

Heckmondwike Grammar School

Old Scholars Association

Newsletter



July 2018 No1

Welcome to the first edition of the Old Scholars Newsletter. We have recently relaunched the old scholars association and value past pupils and staff as part of our school community. We hope you enjoy reading about events at school and possibly taking a trip down memory lane. If you have any information that you would like to share, please let us know and we will try to include it in the next issue.

We are having an old scholars' open day on Saturday 13th October 2018 and would like to invite any past pupils and staff to come along with family and friends. It will be an opportunity to catch up with one another, have a tour of the school and look at some of the archive materials. Further details will be announced nearer the time but it would be helpful if you could let us know if you intend to come. This will ensure we have enough tour guides and can cater for everyone. Please email old.scholars@heckgrammar.co.uk indicating how many people you anticipate will be in your party.

Congratulations to Roger



Old scholar Roger Burnley has been appointed President and CEO of Asda and took over the role in January this year. Roger attended HGS from 1977 to 1984 and went on to study Geography at Bournemouth University. After graduating, he went to work for B&Q and held a number of positions across retail before joining Asda in 1996 as Director of Supply. Following this was a spell at Matalan and 10 years on the board of

Sainsbury's before moving back to Asda in 2016 as Chief Operating Executive and then Deputy Chief Executive. Born and brought up in Dewsbury, Roger has remained loyal to Yorkshire and lives in the local area. As a lifelong Huddersfield Town fan, he sits on the board as a non-executive director. Whilst Roger was at school, Mr Riddles was the Headmaster and, looking through the school archives, we see that Roger was in 'Y' form. He appears to have been creative and had work published in the Heckler in 1979 and 1980. Of particular note is an amusing poem about a flea! We would like to pass on our congratulations to Roger and wish him continued success.

Memories of Lucy Ingham

We are pleased to have been able to honour the life of old scholar and centenarian Lucy Ingham nee Cooper who passed away in December 2016. According to her daughter, Lucy and her husband John Leslie Ingham appreciated the value of learning and ensured their children received the best possible education. As a result of this, Mrs Hoare and her husband Stuart felt it fitting to recognise this and have kindly made a donation to school in memory of Lucy and Leslie. We have dedicated a prize in her honour and the Ingham Cup for Design and Technology was awarded for the first time in January this year, the proud recipient being Nabihah Maqbool, pictured below.

We have been able to find records of Lucy entering school in



September 1927; she lived in Birkenshaw and her father was a saw sharpener. Records show that in 1927 parents had to pay nine guineas per year for their child's education, payable in advance, in 3 instalments of 3 guineas per term. She left in July 1934 so she was able to stay at school until matriculation, which was unusual in those days, and she went on to train as a teacher. Clearly very active in school life, we have records of her

competing in the senior debates in 1933, the subject being 'Does modern dress need reform?' Lucy was opposing the motion. She competed again in one titled 'That men are inferior to women'. She also played tennis and hockey for the school teams. The hockey report in the school magazine of Summer 1934 says she played left half back and it comments on her good passing. We are unsure of the exact dates of the photos but it's hard to imagine playing sport in such attire, how times have changed!

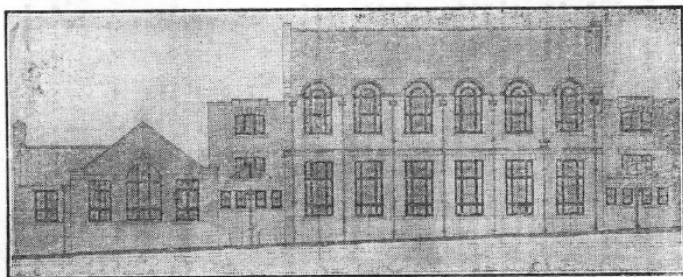


Lucy is second from the right on the back row



Lucy is on the far left.

During Lucy's time in school she will have seen changes to the school with the building of a new wing in 1930 to house a gymnasium, metal work and woodwork room, a dining room and kitchen. From the photos from around 1935 we can see that the wood and metal work room and dining hall were on the first floor. This building still houses the dining room and kitchen, taking up the whole of the ground floor with art rooms above.



ELEVATION OF NEW BUILDINGS.



Heckmondwike Grammar School, Handicraft Room.



Heckmondwike Grammar School, Dining Room.

