as his fiancée.

Catherine his eldest grandchild is going to read it for you.

Catherine Fletcher - 'Little Ones'

Little ones

When you think of India's ravaging beast
You must beware of errors,
For though the large ones may be fierce
Its "little ones" are terrors.

A jaguar or mountain cat
Makes quite a charming pet
Compared with all the myriad hosts
Of "little ones" I've met.

You hear of tigers roaring round
And jackals howl at night,
But they're no more than noises off
It's "little ones" that bite.

The big ones you can see at least
Avoid them if you're able
But the little ways of "little ones"
Are quite incalculable.

An elephant may not forget
And cherish grudges long
But "little ones" are always here
To terrify the strong.

If only they would settle down
You'd have a chance to swat 'em,
But when they bite and buzz around
You don't know that you've got 'em.

A python's gentle fond embrace
May sometimes be too cordial,
But far more fearsome beasts than snakes
Crept out from slime primordial.

Abandon hope - you might as well,
Their bites you'll have to stand
There's no escape from "little ones"
On India's coral strand.

Today we celebrate the life of one who was committed to the service of God. We neglect scholarship at our peril. Indeed, we need those who can dig into the original Biblical language and open up for us new challenges to the mind and to our thinking.

Don was a true disciple of Jesus Christ - with genuine servant heart. Serving overseas involved sacrifice - at times separation from partner and family. We know too that this included sacrifice on the part of the children - with enforced absences from parents. Our love and prayers are with all the family today: Don's children - John, Rosemary and Andrew; daughter-in-law Valerie and grandchildren L Joanne, Catherine, David, Rebecca and Emily; Don's sisters - Mary and Nancy; and the whole family circle.

Don would not want a lot of fuss today about him and his achievements. And THAT is the genuine mark of a disciple. When Don was informed of the seriousness of his medical condition just a short time ago, he told the medical staff he was ready to go and meet his Maker! Now he has passed through death (which he once said he found 'intriguing') and has penetrated the mystery of the fullness of eternal life. He is reunited with his beloved Miriam and has joined the glorious cloud of witnesses. As they surround us, as in a great stadium, they encourage those of us still in the field to keep on the same road and to follow the One who still leads the way to Life in all its fullness.

Don - Missionary, Teacher, Scholar and Friend - we give thanks to God for you and honour you best as we take a step closer in following your Master, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thursday June 5th 2003

W. E. Whalley

Trevor DENHAM 1920-2006

From a letter dated 13 May 2006:

"Dear Russell

I hope that this finds you in robust health - I avoid the adjective 'rude' due to the double meaning. Shirley and I are creaking along, and I do mean creaking.

You may not be aware of the death of a pre-war member, Trevor Denham, an old friend of ours, last month. He was born September 1920 and often spoke fondly of his years at HGS, though I never took enough notice to write an obituary.

I realise that you are no longer Secretary of HOBA but you will know who is and shall be grateful if you will pass this to him.

Graham"

Commander Donald SWIFT 1915-2006

From an article that appeared in the Daily Telegraph, 28 July 2006:

An officer who assumed command, and rescued survivors, of a stricken minesweeper and later provided cover off Omaha Beach on D-Day.

Commander Donald Swift, who has died aged 91, was awarded a DSC and Bar for minesweeping and navigation during the Second World War, then worked in the East Coast fishing industry.

On April 30 1940 Swift rescued survivors from the sinking, off Yarmouth, of the First World War Hunt class minesweeper Dunoon, after a rogue mine blew up under her bridge, killing the captain and two officers. Swift, who had just gone to supervise work on the sweep deck, assumed command and gave the order: "Abandon ship."

After checking that everyone who could enter a boat or life raft did so, he searched her as she was sinking rapidly, and only after being thoroughly satisfied that no one was left alive between decks did he slip into the water and swim away from the wreck. Several minutes later one of the boats returned to pick him up, and eventually all the survivors were rescued by a destroyer.

Swift said nothing about his role in the rescue, but one of his sailors attested: "He acted like a hero." Fifty-two men, including seven who were badly injured, were saved. They presented him with one of Dunoon's lifebuoys as a token of their respect, the only possession he saved from the sinking. He was mentioned in dispatches.

Swift served a short time in the minesweepers Bangor and Cromer and, before leaving minesweeping to specialise in navigation in November 1941, was awarded the DSC for his courage, resolution and skill.

Donald Holmes Swift was born at Halifax, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, on March 8 1915; he was the grandson of George Swift, whose engineering works made a fortune manufacturing cat's eyes, though the business collapsed when his father died.

Donald left Heath Grammar for the merchant navy training ship Conway. Between 1933 and 1936 he served his apprenticeship in P&O's flagship Viceroy of India, then transferred to the Royal Navy. In Conway he passed out second; with P&O he obtained one of the best Second Mate Certificates; and, in the Navy, he gained first class certificates on all technical subjects, including navigation.

In 1943 Swift joined the newly built anti-aircraft cruiser Bellona in Fairfield's yard at Govan, Glasgow. In Bellona Swift participated in several Arctic convoys, always accompanied by his pet dog, Troy.



Swift also acted as flotilla navigator on several Channel patrols when Bellona was accompanied by up to seven destroyers, a formation known as "Snow White and the seven dwarfs". By day Snow White anchored in Plymouth Sound to provide air defence, and at night, under cover of darkness and in wireless silence, Swift would navigate the force at full speed to the French coast to attack German ships.

On D-Day Swift positioned Bellona off Omaha Beach to provide anti-aircraft cover for the American battleships Arkansas and Texas and, as the armies advanced, he took her close inshore at night to fire at land targets spotted by forward observation officers. In July 1944 Bellona took part in the Fleet Air Arm raids on the battleship Tirpitz in the Norwegian fjords before returning to the Channel, from which he attacked German convoys off Brittany and in the Bay of Biscay.

Swift was mentioned in dispatches for his work during the Normandy landings and, in November 1944, he was awarded a Bar to his DSC for courage and determination in a series of successful attacks on enemy shipping in the Channel.

Bellona had been fitted with a jammer against German radio-controlled flying bombs, and, in 1945, Swift was sent to the Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment to pass on his knowledge of operating this secret equipment.

Next he was navigator of the light fleet aircraft carrier Vengeance during her post-war deployment to the Far East, which included repatriating members of the Australian army from Labuan, off Borneo, to Sydney. A series of staff appointments ended with his being given command of the newly converted anti-submarine frigate Wakeful.

Swift's reports in the Navy showed that he was "a splendid officer who should do very well", and he was praised as reliable, likeable and humorous. But he retired in 1958, and became general manager of Kingston Steam Trawling.

He also gathered other appointments such as the directorship of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, recalling with pride that his arrival was like a fresh breeze blowing through the fish docks; however, he did not survive a hotly contested takeover battle by two brothers.

He became managing director of a company which imported Norwegian wooden houses, but, stubbornly refusing to accept any position with reduced pay or responsibility, he resigned in 1963.

He then became assistant to the chief executive of the White Fish Authority, but when this job also did not develop as he envisaged, resigned from that post too in 1965. From 1967 to 1970 he was secretary of the Scottish council of King George's Fund for Sailors, before retiring to the East Riding, where he was chairman of Manpower until 1978.

Swift, who died on June 18, settled at Scarborough so that he could be close to Headingley cricket ground.

Donald Swift married Katherine Furneaux Bryden, a WRNS whom he met in Orkney in 1945. She and a daughter predeceased him, and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

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