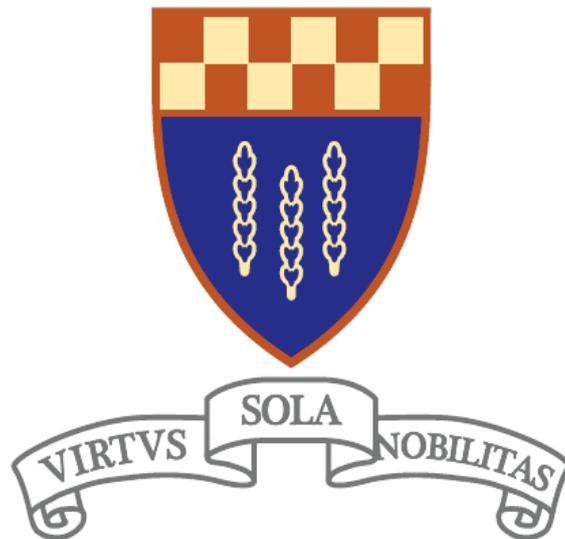


# The Pavior



The Newsletter  
of  
**The High Pavement Society**  
(founded 1989)

**May 2019**

### Your Committee

The Committee Members listed below are always delighted to talk to you on any matter – particularly if you have a contribution to make to this publication!

#### President: Ken Kirk

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Deputy Chairman: John Elliott 0115 9266475

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116 Leicester Road, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 2AQ

The HP Society website address is: [www.highpavementsociety.org.uk](http://www.highpavementsociety.org.uk)



**Faces to Remember**  
**Robert Blakey Dunn**  
**Chemistry Master at High Pavement School**  
**1967-1981**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2019 Annual Reunion Luncheon**

This important event in the Society's calendar will now take place on **Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>** at the **Mapperley Golf Club, Central Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham.**

The numbers are restricted to **46** members so a prompt application is necessary. To save costs, an **invitation** to attend, with full details of the menus and programme, has been sent during April:

- a) by email to all members equipped with the right computer facilities. *Please inspect your inbox now if you have not already done so.*
- b) by post to the remainder, who are not computer-equipped.

It is possible that we are already nearing the capacity figure, so act now if you are interested. This is your opportunity to meet other members of the Society, associated with every High Pavement era from the 1930s to the present day. It is a daytime rather than an evening function so travel and accommodation presents fewer problems. We look forward to seeing you there.

*If you have yet to receive an invitation please telephone **01509 558764** for help.*

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**THE HISTORIC RENEWAL PROJECT**

**What do you think? (Yes you!)**

In last issues of *The Pavior* we mentioned (at greater length) that the Society is the custodian of a large collection of trophies, many of value, inherited from the former grammar school and forming part of the heritage of the institution known as High Pavement.

The changed character of the institution has meant that the trophies are now unrelated to its activities and this Society was approached to offer a solution. Our committee always felt the trophies should be put on display for the benefit of users of the Sixth Form Centre, many of whom cherish the origins of their institution as a school of distinction.

The committee have taken the bull by the horns and want to commission an ambitious display cabinet to their own design, incorporating the necessary security features. A full quotation of £2,270 has been received for this specific design. However, issues of siting and security are still under consideration.

There are still hurdles to be overcome, notably raising the money. The Society's funds, sourced mainly by members' subscriptions, are only capable of meeting the usual costs engendered by a society of this nature. A subscription list might be opened for members of the Society to make donations if they feel interested in the project. (Our president has already offered a generous donation of £1,000.) In this way we may be able to meet the outlay on what could be a most worthwhile project.

The Committee invited correspondence from the membership on *any aspect* of this (to us) important topic. Since we published it three months ago nobody has seen fit to contact us. **Are all of our 150-plus members indifferent to the matter?** Even if you are opposed to the idea please drop us a line and tell us. Your view can be sent to the editor (address on page 2). **Write now while the idea is fresh in your mind!**

**ooOoo**

## LANCE WRIGHT'S RETIREMENT

### An appreciation



Lance in a relaxed moment, with his wife, Christine.

In addition to being a long serving and much valued member of our Committee, Lance Wright has, for several years now, acted as our Archivist. Unfortunately Lance is now not in the best of health and has reluctantly had to relinquish his office as Archivist. Most of his data has now passed into the care of his successor as archivist, Graham Wybrow. Both Graham and I have been impressed (not to say staggered) at the wealth of detail which has been made available.

