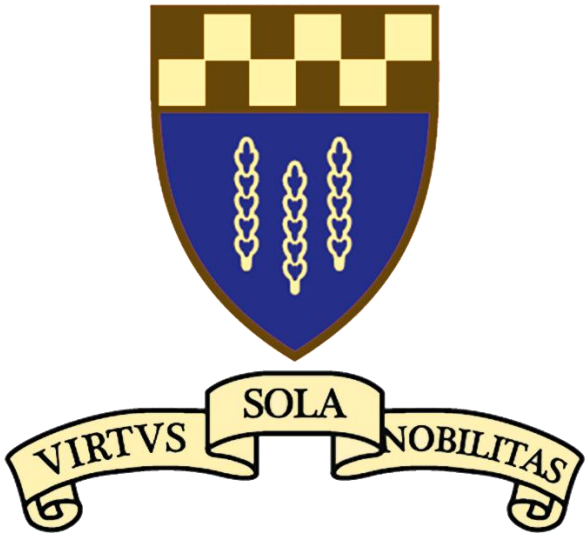
The Pavior

The Newsletter of
The High Pavement Society
(founded 1989)



Commemorating

High Pavement Schools

(founded 1788)

August 2026

Your Committee

President: Ken Kirk

Hon. Vice Presidents:	John J Elliott
	Colin Salsbury
Committee Chairman:	John Chambers
Deputy Chairman:	Malcolm Pilkington
Secretary:	Gerald Taylor
Treasurer:	Michael Johnson
Registrar:	Alex Rae
Pavior Editor:	Gerald Taylor
Archivist:	Graham Wybrow
Web-Master:	Lawrence Milbourn

Copy for *The Pavior* newsletter may be sent to:
Gerald Taylor: news@highpavementsociety.org.uk,
who is glad to receive articles, reminiscences, old pictures, and titbits to do with High Pavement, both School and College.

The HP Society **Website** address is: www.highpavementsociety.org.uk

The HP Society **Facebook Page** is: www.facebook.com/groups/232442222741252/

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From the Committee

We thank members for payment of their subscriptions, due at the beginning of July, for the coming year.

From the Editor.

Your experience of High Pavement was unique! In your years as a pupil at the school you must have gathered memories no other has retained. Why not share some of them with us? They may be of the greatest interest.

Graham Wybrow is experimenting with audio recordings of phone interviews.

An Unofficial Meeting.

Society member Keith Wenborn, who contributed an article to the previous issue of this magazine, now invites *all* Old Paviors to a gathering at the end of October. This is not formally a Society function, but we are pleased to advertise it here. You can read about it on page 5.

Obituary.

Noel Gubbins (1937-2026; HP 1948-1954, School House)

Our member, Committee member, and Honorary Vice-President, Noel Gubbins died on March 14th this year.

President Ken Kirk has the following to say:

I first met Noel in September 1948, when I entered a class late: we got lost between the hall and class T10, which was "Killer" Carter's room. Ever after we called him Nat, as one of the teachers was addicted to the Sunday Express article "Sitting on the Fence" written by Nat Gubbins. Hence the rechristening of Noel.

Nat left High Pavement in 1954 and initially trained as an accountant before the early death of his father meant that he needed to increase his income. He accordingly went to the National Coal Board to train as a mining electrical engineer.

He married Enid in 1960 and for a time they were a working couple, till their two boys came along: Stuart in 1963 and Jeff in 1965.

Noel subsequently had a varied career including two stints of self employment, but was a success in every respect.

Around 1968 Nat took an interest in flying model aircraft, and this became something of an obsession! He won quite a few minor events although success in national events eluded him. The hobby was to last till the early 1990s, when he turned his attention to the planning of a new bungalow, which was a joint project with Enid. I was able recently to see the original plans, which Enid had kept. Nat, being a draughtsman, had drawn most of them himself. He went on to supervise the work, and Enid recalls that he was a hard taskmaster; but the result was a fabulous family home.

Nat became Secretary of this Society shortly after completing the bungalow, and was a very successful officer, owing to the enthusiasm with which he undertook the task.

The last few years of Nat's life were unfortunately marred by illness, and of course Enid became even more his rock for the period of his life when leaving the house was no longer possible.

He passed away on March 14th, and his funeral on April 9th was attended by many representatives of the Society. Carmen Paviorum was rendered there in memory of a good friend to us all and a great husband, father, and grandfather. He will be sadly missed.

Obituary.

Word has reached us that our member Howard Green, who attended High Pavement from 1953 to 1959 and was in Sherwood House, died earlier this year. No details are yet available to us.

David George Etheridge (HP 1954-9, School House)

Born 5th April 1943 Died 19th February 2026.

