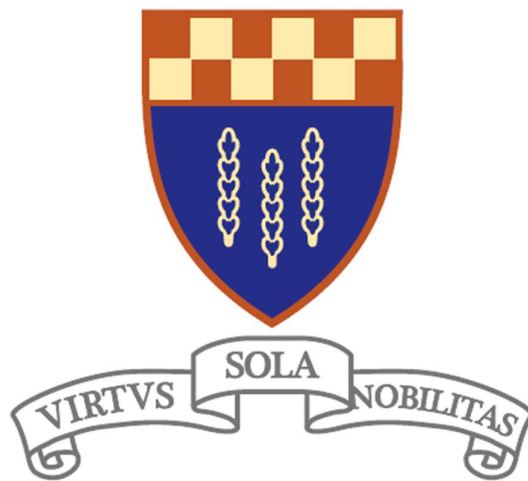


The Pavior



The Newsletter
of
The High Pavement Society
(founded 1989)

May 2023

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

Committee Chairman: Barry Johnson (07305 787517)

Deputy Chairman: Vacant

Acting Secretary: Colin Salsbury (01509 558764)

Acting Treasurer: Ken Kirk (07885 739981)

Registrar: Alex Rae

Pavior Editor: Colin Salsbury (01509 558764)

Archivist: Graham Wybrow (0115 9626249)

Web-Master: Lawrence Milbourn

Committee Members:

Malcolm Pilkington (01623 491260)

Noel Gubbins

Copy for *The Pavior* (and, for now, general correspondence) may be sent to:

Colin Salsbury: colin.salsbury@outlook.com

116 Leicester Road, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 2AQ

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

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



Faces to Remember
John Nigel Hardwick
Metalwork & Woodwork Master
1959 - 63

COMMITTEE NOTICES

Your Society needs you!

It has finally happened. A combination of unfortunate circumstances mean that our Society no longer has sufficient active volunteers to complete all the work necessary for the proper running of the Society. Most existing committee members have, over the last year, taken on more than one role to keep the Society running, but this situation is NOT sustainable.

We therefore ask all our loyal members to seriously consider if they are able to support the Society by taking on some of these duties, if only on a temporary / trial basis. We currently have vacancies as follows:

- **Society Secretary:** To handle the day-to-day correspondence of the Society.
- **Assistant Editor:** To support our Editor, Colin Salsbury in the production of the quarterly Pavior Magazine.
- **Assistant Treasurer:** To support Ken Kirk in the management of Society funds.
- **Archivist (Alumni):** To compile a comprehensive list of our distinguished alumni – a very interesting task. Our Archivist has long dreamed of compiling such a list which would add much to the documented history of the school and could even aid recruitment to the Society. However, he has found so many distinguished alumni (eg Page 5 and article on Colin Skellett Page 8) that he now accepts that this task is beyond his current workload.

The only essential qualification for all posts is access to email. Ideally, it would be desirable if everyone were able to attend Committee meetings in Nottingham (roughly once every 6 weeks) although this is NOT considered essential for the roles of Assistant Editor and Archivist (Alumni). Both of these tasks could be successfully conducted via email from almost anywhere in the world.

Anyone wishing to express an interest in any of these positions is invited to contact any member of the Committee to discuss further. They can rest assured that they will receive a very warm welcome (this work can be fun too !).

The Committee Meeting held on Wed 26 April 2023 focussed on these issues and agreed the following:

1. **Chairman:** Barry Johnson has volunteered to take on, temporarily, the role of Chairman until an election for the post can be held at the autumn AGM. This frees Ken Kirk, our current Chairman, to concentrate on his other 2 roles of President and Acting Treasurer. Barry has been a member of the Committee for a couple of years now and he is also an active member of the Paviers RFC and has done much to bring together our two organisations for mutual benefit.
2. **Secretary:** Colin Salsbury has requested to be allowed to stand down from his role as Society Secretary. He is, however, still willing to continue in the role of Editor of the Pavior magazine. Colin has been Registrar / Editor since at least 2011 and also Society Secretary since 2019. He is now aged 92 and has personally had a particularly difficult

year. Colin well deserves this relaxation of his Society duties and we all thank him for his considerable efforts over so many years.