Often ploughing a lonely furrow in the County Records Office and the Library of Nottingham University, laboriously extracting information on 200 years of High Pavement School history. Lance's duties sometimes involved detective work on behalf of enquirers wanting to learn about Old Pavior ancestors and other relatives long passed away. At other times he sought details that were needed to check material published in these pages, but often he simply spent his spare hours sitting at a table in the records offices, digging and delving as part of the "endless task" of indexing and digitizing the School's Archives.

His data sheets were laboriously compiled, even needing long lists and extracts to be copied out longhand because records were not accessible for copying. He then spent many hours setting them up on his computer in a digestible format, whence they have frequently been consulted. He started by compiling Catalogues identifying the High Pavement material held in each of the four main Local Archives and then set about compiling a database with more detailed information. This database currently includes searchable records for some 13,100 Pupils, 430 Staff and 1600 War Records, as well as 2700 Scrapbook entries, 1000 Newspaper Articles and Text Descriptions of 147 Photographs.

We have been fortunate indeed, that the energy and determination that brought Lance such sporting success at school back in the 1950s, have been made available for the benefit of the Society so many years later. The Society's most sincere gratitude is surely merited for his dedicated work. Thanks Lance!

**Colin Salsbury**  
**On behalf of everybody**

ooOoo

## HIGH PAVEMENT SOCIETY PRIZES FOR 2018

As we have mentioned in the last issue, problems with further reorganisation at High Pavement Sixth Form Centre, prevented distribution of the four prizes which our Society makes annually to the high performers among the student body at the Centre. The awards are based on their 2018 A-level examination results but the Centre has been able to keep track of the winners and a presentation ceremony was held at the Sixth Form Centre on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The names, which are selected by the tutors at the Centre on behalf of the Society, were as follows:

**The High Pavement Society Award for Excellence** to the best female student in 2018 was presented to **Cosmina Stanciu**. Cosmina has now almost completed her first year studying French and Law at Nottingham University. The presentation was made by Colin Salsbury.

**The High Pavement Society Award for Excellence** to the best male student in 2018 was presented to **Khaled Zoubiri** by the Sixth Form Centre's Head of Faculty, Alex MacDonald who also presented Khaled with the **Ken Bateman Award for Engineering**. Khaled is at present in his first year, studying Chemical Engineering at Manchester University. It is unusual for both awards to be presented to the same recipient but were well deserved in this case.

**The Stanley Middleton Award for Literature** was awarded to **Filsan Hirmoge** who could not be present and the award was received on her behalf by tutor Jeannette Mortimer.



◀ Cosima Stanciu proudly displays her Award presented to her by Colin Salsbury, supported by her mother and boyfriend.

Khaled Zoubiri ▶ receiving the Ken Bateman Award from the Head of Faculty, Alex MacDonald.



The High Pavement Society would like to offer its congratulations to these students, all three of whom have now taken up their places at university.

It has always been a matter of pride to the members of the Society that we are able to offer our modest cash prizes to these students of the Sixth Form Centre. The aim has always been to assist them in the next stage of their education.

It is hoped that in the autumn, when the next awards are due, we shall revert to our normal practice and ensure that our useful prizes are presented to the recipients in good time for the commencement of their new study courses.

ooOoo

**FROM OUR READERS**  
**FROM JOHN BARLOW**

*[John Barlow has supplied us with a long list of enjoyable reminiscences of life at High Pavement, the first instalment of which appeared in our last issue. Here is the remainder.-Ed.]*

**School life at High Pavement – 2**

An amusing incident, which still makes me laugh out loud after all these years, concerns the costumes from the school play. One of our teachers had arranged for the school to hire the costumes from the Theatre Royal and after use they were packed into a large hamper, ready to be returned. The teacher then chose a pupil to take them back to the Theatre Royal by taxi, returning to school by walking to Trinity Square to catch the number 6 bus back to Bestwood. His plans went wrong for two reasons – firstly, he chose a pupil who was ‘a bit of a lad’, and secondly, he didn’t have the correct money - five shillings for the taxi plus sixpence bus fare (this is in ‘old money’ of course). The student was given a £1 note, told that the change of fourteen shillings and sixpence was expected *in full*, and sent off in the taxi.

We expected the young man to return just over an hour later. However, less than thirty minutes after departing, the taxi reappeared, dropped off the pupil and left at high speed! On interrogation, Jack the Lad stated quite calmly that he didn’t feel like coming back to school by bus, so instructed the taxi driver to drive him. To rub salt in the wound, he had then given the taxi driver a ten shilling tip (the teacher’s money, of course).

