

# Heckmondwike Grammar School

## Old Scholars Association

### Newsletter



December 2018 No2

#### Senior Prize Giving Tuesday 18th December 2018

On Tuesday 18th December we held our senior prize giving at Dewsbury Town Hall. It was wonderful to see so many pupils past and present collect prizes for achievement. We were especially pleased to be able to report that the Ingham Cup for Design and Technology was awarded this year for the second time. It is awarded for outstanding achievement and is in memory of old scholar and centenarian Lucy Ingham, née Cooper who passed away in December 2016. The proud recipient this year is Tim Lee. The guest speaker was old scholar Roger Burnley who is the President and CEO of Asda. As well as reminiscing about his time at HGS, Roger gave us a real insight into the world of retail and the issues faced by such a large organisation. There was a real buzz at the reception afterwards and it was lovely that, along with students, staff and parents, we were able to celebrate with three previous Headmasters and two Deputy Heads.

It was great to see so many decades represented, with scholars who left school only 4 years ago and ones who left 61 years ago. Amongst former staff who attended were Tom Riddles who was Headmaster 1970-1989 and former pupil Keith Wilson who went on to be Deputy Head 1984-2006. They are pictured with current Head Nathan Bulley and Deputy Head Peter Roberts.



#### Heckmondwike Old Scholars Open Morning Saturday 13th October 2018

On Saturday 13th October we held our first open morning for old scholars and it was wonderful to meet so many old boys and girls.

The first visitors through the doors were Denise Baines and her husband who travelled over from Scarborough so that Denise could take a trip down memory lane. Its 57 years since Denise Powell, as was, left school and went on to spend a lifetime in teaching.



Visitors were welcomed into the school library where they were able to look at the school archive. Items on display were the original roll book that records all students attending school from 1898 -1948 along with school magazines and photographs of school life over the last 120 years. They could even peek into the detention book and hold the old canes!

Everyone enjoyed tours of the school taking in parts of the original building, the Hutton studio, Crellin and Powell blocks that have been added in recent years. Old Scholars were expertly guided by year 7 and year 13 students and all were equally impressed by each other's stories of school life.

We have been thrilled by the amount of lovely emails and conversations that we've had with old scholars over the last year. The piece written by John Lawrence in the last newsletter prompted Anne Hoare née Hosier to contact us. She was at school with John and has shared her memories below. If you would like to feature in the next newsletter please contact us on the old scholars email address below.

#### Anne Hoare Heckmondwike Grammar School, 1952-59

Involved in education myself since the early 1960s, I have always remained interested in my old school. Until the 1980s, my mother would send me the local paper and I kept in touch. Unfortunately, due to age and a certain amount of infirmity, I am unable to take as much part as I should like in the Old Scholars' activities but I am grateful to those who can and keep it going.

I owe so much of what is important to me to the school. I realise what a great education I had there from 1952-59. This was the era of some great CEOs, like Alec Clegg in W. Yorkshire. We were all encouraged to aim as high as we could and helped to do so.

Part of our sixth form course was a General Studies 'O' Level. One lesson in that course I have never forgotten was when Father Trevor Huddleston of the Mirfield Community of the Resurrection, spoke to us about Apartheid. He recommended a book 'Cry the Beloved Country' by Alan Paton. I borrowed it from the library and was unable to put it down.

I remember John Lawrence, Peter Warden and Christopher Leake well and attach photographs. I too entered the school in 1952 in class 1A and Clarke House. In my family history box at home is a yellow and green rosette, the house colours which I wore on Sports Day. No wonder we did not do well with me involved!



Like John I recall Mrs Eliff the German teacher and attach a photo of her on a German exchange in the 1950s. She was also my Housemistress. In my reports she felt I had too much to say in class (true!), but was always waiting for my maiden speech in a house debate. This finally came in the Upper Sixth. The motion was 'It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive'. I still remember how petrified I was.



When I entered the Upper Sixth, my aim was to train as a Junior School teacher and become headmistress of a village school. At home the only book my dad had was an illustrated History of England. For some reason I loved to re-enact the execution of Anne Boleyn. I always loved history and Miss Craven's teaching methods captivated me. Later I use some of her ideas myself.

So much of what is important to me I owe to the school particularly Mr AD Booth my Sixth Form history teacher. He persuaded me to take a history at university. There were only five universities where you could read history without 'O' level Latin and in due course I was offered a place at Hull. The rest really is history! However I managed to pass Latin in the 6<sup>th</sup> form thanks to the enigmatic Mr Dawson, whose lessons I loved.

One of my colleagues there had 52 pupils including the son of the Sec. of State for Education, but she was so good and standards so high, that he was completely happy with the school. I never became a headmistress, though years later served for many years as Chairman of Governors of a village school in Norfolk!

In 1974 Adrian sought a new challenge and took up a post at Wymondham College in Norfolk. This unique school, initially an educational experiment, was founded by Sir Lincoln Ralphs in 1951 in the Nissen hut buildings of a 1943 American Army hospital. It is a co-education state boarding school for Norfolk children aged 11-18. In those days the county was predominantly agricultural and many children lived in very isolated places far from a secondary school.

For 20 years Adrian was a Housemaster of a boarding house of 150 boys and girls. In this environment the pupils learned, ate and socialised together - only the dormitories were separate. 300 day pupils were attached to the house and Adrian was also Senior History Master for a time. You can imagine what a busy life it was- we had matrons and junior staff living in to help us.

As our son Jonathan grew up I would be asked to help out at the College, standing in for staff off sick or who left unexpectedly. My broad education at Heckmondwike Grammar meant I could teach junior History, English and French. Eventually I became Head of Special Needs and Adrian's deputy in the house.

When we retired in 1994, many of the Nissen huts built in 1943 with an expected lifespan of 10 years, were still in use for teaching.

In the 1980s due to lack of money, Norfolk CC wanted to close the College despite its popularity and high academic and sporting standards. I became a member of the Appeal Team of parents (Jonathan was a pupil there and went on to read history at Oxford). The Appeal raised £450,000 to start a rebuilding programme. Today the school goes from strength to strength with many wonderful new buildings including a 6<sup>th</sup> form boarding house with over 100 en suite rooms! One Nissen hut remains and serves as the College chapel.

It's a small world. A colleague at Wymondham College was John Worley from Spen Valley - his brother was a young Geography teacher at Heckmondwike Grammar. I also met John Riches who was at Oxford with a colleague whose sister Mary, was Head Girl at HGS.

Sadly Mr Booth did not have a long retirement. We went to see him at his home in Birkenshaw. As teachers we all hope we had a good influence on our pupils' lives. Certainly Mr Booth and the great education I experienced at Heckmondwike Grammar School did on mine.

Anne Hoare (Sep. 2018)

## The Heckmondwike Grammar School Jo Cox Centre Opening Ceremony

In order to showcase our brand new Jo Cox Centre, which provides dedicated study, dining and social facilities for our sixth form students, we would like to invite old scholars to the official naming ceremony on Wednesday 30th January. The ceremonies will begin at 1.15pm and last for approximately one hour with members of Jo's family as guests of honour. Refreshments will be available following the ceremony served by our student senior committee. If you are able to attend please reply to Lisa Smith on 01924 402202 Ext. 418 or [lsmith@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:lsmith@heckgrammar.co.uk) by Monday 14th January.



**We would like to thank you for your support over the last year and wish you all a very merry Christmas and peaceful new year.**

Past students and staff can join the old scholars association via the Alumni page of the school website, if you would like to get in touch please use the email address below  
[Old.scholars@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:Old.scholars@heckgrammar.co.uk)