David's obituary appeared in the May issue of *The Pavior*, along with a tribute from Barry Johnson. The bad news reached us as the magazine was about to be sent for printing, and we had too little space to include all that we might have said, and so we atone for the omissions here.

From his daughter Clair:

Dad spoke fondly of his time at both Haydn Road Primary and High Pavement Grammar School. Although, after reading his reports we are not convinced he was the most academic of students, but certainly one who represented the school in sport well. One of his reports said he was 'rubbishy' and should 'question his place at this school,' swiftly followed by a positive note about being good at swimming, cricket and rugby!

After leaving High Pavement with no qualifications Dad went on to work for Nottingham City Police and promptly moved into the Scene of Crime department affectionately becoming known as 'The Fingerprint Man'. After 30 years as a Police Officer, Dad retired and returned the following Monday doing the same job for another 20 years as a civilian after a full restructure of the force, once it merged with the County and became Nottinghamshire Police. He retired fully on 12th December 1992 after serving 50 years. Quite the feat.

After retirement, Dad enjoyed spending time holidaying in Greece and in the garden, creating the most spectacular hanging baskets and doing his best to sabotage the neighbours, so they didn't look as good! He supported my brother and me in our hobbies and quests to set up homes ourselves and I would often find him in my garden building rockeries and planting shrubs when I got home from work.

Shortly after Mum died in 2023, Dad was diagnosed with mixed dementia and Alzheimer's. Although I did everything I could to keep him at home he was becoming unsafe and moved into Buddleia House in Hucknall in February 2025. He enjoyed his time there being the resident 'neighbourhood watch'. Once a policeman, always a policeman! Sadly, his needs became too complex to stay and he moved to Skylarks in West Bridgford in December 2025, where he received exceptional care until he died in February.

I feel very lucky to have had Dad in my life for so long and it has been wonderful reading the messages and stories your readers have sent over about their time at school with him. I know he was one of the 'good ones' but to hear others tell a similar story is heartwarming. He was my favourite person to do everything and nothing with. **Clair Etheridge**

From Fellow Pavior Barrie Smith:

Thank you for the e-mail about David Etheridge's passing. His High Pavement dates coincide with my own. I remember him as a Sherwood lad. In particular, my recollection is that he was a Senior Police Cadet when my twin brother, Christopher Smith (a Claremont boy), joined the Nottingham City Police Force and that David and he were partners in a force Life Saving team.

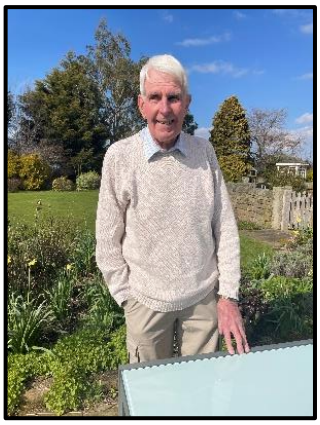
Barrie Smith

On the next page we present photos of David sent to us by Clair and by Barry Johnson.









Clockwise from top left: in this photo of an HP swimming team sent by Barry Johnson, David is fifth from right in the middle row, and Barry third; (other pictures from Clair) David with daughter Clair; David solo; and with his wife and Clair.

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You are Invited to Meet Up.

Hello, my name is Keith Wenborn and I am one of the youngest cohort that completed an education at High Pavement Grammar School when there were seven year-groups, having attended the school from 1968-75. Some of us have an informal get-together once a year and remain in contact through Facebook. We are all aged seventy this school year, and are planning a special event to celebrate our seventieths. The Paviors Rugby Club have kindly said we can hold the celebration there at our Burntstump ground. It is planned to include an extensive slide show of the Gainsford Crescent site as it was in those days. The celebration will start at around 7pm on Friday, October 30th and finish when the bar closes. The invitation to the get-together is extended to anyone who attended High Pavement Grammar school.

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New to the High Pavement Society.

We welcome:

Arthur Lacey, who was at HP from 1963-70 in Sherwood House.

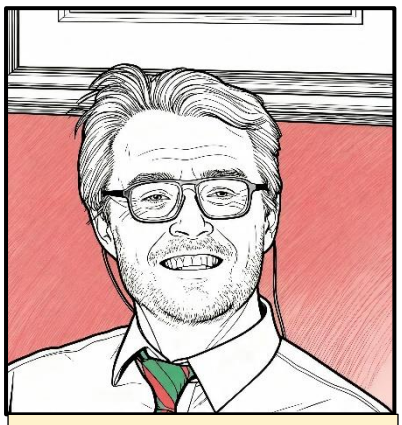
Jaswant Bilkhu, who attended from 1964-66 as a sixth-former.

Neil Kendrick, whose name will be familiar to followers of Paviors RFC.

Medium Jinks at the Pitcher and Piano.