Many of my fellow pupils were keen cricket fans and quite a number of us bought youth season tickets for Notts at Trent Bridge (price twelve shillings and sixpence). We would race to catch the number 6 bus from the school gates just after 4 pm, transfer on to the number 41 trolleybus at Victoria Station and arrive at Trent Bridge cricket ground around 4.30. This gave us the full after-tea session of county cricket to enjoy, usually from the stand overlooking the railway line from Nottingham to Melton Mowbray (and London in those days). Leaving the cricket ground at close of play, 7.00 pm, we would stop off at Victoria Station to see the last train of the day from Marylebone. Trainspotting and cricket – a combination to equal bacon and eggs.

Naturally, our season tickets were also used on Saturdays and during holidays for complete days of county cricket. We even played some ourselves in the corridors beneath the stand during lunch and tea intervals or when raining.

In snowy weather, an unfortunate member of staff had to patrol the playground during mid-morning and lunch breaks and it was customary for the said individual to be sustained by carrying a large mug of tea or coffee. On one occasion, I remember being among a group in the playground where the conversation moved around to discuss the odds of throwing a snowball into the mug being carried by the teacher. Whilst it was generally agreed that the chances of success were extremely slim, it was also thought that we ought to put our theory to the test. One of the group, a noted member of the cricket team (and hence believed to have a good throwing technique) was nominated for the task.

The snowball was made and dispatched from afar, with all members of our group keenly viewing the outcome. It became apparent that this was indeed a good throw and that the snowball was going to land very close indeed to its intended target. We were amazed to see that the odds had been overcome, when the cup of tea completely disappeared from the grasp of the unfortunate gentleman! We then had to appear nonchalant and uninterested in this outcome, when, of course, we were inwardly convulsed with laughter.

Does anyone remember the school trip to Heathrow and Gatwick airports (probably in 1960)? Our party set off by coach, travelling to Northampton where we joined the newly-opened M1 motorway, continuing to its southern limit near Watford. From here we drove to Heathrow airport for a couple of hours' plane-spotting, then back on to the bus for the trip to Gatwick. There, we boarded an ancient Dakota for the flight to Derby Airport (The one at Burnaston, now the Toyota car works, not the current East Midlands Airport) which had only a grass landing strip and practically no facilities.

We then clambered aboard an equally ancient bus for the journey home. However, the decrepit vehicle broke down and we had to wait a long time for a replacement. We finally arrived back at the school extremely late but well satisfied from this extraordinary trip. What an amazing feat of organisation!

**John Barlow**

### **FROM RICHARD MASLEN**

#### **'My Grandma came to High Pavement School'**

**Dear Editor,** I was at High Pavement School from 1946-51 and was a member of Wollaton House. As is usual I attended a meeting of new boys, each with a parent, in my case my mother, to learn to which House they had been allocated. If you had a family member or members from earlier times (e.g. a brother, or a parent, perhaps) you would be able to join the same House to which they belonged.

As the meeting progressed we were down to the last few boys who had no previous members as described. At this point my mother whispered to me 'Tell them about Grandma.' I put my hand up and said 'My Grandma came to High Pavement School when it was for boys *and* girls. Her name was Miss Flora Betterley in those days and she was in Wollaton House'. You see, I so much wanted to wear the rugby shirt with yellow and black stripes, like a wasp! And so it was that I joined the ranks of Wollaton House.

Years later, I became leader of the School Orchestra and played in the Nottingham Albert Hall when the orchestra won the Frankland Shield, a trophy much cherished then and afterwards. It was put on display in the school hall. I often wonder if it was still kept somewhere in a safe place?

**Sincerely, Richard Maslen**

*[The trophies in our care were searched in case the Shield was there—alas it was not. -Ed.]*

### **FROM GRAHAM WYBROW**

#### **Berridge Treasure**

**Dear Editor,** While engaged in reading about Roman Nottingham, I came across the expression '**The Berridge Road Hoard**'. At first, I thought this referred to the motley bunch of Old Pavors that turned out recently to greet John Randall from Australia (see Nov 2018 *Pavior*). Not so however, this was not a *horde* but referred to a hoard of 186 Roman coins that were found in the Forest Fields area in 1910. It was found by workmen building new roads, at the junction of Berridge Road and Leslie Road, close to the (then) Berridge Picture House (later the Apollo Cinema). The hoard was in a small barrel-shaped pot, itself within a grey globular pot. The dates ranged from the reign of Emperor Vespasian (AD 69) to Marcus Aurelius (AD 169) and included 19 silver coins. I wonder if such a major discovery ever came to the attention of the staff and pupils of a famous nearby school.