Memories from old scholar John D.K. Lawrence

We have had recent correspondence with John Lawrence who was a pupil between 1952 and 1960. John has kindly written the following piece where he shares some memories of his time at HGS:

I remember being taken by a neighbour's son, who was already a pupil, in late August 1952 for my first day at HGS in a brand new blazer. Looking back, it must have been a daunting day for all those pupils of 11 years' old, like myself, who arrived on that special day. I was put into form 1A and told that I was in Clarke House. Over the years it seemed to me that Priestley was the best house at sport, which I tried over the remaining years to change, but to little avail. Why I was put in form 1A, nobody explained to me, but over the next few years I gained the impression that pupils in forms 1B and 1C seemed to have been put somewhat at a disadvantage scholastically. My own scholastic development began early at school to focus on languages and in the 3rd form I changed from physics to German, helped by a teacher called Mrs. Elliff. I enjoyed the 6th form immensely, studying French, German and Latin, becoming first a prefect and then



Head Boy. As Head Boy I took over from Michael Judge, who had rightly cemented a fine reputation at the school. Looking back at my years at HGS, I felt that the school had helped me develop and mature during my time there in what was

a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

From HGS I was fortunate to gain a place at University College, Durham, known as Castle, where I read French and Spanish. Fluency in both languages was to become important to me throughout my professional career, which has led me around the world working in the financial services industry, including banking and insurance. In fact I am still working, now as Chairman of a small Latin American bank from a small island in the Caribbean, called Anguilla, a British Overseas Territory, where my wife and I have lived for the last 22 years. It is a most pleasant and beautiful island.

Living so many years overseas did not allow me to develop connections with HGS over the last 58 years. However, on a visit a few years ago to the UK, I rang the school up and the then Deputy Headmaster invited my wife and myself to visit. After so many years it is always interesting to go back in time. I was not disappointed and was particularly excited to be able to 'relive the past' as well as to show my wife, where I had been 'brought up'.

Again, quite recently I met up with two classmates in Leeds for a day, they were Peter Warden and Chris Leak, against whom I had always been losing a battle at school on the athletics field. Peter went on to represent Great Britain at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo and at the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Jamaica, where he achieved a bronze medal in the 400 metre hurdles. We enjoyed the day discussing HGS and some of the teachers who were there at our time. We also

challenged the fact that the so called 5 ½ mile senior cross country course, which had then, I believe, a standard time of 35 minutes to complete, meant running a mile every 6 ½ minutes over some of the steepest hills in that part of the West Riding!

I am delighted to read that HGS continues to prosper; I am grateful for what it did for myself and I wish it continued success in the future.



John D.K. Lawrence

If you remember John and would like to contact him you can do so via the old scholars email address and we will forward it to him.

old.scholars@heckgrammar.co.uk

Philip (Paddy) Kerr

We have received news from Paddy Kerr who was a student between 1981 and 1986. He recalls how he left with the words of Mr Riddles registered in his school report "I anticipate an academic disaster this summer" which he says was a prophetic assessment for the 4 O' levels he achieved. He went on to play professional football with Halifax Town, and FC Garmisch in Germany. However, a serious knee injury brought this career pathway to a halt and he joined Thames Valley Police in 1990, later transferring to Greater Manchester Police, then the National Crime Squad (NCS) Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), and latterly the National Crime Agency (NCA).

In the last 5 years he has fulfilled the academic promise shown in part during his time at HGS with the attainment of NVQ level 3's in Management & Leadership (ILM), Training Design & Delivery and Coaching & Mentoring. He was also awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Analysis, Intelligence & Media.

He was deployed to Nigeria, in April 2018, as NCA Anti-corruption Projects manager (Detective Inspector). He is embedded with the Nigerian Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and will spend the next 2 years in Abuja and Lagos. His role is investigating "Grand Corruption" including multi million and billion pounds of fraud, embezzlement and bribery at Government level, and usually involving Politically Exposed Persons.

When we spoke to him in May, he was about to take his seat at the opening of the African Commonwealth Conference on Anti-corruption.

Paddy is pictured with his mobile police support officers, they assist in safety and security when travelling and operating within Nigeria as kidnap is a real threat.



New Sixth Form Centre

The school annexe in Church Street, formerly the church hall of St James, is being remodelled and extended to make a new sixth form centre. Work began in January to create a bespoke facility that will provide areas for study and a social space. The development has been made possible with a £1.1 million grant from the government. The facility, which will hopefully be completed at the end of October 2018, will be named after former head Jo Cox.

Keep in touch

We hope you have enjoyed reading our first newsletter. We are continually working on the school archive and would appreciate any information, memorabilia etc. that you might want to share or donate. We are also happy to search through our archive on your behalf.

To keep up to date with old scholars events, please follow us on our old scholars Facebook page or check the Alumni page of the school website.

Don't forget to let us know whether you will be attending our open day in October. You can email us at old.scholars@heckgrammar.co.uk

We wish you all a lovely summer and hope to see you at our open day.

Best wishes
HGS Old Scholars Association

<https://www.facebook.com/Heckmondwike-Grammar-School-142652546375033/>

<https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/school/alumni/>