Well, you naturally expect men of our venerable ages to be innocent of all but quite modest jinkery, but we none the less enjoyed convening at the said venue in High Pavement. Here our Registrar, Alex Rae, describes the recent gathering of Old Paviors.

On 21st April, 19 Paviors and friends attended an excellent lunch at the Pitcher and Piano (formerly the High Pavement Unitarian Chapel). The chapel was the location of our annual carol service. Its minister from 1946 until his death in 1973 was the Reverend Gordon Bolam. He was also minister of the Friargate United Reformed Church in Derby. The original High Pavement Chapel was Presbyterian but became Unitarian in 1802. In addition to establishing High Pavement School in 1788, the chapel is notable for establishing a successful mutual assurance association in 1807, the Provident Friendly Society, which survived until the introduction of National Insurance in 1948. The chapel ceased to be used for worship in 1982 and became the Nottingham Lace Museum until its conversion into its current use.



Alex Rae

The current chapel dates from 1876. It was designed by the Bristol architect Stuart Colman. It is noted for its stained glass. Of particular importance is the south-facing window, designed by the noted pre-Raphaelite Edward Burne-Jones in 1890. The architectural historian Sir Niklaus Pevsner commended it as one of the finest stained-glass windows in the country. It has always amused me that Pevsner assumed that the chapel was Anglican and described the window as east-facing in the Nottinghamshire volume of his Buildings of England series.

We were grateful to Graham Wybrow for giving us a tour of the original school buildings at the rear of the chapel.

The chapel is now Grade II listed.



Alex and Colin Salsbury in fine voice for Carmen Paviorum



Paviors tucking in and, in moderation of course, supping up. To strengthen themselves for a rousing rendition of the old School Song.

More pictures on page 7:



Our Archivist Graham Wybrow giving a conducted tour of the Chapel's environs.



You may be curious to know what is inside. But curiosity is a sin.

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High Pavement Awards 30th June 2026

The High Pavement Society sponsors yearly awards for best student in English and in Engineering. At a packed ceremony held at the Chaucer Street campus of High Pavement Sixth Form, the President and Chairman were delighted to present the Stanley Middleton Award to Will Dickinson. The Ken Bateman Award went to Millie Leonardi.



Will Dickinson, recipient of the Stanley Middleton Award, is flanked here by HP Society President Ken Kirk and, nearest the camera, our Chairman John Chambers.

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A Name with Fame.

Graham Wybrow has discovered that Professor Norman Fisher, educationalist and an Old Boy of High Pavement, is featured on YouTube as chairman of *The Brains Trust* in a discussion about "Should we take an anxiety pill?" It was televised in 1958, and the Brains Trust panel included writer Aldous Huxley and his biologist brother Julian. You can find it on a YouTube channel called *An Archive*, or you can do it the hard way:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-rrQUKAjiQ

You can read about Professor Fisher by searching Wikipedia for *Norman Fisher – educationalist.*

The Busy Life of Tommy Gee.

Tommy celebrated his hundredth birthday last summer, but sadly, as we announced in the previous issue of The Pavior, *he died in October. With permission of* The Guardian *we give the account of his life by science journalist Wendy Barnaby that appeared there:*

"My friend Tommy Gee, who has died aged 100, was a progressive colonial service administrator during the 1950s and 60s in Uganda, where his sympathies with the local population won him few friends among the expat community.

On Uganda's independence in 1962 the prime minister, Milton Obote, asked Tommy to stay on to oversee an expansion in education that led to a doubling in the number of secondary schools from 21 to 42 in three years. Later, back in the UK, he became administrative director of the newly formed Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, after which he helped to establish the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

Born in Nottingham, Tommy was the son of Tom, a butcher, and Beatrice (nee Whitby). After attending High Pavement grammar school in Nottingham he gained a mathematics degree at Brasenose College, Oxford, and went into the Royal Navy at the end of the second world war, rising to be chief navigator on HMS Glasgow.

Afterwards he passed the civil service exams and was posted to Uganda, where his first role was as an assistant district commissioner. He later became district commissioner for the kingdom of Bunyoro and then secretary to the legislative council in Kampala.

A proponent of Africanisation, Tommy's stance put him at odds with most of his work colleagues, who envisaged the British empire continuing for many more years than it did. When he vocally opposed the deportation of the King of Buganda to London, it looked as if he would be sacked for his outspokenness – until the secretary of state, Alan Lennox-Boyd, said he agreed with Tommy's standpoint and he was allowed to keep his job.

After independence Obote appointed Tommy on a three-year contract as a permanent secretary in the ministry of education, tasked with dramatically increasing school numbers, which he did via enterprising solutions such as enlisting western volunteers in the classroom until local teachers could take over. He was appointed OBE in 1965.