**Graham Wybrow**

**FROM BRIAN WARD**  
**When HP passed its Double Century**

*[High Pavement School was two hundred years old in 1988 and great celebrations were held, including a Memorial Service held in St Peters Church, a stone's throw from the former school on High Pavement in the Lace Market. It was attended by civic dignitaries and some 600 former pupils and their guests. There were many other celebrations too but Brian Ward, by then an Old Pavior has these memories of his own to share. -Ed.]*

**Dear Sir,** I attended High Pavement from 1961 to 1967 and some years after leaving the school I took part in the celebrations of the bicentenary in 1988. I captained both the Old Paviors' rugby and Old Paviors' cricket teams that played against the school teams during that celebration year. I still have the video recording of the rugby match:

Not the best of views but it is the only record I can offer. (Brought to you by the wonders of modern technology.)



Perhaps this article can help me identify one of the players in that Rugby game against the School XV celebrating the bicentenary. I can name 14 of the 15 players in the Old Paviors' side but cannot remember the name of the left winger. The team was:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Alan Kinloch    | 9 Peter Aldwinkle |
| 2 John Elliot     | 10 Terry Lee      |
| 3 Paul Majewski   | 11 ?????????      |
| 4 Chris Eggleshaw | 12 Clive Swinn    |
| 5 Howard Walker   | 13 Brian Ward     |
| 6 Eddie Edwards   | 14 Ian Reynolds   |
| 7 Paul Ward       | 15 Pat Billam     |
| 8 Len Hines       |                   |

Surely someone can fill in the missing name?

1. A 'sweat-top' with large emblem.
2. A special commemorative tie with a fine blue stripe, bearing the school badge with the dates 1788-1988  
**(NB neither were part of the usual school uniform)**



I include photos of items produced to celebrate our bicentenary. I still have those items, featured here, in my possession.

**Regards, Brian Ward**

**FROM GRAHAM WYBROW AND PHIL WARD**  
**The High Pavement Violin Club**

The following photograph was sent to us by our member Phil Ward. It was found amongst the belongings of his late brother Paul G Ward (pictured). Graham Wybrow, aided by Michael Oswell and Derek Wroughton, has done his best to provide names and details.

The photo was taken around 1961 and shows the Violin Club, complete with violins, outside the Co-operative Arts Centre on George Street, Hockley, Nottingham, after competing in a local music festival. The School's music teacher at that time would have been Frank Williams (who later emigrated to the Antipodes) and the peripatetic violin teacher was Terence Davies. Unfortunately the identity of the flamboyant trophy is not known.



1      2      3                      4                      5                      6                      7<sub>f</sub> 8<sub>b</sub>                      9                      10                      11

The students pictured are (*strictly L to R*):

- |   |   |                     |                  |
|---|---|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Unknown                                      | 2. Michael Oswell                                     | 3. Steven Crossland | 4. Alan Wardle   |
| 5. [ <i>Front Centre, with Shield</i> ] Unknown | 6. [ <i>Back Row, below NCS Sign</i> ] Simon House    |                     |                  |
| 7. [ <i>Front Row</i> ] Unknown                 | 8. [ <i>Back Row</i> ] Unknown (?Alan S... Pianist ?) |                     |                  |
| 9. Derek Wroughton                              | 10. Unknown   |                     | 11. Paul G. Ward |

If anyone can identify any of the "Unknowns", please contact the editor.

**Phil Ward, Graham Wybrow**

**ooOoo**

## News from Barry Davys



*[Barry was for many years a member of our group committee until his retirement with the development of Parkinson's disease. An accountant by profession (he was the Company Secretary to the well-known Home Brewery Company Ltd) and also served as Examiner of our own accounts at each year end.]*

*Below is an extract from a letter received recently from his son Ian Davys:*

**Gentlemen**, I am writing on behalf of my father Barry Davys. As you may know, Barry entered full time residential care at The Ruddington Manor Care Centre last September 2018 as a result of the increasing challenges arising from his Parkinson's Disease and related cognitive impairment.

The good news is that Barry has settled well and is receiving great care and support. He also celebrated his 85th birthday there last month surrounded by the love and appreciation of his family - a celebration of life which included a sing-a-long to the musical Oklahoma of which we arranged a private screening in the cinema room there!