Back in the UK he worked for a while as a principal at the Ministry of Overseas Development before accepting an offer to set up the IDS at Sussex University. While at Sussex, he went to Fiji in 1969 to write a report on the viability of setting up a University of the South Pacific, and was subsequently made the university's registrar in 1970. He moved on to be registrar of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology in 1985 and left three years later.

In retirement he lived in Keymer, West Sussex, where he was a Liberal Democrat county councillor. He relocated to Suffolk in 1996, serving as a prison visitor in Norwich until moving back to Sussex in 2020."

One of our Society members, Christopher Joseph, recalls the following about Tommy:

I met Tommy perhaps three times when I was taken to Quaker meetings at a remarkable Meeting House in the countryside near Beccles. I have no idea how we got talking of HPGS, but he was delighted to share memories of the old [Stanley Road] school, which I never knew. He was remarkable for his age with pin sharp focus on those details that he recalled. By all accounts an outstanding former pupil of whom HPGS should be rightly proud.

John Gurnhill (HP: 1953-60, Basford House)

School / College Teacher, Long Distance Walker & YouTuber

Part 1: School & Adult Life

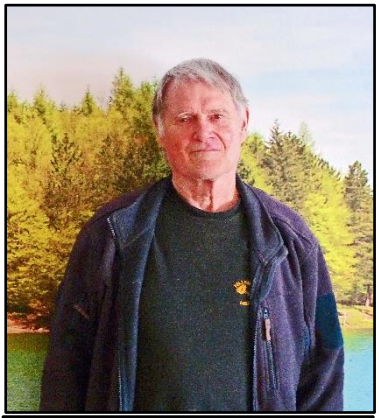
In this article, John describes his days at High Pavement and his later career in Secondary Education. In Part 2 (to follow), he describes more of his personal and family life, particularly his life at primary / junior school prior to High Pavement.



John Gurnhill today

John grew up on the Sherwood Estate opposite Woodthorpe Park. Initially, he went to the Seely Primary School on Perry Road (Sep 1947-50) and then to the Haydn Road Junior School (1950-53). At that time, the Haydn Road school, under the legendary Headmaster Ken Martin, had an amazing record for getting pupils through the 11-Plus Exam with success rates reputedly near 100%. John was no exception and he passed the 11-Plus in 1953. He even qualified for the High School Entrance Exam but was unsuccessful. He therefore went to High Pavement Grammar School initially for two years at Stanley Road and then to Gainsford Crescent where he stayed until 1960. At High Pavement, he was in Classes 1A, 2A, Sc3A, Sc4B, Sc5B. He admits he had a bad year in Sc3A, particularly in Maths when he was taught by Mr F S Redding (Syd). He then went into SC4B where Mr Saayman repeated a lot of the work already taught in Sc3A. At O-Level, he gained passes in Maths (Grade 1), Physics (3), English Language (4), Chemistry (5) but fails in Geography (6), Eng Lit (7) and French (8). He retook the Geography at Christmas and gained a Grade 5 Pass.

It is well known that, in the mid-1950s, Headmaster Harry Davies was keen to introduce Engineering into the High Pavement school curriculum and John was one of those to directly benefit from this initiative. When John came to enter the 6th Form in 1958, he was able to enter a dedicated Engineering 6th Form (L6 Eng, U6 Eng) where he was able to specialise in Maths, Physics and Engineering Drawing. In particular, he remembers being taught Technical Drawing by Arthur Blackburn and taking O-Level Tech Drawing at the end of his Lower 6th Year. At A-Level, he achieved passes in Maths (2), Physics (4) and Engineering Drawing (6) and an O-Level in General Studies[1].



John Gurnhill in Rise Park ! Guess where.

From HP, John went on to the Battersea College of Advanced Technology (CAT) (1960-63) – later to become the University of Surrey. John was, like so many HP boys of that era, the first in his family to go to university. He graduated with a BSc in Electrical Engineering gaining a 1st Class Honours in his London University Internal Degree. He then spent a year (1963-64) at C F Mott College of Education at Huyton, Merseyside where he gained a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

After PGCE, he applied to teach Maths in Nottingham but was only offered a place in Junior Schools, not Secondary schools which he wanted. It was at this time that he was personally invited by his former Headmaster Harry Davies to meet him at Nottingham University to discuss career

[1] *When I entered the 6th-Form in 1964, the Engineering 6th had been discontinued – GW.*

options. Harry Davies advised John to take a secondary place elsewhere in the country to gain experience before returning to Nottingham. This was indeed what he did.