Barry continues to enjoy reading the Old Paviers Newsletters.

**Ian Davys**

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*This response was sent to Ian by Robin Taylor, our treasurer:*

**Dear Ian**, Thank you for advising us that your father is now settled at Ruddington Manor Care Centre and has, it would seem, happily celebrated his birthday in a very fine way!

When I joined the Committee Barry was already a member and his support and enthusiasm for the Society's activities was very evident. As auditor/examiner he was of great help and support when I took on the duties of Treasurer. I well remember the occasion of my first audit, when I arrived at Barry's house still struggling with the ramifications of profit and loss and spread-sheets on my lap top. However, Barry produced his adding machine (complete with its paper roll) *which was powered by pulling on a handle*—so much for these new-fangled gadgets! Our association continued until about three years ago when his health meant that he had to take a big step back.

If you are able please pass on my best wishes and also those of his friends and colleagues among our members

**Robin**

ooOoo

## A Welcome to our New Members

May we bid a warm welcome to the following members who have joined the Society in recent months:

**Andy Irons** (1972-79)

**Brian Ward** (1961-67)

**John Barlow** (1959-66)

**Brian Collyer** (1948-53)

ooOoo  
**1925 AND ALL THAT**  
**Ringin' for the Gofer**

Modern slang has bestowed the title 'gofer' on those unsung minions of important people in this busy world, who fetch and carry all those things that their employers cannot tackle themselves. Indeed, there are occasions when such a minion might even feel *proud* to work as the gofer for a prominent celebrity.

However, on looking through the pages of our forerunner, the *High Pavement School Magazine* for 1925, we discover a piece written about a different kind of Gofer. It seems that this Gofer (or Gopher) formed part of the folklore of the Newark area.

The story goes that in Newark Parish Church a special peal of bells was rung every year, beginning on the twelfth Sunday before Christmas and known as the 'Gopher' (or Gofer). It was endowed by a grateful traveller who had lost his way after dark in the marshes by the River Trent. Fortunately for him he was guided to safety by the sound of the church bells ringing out. Apparently a man of means, he there and then pledged a sum of money sufficient to provide this campanological service at the advent of winter, in perpetuity. All very heart-warming and romantic, like so many legends, and a tradition worthy of preservation – or so you might think!

Why are we relating this in *The Pavior* (I hear you cry)? Well, because High Pavement was involved in the eventual debunking of the above legend, which seems to have *no basis in fact*. Not even a tiny little bit. This was achieved thanks to the efforts of the learned Dr H J Spenser (in those days the headmaster of High Pavement School) who resided in Newark.

Dr S had researched the legend in great depth and propounded the theory that the whole thing was an example of an '**aetiological myth**'\*, the name 'Gopher' being a being a contraction of *couvre-feu* (curfew – relating to the compulsory extinguishing of fires before bedtime, for safety) and that peals of bells in the period before Christmas were intended to serve as a reminder for the rest of the year. There was not a shred of evidence indicating that *money* had ever been paid for the bells to be rung...so there!

\*A footnote to the article in the 1925 mag says: '*For the benefit of readers below Form III, we add that an aetiological myth is a legend invented by popular imagination to account for an already existing fact whose true significance is not understood*'. **Colin Salsbury**

ooOoo  
**PUB LUNCH NEWS**  
**HPS 2019 Annual Reunion Luncheon**  
**(see p . 3)**

This is the only activity we have already planned under the above heading. However, we may be able to arrange a lunch together on one of the **River Trent excursions** which have been much enjoyed in previous years. More details will be circulated when available.

ooOoo

## **OBITUARY NOTICES**

### **BRYAN TEMPLE**

We have been informed by Ian Davys that an Old Pavior, Bryan Temple, passed away on Easter Sunday (21 April) at the age of 85. He was not a member of the HPS but was a close friend of member Barry Davys. He and Bryan came through High Pavement together and Bryan acted as Barry's best man when he married. Their close friendship endured to the end. Bryan's funeral took place at Bramcote Crematorium on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> when the Society was represented by our president, Ken Kirk.

### **TREVOR FISHER**

We regret to announce the death from cancer of Trevor Fisher, husband of our honorary member Alison Fisher, and a regular attender at our social functions. Trevor's funeral was held on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Gedling Crematorium when the Society was represented by Ken Kirk and John and Carol Adkin.