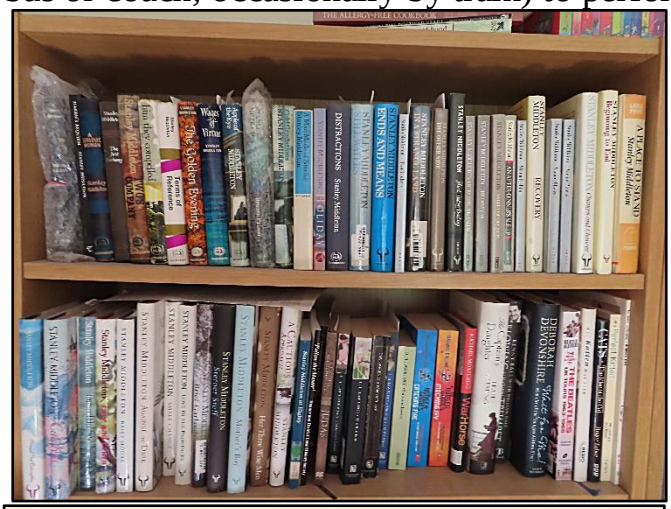
John's first teaching post was therefore at the South-East Essex County Technical High School (1964-66) and from there he moved to Heanor Grammar School (1966-72). In 1972, he was appointed to the post of Second Master in Mathematics at Arnold County High School and he progressed to Head of Maths when the school transitioned to Arnold Hill Comprehensive School a couple of years later. John stayed in that position until he retired in 1997.

However, John also found time to hold other jobs in parallel. For some 25 years, from 1969-94, he also taught Applied Maths at the People's College in Nottingham (Wed Evening Classes). From 1969, he has also been an Assistant Examiner, eventually Team Leader, involved in the provision of GCE and CSE exams for several boards, the principal one becoming the Cambridge Assessment Board.

Interestingly, an Assistant Principal with the Cambridge Assessment Board whom John encountered in his examinations work was a Mr F S Reading, the person who had taught John Maths during his disastrous year in Sc3A. John was able to renew his acquaintance with Mr Reading and he was also later to teach Mr Reading's two sons when they attended Arnold Comprehensive School. Mr Reading naturally took great interest in their progress under John's tuition.

John married in 1965 and has two daughters Joanne and Julie, and now three grandchildren. He has lived in the Nottingham area since 1966, in Basford until 1972 and then in Ravenshead.

John has maintained several personal interests outside teaching. He has always enjoyed the theatre and music, attending many live concerts. He bought his first New Musical Express (NME) in 1958 and weekly thereafter for some 40 years (and still has all the charts!). He particularly remembers seeing Roy Orbison at the Liverpool Empire and in Nottingham and the Beatles in Nottingham (in Nov 1963). He always travelled by public transport (mostly bus or coach, occasionally by train) to performances, often in London or Liverpool.



John's collection of Stanley Middleton Books (Top Shelf & left-hand half of Lower Shelf).

John does have a particular interest in our famous former English Master Stanley Middleton. Although he admits that Literature was never his favourite subject (he failed O-Level English Literature) he has followed Stan's literary career with interest and has ALL Stan's books, a few signed by the author himself. Over the years, John met Stan on a couple of occasions and he attended Stan's funeral.

John is also particularly keen on Long-Distance Walking, having joined the Long-Distance Walkers Association (LDWA) prior to his retirement in 1996. The Association's Flagship event, which characterises what they do, is their Annual 100-Mile Challenge, in which members are challenged to walk 100 miles in 48 hours over the Late May Bank-Holiday weekend. John has completed this challenge 10 times out of 14 attempts.

In recent years, John has acquired an 'Action Camera' (a 'DJI Action 4' - similar to a 'Go-Pro') which he uses to very effectively complement his other activities. John is now a well-established YouTuber, having started contributing videos in April 2009. He now has some 1,436 videos on his YouTube Channel on the Internet. He is still a regular contributor under the pseudonym '**r4ndym4n**' and has acquired almost 2,000 subscribers and clocked up some 1.7M views to date**.** Do a Google Search on the string '**r4ndym4n**' to find his many videos. His topics are an even mix of Pop & Country Music Performances, LDWA Events, Local History (eg Nottingham, Mansfield, Ravenshead), Long Distance Footpaths, Pets and Public Transport. Two recent videos of special local interest are:

Long Stairs, Malin Hill to Narrow Marsh, Official Opening, Mon 20 Apr 26.

High Pavement: Interesting Features, Nottingham, Mon 20 Apr 26. (4k)

One of John's current interests is exploring the new 'England Coast Path', and he is recording his experiences for his YouTube channel.

[*Over the years, I have walked many footpaths myself, but age is now limiting my mobility. I find that I am, however, still able to relive some of those experiences and even explore some new ones, thanks to youngsters like John who have to do the hard work and record their experiences on YouTube for the rest of us to enjoy. Actually, John is 6-years older than me but don't tell him! - GW*] **Graham Wybrow**

Answer to photo competition "John Gurnhill in Rise Park! Guess where". It is against the lake mural inside the Rise Park Cafe – where we had just had breakfast.