### **JOHN CHASE**

We have received news from his close friend Mike Gladwell that our life member John Chase died on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2019. He attended Stanley Road for several years until his family moved away and he reluctantly had leave High Pavement. However he greatly cherished his time there.

John once wrote; *'Some time later at the end of the autumn term of 1947 I had to leave High Pavement for family reasons. In the chemistry lab at the end of my last chemistry lesson Crock (Mr Ralph Crossland) put his hand on my shoulder and said "I hear you are leaving us John (sic). I shall miss you, you are one of my star pupils. I know you will do well." I could hardly believe my ears. This was a new Crock to me.*

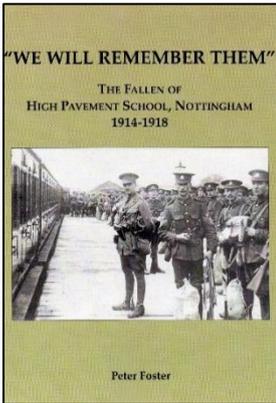
*'As I made my way down the steep stairs out of the lab to the playground it struck me I was leaving this place which suddenly seemed the only school I wanted to attend. I sat down on one of the stone steps. I smelt the gassy smell of the chemistry lab and looked at the red brickwork of the staircase worn smooth in places by generations of hands. Bricks of which Crock had told us most of Victorian and Edwardian Nottingham was built. Despite what Crock had just said I felt unspeakably sad.'*

John later joined our Society, forming close ties with Mike who represented the Society at his funeral in Worcester.

The High Pavement Society sends its sincere condolences to all these families.

**ooOoo**

**'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'**



Please note that this publication, sponsored by the Society and compiled by Peter Foster, is subject to increased charge, now **£3.50**, for postage and packing. If you wish to order a copy in this way please ensure your cheque is for **£13.50** and send it to the treasurer:

**Robin Taylor, 190 Kenrick Road, Mapperley, Nottm NG3 6EX**

who will arrange for its delivery.

**HIGH PAVEMENT SOCIETY TIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

**£10 + £1.50 p&p.**

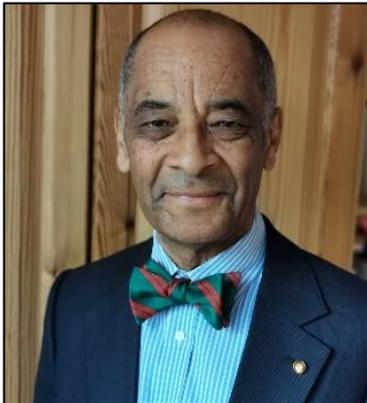
If you wish to acquire one for state occasions, please send your cheque for **£11.50** made out to **The High Pavement Society** (marked on the back: 'HP Tie Purchase'), to the treasurer:

**Robin Taylor, 190 Kenrick Road, Mapperley, Nottm NG3 6EX**

We will dispatch your tie by post without delay.



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to



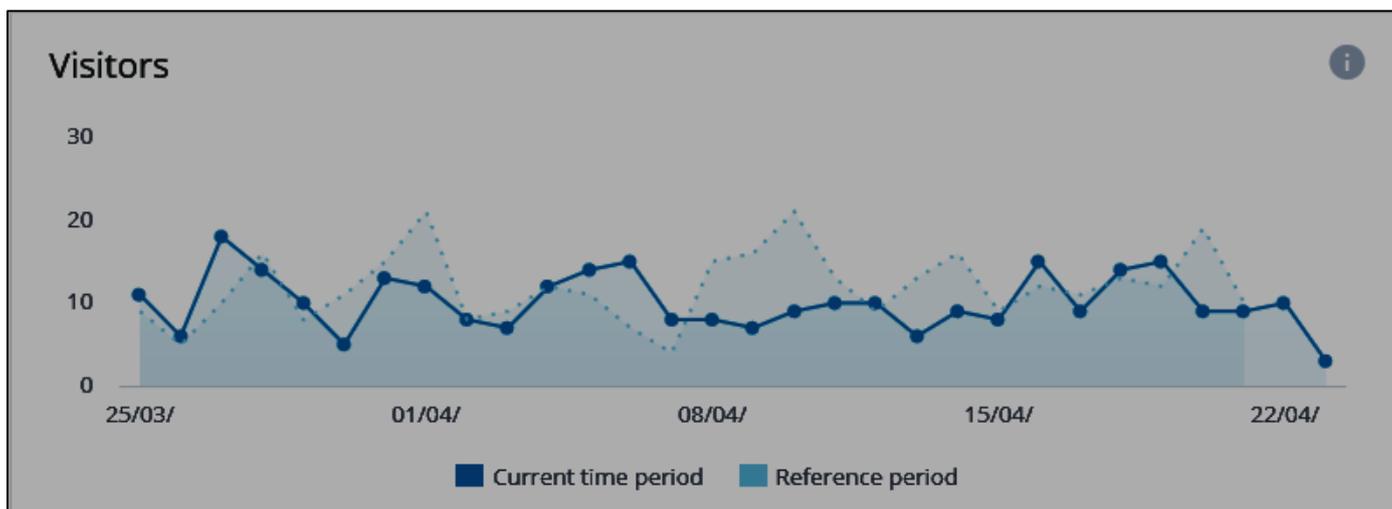
Our distinguished member Sir Kenneth Olisa, famous for his devotion to bow ties, wears his new HPS colours with pride