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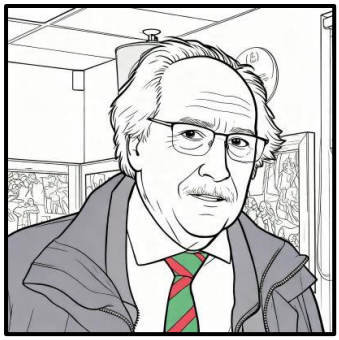
Paviors RFC: An Up-and Down Season.



Our Treasurer, Michael Johnson, is a keen follower of Paviors Rugby Club, and here he summarises the club's fortunes in the season just past.

After a season of ups and downs (with more downs than ups), Paviors RFC secured a position of safety from relegation in their crucial final game of the season against Matlock; for despite losing they gained two bonus points.

It was a disappointing start to the season, with three defeats in September. There was some slight improvement in October – two home wins but two away defeats. Similarly, November consisted of a home win, marred by two losses away from home. Although December began badly with a loss at home to Belgrave (who would eventually finish bottom), the final game of 2025, just before Christmas, saw Paviors RFC end the calendar year on a high, with a dramatic one-point home win over Stoke-on-Trent.

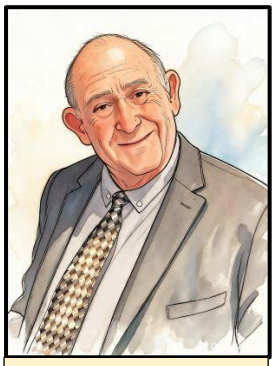
In January 2026, there was something of a revival, with a spectacular home win over West Bridgford; this was reinforced by two further wins in February. Unfortunately, as the season was reaching its climax in March, form began to drop again, with three consecutive defeats, happily followed by an away win at Belgrave and the final home defeat against Matlock,

So, all in all, a season of consolidation and some optimism for next season, after finishing ninth in the table.

Life in Africa: Witchcraft and Immigration Authority.

Clive Bagshaw has in previous issues of The Pavior told us of his flying adventures and encounters with serious criminals. Now he tells us of other menaces.

We soon learned that witchcraft was taken very seriously by the natives. All our scoffing at this nonsense would cease in due course as we realised the seriousness of these ancient traditions and occult practices.



Clive Bagshaw

There were children who had their hands cut off in witchcraft sacrifices. There were people killed and body parts used for "Muti" that hung in little hessian bags around their necks to ward off evil spirits. Stories of the evil and mischievous satanic Tokalosh and witches flying at night abounded. Just mumbo jumbo to the average westerner but so real there. There are so many things we saw there you would probably not believe them.

There were so many things that happened to our detriment. Robberies, battles with the authorities, difficulties with our work permit; it seemed endless. My first work permit was supposed to have been applied for by my employer and approved by immigration before I came into the country. It was not so and I had hassles until it was finally applied for and approved. A condition of my first work permit was that I had to nominate and train a local Malawian to do my job and take over from me at the end of the contract. I did nominate two bright young men with a good education. I did a really good job on them and only succeeded in making them more marketable for other companies to poach with offers of a better salary. So I lost my two trainees just before my permit renewal became due. When my permit came up for renewal, Immigration claimed I had not trained anyone and refused my renewal. It took a lot of arguing to show them that I had in fact trained up not one but two people; but they had left the job for employment elsewhere just before my renewal application went in. In fact one got another job and the other just disappeared. I later found him at the local Technical College having enrolled himself on a new course. It seems I had encouraged him to learn so much he went back to college. It was a pity he never told me what he was doing; I would have sponsored him.

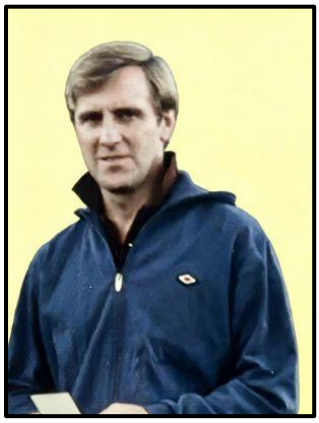
The work permit was initially for two years. Because my employer had not applied for my permit before I arrived in Malawi it took quite a while to get it, during which time I was of course working. The delays caused by immigration to my renewal application took two years to resolve so I actually worked for another four years on a two-year permit before they told me it was not approved.

It was at this time that I had to reapply for a different kind of permit, a BRP, (Business Residents' Permit) as distinct from the TEP (Temporary Employment Permit) I had to start with. I got that but later on Immigration decided that they wanted me back on a TEP and so we had a load more hassle. When the TEP expired I again applied for BRP, and after a year they kindly advised me on my umpteenth enquiry that they could find no trace of my application. They were able to discuss various topics from my application that showed they had received it and knew of it but… well, I had to start from scratch again. More than a year later, it was still not approved. So I always seemed to be in conflict with immigration, with them calling at my office from time to time to ask which plane I was flying out on. It was just a game to them, but worrying for us. Mostly, they just wanted bribes to keep them quiet and gain their cooperation. *Clive's narrative will return to High Pavement in the next issue.*

Do You Remember: Raymond P Graves (1938-2024), Teacher of English and PE.

Mr Graves' son, Philip, writes:

Would it be possible to make a request to your members for any recollections of my father, Ray Graves (R.P. Graves)? I'm currently working on a book and would like to include an account of him as a hockey coach. I saw a passing reference to him in one of your past publications. I believe he coached some quite successful teams and I would love to hear a fuller account of his coaching 'style', from anyone who played in one of his hockey teams and remembers it.



Any memories of him as an English teacher would also be welcome. I believe that, in addition to teaching English Literature A' level, he quite often taught people who had failed their O-level the first time round and enjoyed the challenge of getting them through a retake (I recall him saying that he saw the prior failure as an indication of bad teaching, not a fault of the pupil).

Dad died in May 2024, at the age of 86. He struggled somewhat after the death of his wife in 2000; she was just 59 at the time. But he had a wonderful relationship with his two grandchildren and stayed very passionate about sport (as a viewer). He remained in Nottingham until his death. He taught PE and then English at High Pavement for many years, but most of his hockey team coaching happened when I was very young and I know very little about it. My email address is

philip@philipgraves.net

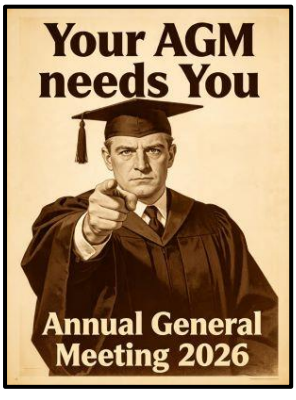
Kind regards, Philip Graves

Editor's remark:

I played in the hockey 1st XI under Mr Graves' management in 1970 and 1971, and I think we never lost a match. But don't ask what his secret for success was, though other staff must surely have been aware that he had one; for another of the PE teachers, Peter Pickering, once concluded his explanation of some aspect of the game with a remark to Mr Graves along the lines of "I'll leave the rest to you, with your knack…"

As for his teaching English, I was not aware he did that, but do recall his saying reassuringly, in response to my expressing a lack of optimism about the impending O-level exam in English Literature, that I would pass; and the word "doddle" was deployed. But in this matter Mr Graves did not prove a true prophet: I failed English Literature (miserably).

ooOoo



Do you want lines? No?

Then be at our AGM.

You've read the flyer (herewith), you know the place (the old High Pavement Chapel), and you know the date (September 24th).

A register will be taken.

Those attending will be granted an amnesty over lines that were never completed while they were at High Pavement.

Early days at High Pavement

We think Colin Salsbury is our oldest member. Here he describes his memories of the School, and his feelings on revisiting its site on Stanley Road. One of the teachers he mentions, Mr Mardling, became familiar to many Paviors before he retired in the 1970s. Do you recall any of the others?

I arrived at High Pavement school in 1942 from my junior school at Haydn Road in Sherwood. HP was then known as a secondary school and rose to the status of 'Grammar' following the implementation of the Butler Education Act in 1944. Other less ambitious schools were designated as Secondary Modern.

The junior school in Sherwood ran a rigorous 4th form and sent many of its pupils to High Pavement.

During the junior school years our classes were often interrupted by air raids and the need to retreat to the air raid shelters. However, by the time we entered High Pavement such raids were a rarity, as the German Luftwaffe was slowly defeated.

During the first year our classroom was housed in the Technical Block on the far side of Stanley road, from which we walked to the assembly each morning in the main school.

I remember teachers in those early days, including Mr CME Mardling (French), Oliver Barnett (Latin), Edith Fields (Nature Science), Anne Tomlinson (Mathematics), Mr Gibbs (History) and Frank Pinion (English).

Mention of Nature Science evokes a vivid memory. We would occasionally be taken on field trips, one of which was to Bramcote Hills, from which we returned home unusually early. As I approached our house on Weardale Road in Sherwood I became conscious of the movements of an RAF Mosquito bomber making low level passes over the district. To my horror it suddenly zoomed behind the row of houses and crashed in flames. I watched anxiously as emergency services arrived, followed by dozens of school children wanting to see what was happening. The police quickly barricaded the road to keep them at a safe distance. I was allowed to enter our house and await my mother's return from school with my younger sister. The next day I related the experience to my fellow classmates as an eye witness of the tragic incident.

After the mid-year examinations the first-year groups were reorganised. The top 50% became Classical 1 and the others became known as Science A, including me. We abandoned studies of Latin and French and began to learn German.