**ooOoo**

**THE HIGH PAVEMENT SOCIETY WEBSITE**  
**From the Webmaster**

*[The Society's website is a useful vehicle for people to learn about our activities and obtain information about our old school. It can be accessed via Google or other gateway using the address [www.highpavementsociety.org.uk](http://www.highpavementsociety.org.uk). The webmaster is Lawrence Milbourn. Lawrence is now retired but some members may remember him as a science teacher at Gainsford Crescent.-Ed.]*

**Dear Editor,** You might like to see some of the Site Analytics that we now get from 1&1IONOS (our website hosts). This graph shows something of the activity for our website.



This is just the daily number of visitors. The dark line is the current month and the dotted line is the previous month. They are both similar, averaging at around 9 or 10 visitors per day. We seem to get around 300 per month. Their stats also show which pages are looked at, how long each visitor stays on the site, what computers they are using and which search engines they use to find it, amongst other things.

**Lawrence Milbourn**

**The High Pavement Scientific Society**

The Scientific Society was a popular institution in the life of HP, which was, after all, well known for its emphasis on science studies. From time to time the society tended to die out, as its leading lights moved on to university, and had to be reformed under new management, carefully guided by sympathetic members of staff.

Your editor was a member during his sixth form years and once helped to provide demonstrations of the properties of aniline for a lecture given to the society by Mr W E Morris. Sometimes the meetings were augmented by a delegation of girls, of similar scientific outlook, from the Manning School. At one of these meetings the society was the visited by the renowned Colonel Brian Shaw from University College Nottingham to present his lively lecture on ‘Explosives’, with its ear-shattering illustrations. A visit to the gas works at Basford was also included in the list for that year (possibly 1948-9).

In 1925 (before your editor was born, in fact) the society was already in existence in and in the academic year 1926-27 the secretary was one A H Atkins (later to become the famous journalist on the *Daily Telegraph*, (writing as Harold Atkins) to be followed by Louis Essen (of atomic clock fame).



To celebrate their successful year of scientific discovery a commemorative photograph was taken which included the Science master Mr G O Harrison who was the society President with Harold Atkin seated on his right. (We note that Mr Harrison was the only male present *not* wearing a turn-down collar in the modern style.) He was originally a Peripatetic Science Instructor from 1890 to 1907 who visited all the Nottingham schools. A

versatile scientist, he apparently taught Astro-physics, Chemistry, Geology, Hygiene, Mathematics, Mineralogy, Physics and Physiology! However, he obviously had a soft spot for High Pavement because he became a permanent member of the school staff from 1907 and apparently endured until the 1920s, at least.

We were curious about the location of the photograph but Graham Wybrow has supplied the following: 'I visited Stanley Road and was initially looking for some sort of open air balcony but the school had nothing like that. Eventually, the caretaker identified the spot and of course it had to be outside the old Science Block (since demolished). I was able to photograph the exact location, and from it construct a "Ghost Picture", a very crude attempt to bring to life a very old black & white photo. Note that the wall on the right has been increased in height since 1926'. (We all remember those steps!)



Studying reports in *The High Pavement School Magazine* and later *The Pavior* reveals some of the activities pursued of which these are a selection:

**(1925)** 'The working of a crystal set' by Mr F W Coe; 'Limestone' and 'Prehistoric man in Britain' by Mr R H Crossland; Visit to the studios and transmitters of the Nottingham Broadcasting Station.