I enjoyed German and continued to study the language later in life, visiting Germany itself on many occasions.

A pilgrimage by a very old Pavior.

Having just passed my 95th birthday I had been thinking it was time to look back. I'm not sure whether I am the oldest member of the HP society but I do know that I am an Honorary Vice President and the word *vice* suggests getting a grip. My abilities are a bit restricted, especially eyesight, and I am quite dependent on the help of my eldest son to transport me to various locations and events. So I asked him to be kind enough to take me to the Stanley Road site for a nostalgic look at the old school as I remembered it. Of course, we all know the premises are now used by another institution, Forest Fields Primary School.

On arrival my first surprise was to see the huge trees that have grown on the site during the almost 85 years since my school days. My son David took a few photos, two of which are shown here, while I wallowed in nostalgia.

The great main building survives but the old laboratory block has disappeared. We toured the surrounding streets, which now house so many new communities. It was strange to see that the various corner shops had all disappeared, with their doorways bricked up and now used as houses. During my schooldays they were all busy with local shoppers. The Tuck Shop at the corner with Berridge Road would sell ice lollies to juniors for a few pence. They enjoyed these before school started. The Headmaster, Harry Davies described this practice with some disdain, calling them "those candlelike objects which you slide in and out of your mouths."

Oh happy days…

Colin Salsbury





Above: Colin stands beside the iron gates of the entrance to what is now Forest Fields Primary School. Colin assures us he did not seek to climb in while no-one was looking.

Right: a view of the old school-wall.

ooOoo

A Name to Remember: Bill Benner, Artist.

William Benner (1884-1964) retired from High Pavement in 1949, having taught Art there for 27 years. He has been mentioned before in these pages, and now our Archivist, Graham Wybrow, has something more to report:

"I have discovered that Nottingham City Museum Art Collection includes three works by Bill Benner, who was quite an accomplished and respected artist. His role as French mayor should not go without mention.

https://artuk.org/discover/artists/benner-william-18841964

I wonder if Bill knew that the burned-out Trivett Factory [which appears on the web page indicated above] was owned by an HP Old Boy, L.O. (Louis Oram) Trivett."

Old Paviors and a Notable Test Match at Trent Bridge.

On June 29th this year, England began the day's play with something of a mountain to climb against New Zealand, being four wickets down with only 104 on the board, and in need of a total of 373, more than had ever been made to win a test at the ground. Graham Wybrow *had the following to say about it on the previous day:*

"The current Test match at Trent Bridge reminds me of a similar event four years ago. In fact, the match seems to be progressing down very similar lines.

The particular day was Tue 14th Jun 2022, and it was the fifth and final day of the second Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge. It was also the day the High Pavement Society held its first (and last) lunch at the Welbeck Rooms, which were of course directly opposite the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground. It was a glorious sunny day and, before the lunch, John Chambers led a walk along the Trent Embankment and back over Trent Bridge. The Cricket Ground had granted free admission for the final day and we met many cricket fans making their way to the ground (and some seeking directions).

New Zealand had been put into bat on the first day and scored 553. England responded with 539 and NZ scored 284 in their 2nd innings. With one day left, England needed 299 to win and had reached 93 for 4; it looked as if the match was cruising towards a draw. However, this was the first season of 'Baz-Ball'. Unbeknown to us on the other side of the road, Jonny Bairstow hit 136 off 92 balls, ably supported by Ben Stokes with an unbeaten 75 off 70 balls. A truly memorable victory and a record for a 4th innings run chase.

I was one of the last to leave the Welbeck Rooms that day, having decided to stay with one of our more infirm members until he could be collected by his daughter. Together we sat outside the Welbeck in the sunshine, reminiscing about High Pavement and listening to the roars from the Cricket Ground - and begging "the latest score" from any passing bar staff.

In the present match, New Zealand batted first and scored 438. England responded with 354. By lunch on the 4th day, NZ had reached 195 for 4, with a lead of 279. Could we be heading for another spectacular finish – or has 'Baz-Ball' finally died?

A reminder of one of the more memorable High Pavement Society functions."

Editor's comment:

This time a spectacular victory was not to be: New Zealand eventually declared their second innings closed at 288 for 9, and England's second innings ended on a total of 212. New Zealand thus won by 160 runs.

By the way, I am one of the lucky people that have played at Trent Bridge, in a match against a club allowed to use the ground. It was in the early 1970s, and I think the team were called Notts Casuals. I have long forgotten how we fared against them, but do remember the joy of treading the ground there. Even the outfield felt different somehow, and it was a pleasure to walk on.

One other thing I remember was that the prevailing quiet of the match was repeatedly broken by loud roars from the City Ground: Forest beat Wolves 4-1 that day.

Gerald Taylor.