**(1926)** 'Primeval conquerors of land and air' by Dr H H Swinnerton of UCN; 'Etching' by Mr Argyle.

**(1928)** 'Coal and coal mining' by Rev A Ping; 'Fingerprints' by Dr Ringrose; 'Puzzles' by Mr Saayman.

**(1935)** 'Extraction of vegetable oils' by Mr Trease of UCN; 'Wandering through France' by Mr Mardling.

**(1936)** 'The National Grid' by Mr Sumner of UCN (a note says: *For the first time in the history of the society a cinematograph was used*); 'Bees and bee-keeping' by Mr Lane of West Bridgford; 'The early history of the locomotive' by Professor Bulleid of UCN.

**(1937)** 'Ductless glands' by Mr A H Marrow; Visit to the LMS Derby locomotive works.

**(1954)** Lecture on 'Explosives' by Mr Dunn; 'Analysis of Sounds' by Dr E W Lee of Nottingham University (at the university).

**(1959)** Visits to The Home Brewery and ICI Metals Division, Birmingham

**(1960)** 'Why is the night sky black?' by Mr Worthy; Visit to Players' tobacco factory.

These are selected items but the list could be far longer. **C Salsbury and G Wybrow**

**ooOoo**

### **OUR END PIECE**

**A few more reminiscences from Tommy Gee**  
**Me and The Dakota**

The time when more than 800 Dakota's were used in an airborne assault will be recalled by many of us in an impending re-enactment, scheduled to take place 75 years on from D-Day, to be organised by the Imperial War Museum from Duxford on 6th June (D-Day) this



year. They plan to muster 30 surviving Dakotas (or Douglas C-47 *Skytrains* to use their official and most appropriate military title) from which 300 parachutists will re-enact the air drop over Normandy. This preceded the assault by the remaining 24,000 troops who parachuted in from Dakotas or landed by gliders towed by bomber aircraft.

I had a brother-in-law who was a glider pilot, but his description of the take-off and landing made it clear to me that his role as pilot was minimal. As soon as the tow was released his task was to crash land and then (hopefully without serious injury) to wait for transport home. (He survived and later joined the Palestine Police.)

I myself have fond memories of the Dakota. My first trip was in a noisy RAF 'taxi' in 1947 from Ceylon to London for an interview at the FCO (Foreign and Colonial Office—in whose service I eventually worked). We sat facing the tail for 'safety' and at one point it landed to refuel in a sand storm in Basra. Glad to say we arrived on time. These aircraft were in use by East African Airways in the 1950s and I recall a flight to Dar-es-Salaam when one of my colleagues received a very hot cup of tea in his lap, and the stewardess politely enquired 'Can I get you another sir?' Her Majesty the Queen flew home to Britain from Kenya in the civilian version, called the Douglas DC3, after the death of her father, King George VI.

I was surprised to find that they were still in use by South Pacific Airways as late as the 1980s, and recall seeing their radial Wright 'Cyclone' engines lined up for sending away to be serviced. Then, good as new they were bolted back on and connected up again ready for further use.

Once, in a flight to Tonga, we had to circle the landing strip because the Dakota's undercarriage had jammed. The flight engineer un-bolted a panel in the gangway and struck the offending part with a hammer. This secured its release, and we landed safely. (Incidentally, a village football match with some *two hundred* players held us up on the ensuing taxi ride to the capital Nakualofa.)

So much for the Dakotas in my life. The editor has reminded me that I was once an NCO in the ATC (Air Training Corps) at High Pavement. Quite a few of my 17 year old school friends from this era subsequently joined the RAF and I can recall the grave announcements in assembly saying that yet another one had died in action. I shall never forget losing one good friend in particular, George Arnold by name. I now wonder just how many Pavions gave their lives in service to the RAF.

Something on the BBC recently set me wondering about those Pavions (including my brother-in-law, Ray Caulton) who were recruited to fly, reputedly by the simple two-part question put to them by the recruiting officer at selection: '*Have you ridden a motor bike, and have you ever owned one?*' They say that if you answered 'Yes' to the first, and 'No' to the second, you were accepted!



I was lucky. They needed mathematicians to help win the war, so on the understanding that after graduation I would either work on coding at Bletchley, on atomic bombs Harwell, or teach celestial navigation to the navy. I went to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, and never looked back.

**Tommy Gee**

As mentioned in this article, TG developed a career working for the colonial Civil Service, initially in Uganda, East Africa.

◀ We have never used this pic before so we show it now, with a youthful TG holding the results of a shooting expedition for wild geese in the province of Buganda

*[Readers should perhaps also note the Dakota involvement in the article on page 7. -Ed.]*

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