3. **HPS Facebook Page:** It was decided to create an HP Society Facebook Page. This has now been implemented by our Web-Master, Lawrence Milbourn, and the Page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232442222741252/>

4. **HPS Web-Site:** It was decided to update the HP Society Web-Site to more clearly specify the objectives of the Society and to better appeal to occasional visitors. We wish to emphasise the work of the Society in preserving the Name and the distinguished History (230+ years) of the School and supporting the present Sixth-Form College wherever possible. We hope to add more interest to the Site by including (as time permits) more of the history of the School and also providing links to other relevant sites (eg YouTube videos etc).

A recent analysis of our membership showed that it currently divides into 3 almost equal-sized groups (ie 33% each): (a) Pure Stanley Road, (b) Pure Gainsford Crescent and (c) Tweenies (those who did at least one years at each site). Those in group (a) have carried most of the burden of running the Society since its founding in 1989 but they are now all over 80 years of age, so we inevitably look to those in Groups (b) and (c) for leadership now. I'm sure they will not let us down.

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting (AGM): The AGM is, of course, open to all Society members and this years AGM has been scheduled for **Mon 25th Sept 2023** at 12:00 Noon, at the Paviers RFC Clubhouse. The AGM will be followed at approx. 12:30 by an optional Luncheon for those who wish to participate. Details of the menu and prices for the luncheon will be circulated nearer the date.

Christmas Luncheon: This year the Society Christmas Luncheon has been scheduled for **Thur 7th Dec 2023**, at 12:30 for 1pm. This will be held in the Paviers Function Room of the Paviers RFC Clubhouse.

The Venue: The Venue for both of these events is the Paviers RFC Clubhouse. The address is the Paviers Rugby Football Club (RFC) Clubhouse, The Ron Rossin Ground, Burntstump Hill, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8PQ. Members will have an opportunity to see how far this organisation has come since its founding, 100 years ago, as the High Pavement School "Old Boys Rugby Club" and to review the familiar names displayed on the walls of the Clubhouse.

The venue is accessible via public transport using the PRONTO Bus Service from Victoria Bus Station in Nottingham, alighting at the Burntstump Hill / Seven Mile House stop on the Mansfield Road (A60). It is planned to arrange free transport to the venue from this bus stop (a distance of about ¾ mile) and possibly from another more distant location. Details will be provided nearer the time.

Our Editors

I'm pleased to announce that our usual Pavior Editor, Colin Salsbury will be returning to take full control of the next (August edition) of the Pavior. The current Temporary Editor, Graham Wybrow, apologise for the particularly late publication of this (May) edition.

Distinguished Alumni: 1. KNIGHTHOODS

[When Society member Sir Ken Olisa was honoured with a Knighthood in 2018, I wondered how many other former pupils of the School had been so honoured. I am now fairly sure that number is 5, as follows:]

Sir John Charles ROBINSON CB, FSA (1824-1913, 88)

Painter, Etcher, Art Collector & Curator

- 1st Curator of the Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough House (now the V&A Museum at South Kensington) (1857-63, 32-38)
- Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures (1880-1901, 55-76)
- Much admired for his etchings & drypoints, many now in Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
- Knighted (1887, 62); CB (Most Hon Order of the Bath) (1901, 76).
- *Born 16 Dec 1824, Harley Yard, Carrington St., Nottingham;*
Died: 10 April 1913, aged 88, at Swanage, Dorset.
- *HP School: Estimated¹: 1834-6, 2yrs; (he was a 'Pay-Boy' so no formal records kept)*
- *Higher Education: Studied Painting in Paris (whilst there, copied paintings in the Louvre) returning to England in 1847 (aged 22).*

Sir Arthur Elijah TRUEMAN KBE, FRS, FRSE, FGS (1894-1956, 61)

Geologist

- Fellow of the Royal Society (1942, 48), President of the Geological Society of London (1945-7, 51-53)
- Knighted by King George VI (1951, 57)
- *Born: 26 April 1894; Died: London, 5 Jan 1956, aged 61.*
- *HP School: 1906-11, 5yrs; Previous School: Berridge Road, Council School*
- *Father: Elijah Trueman, Lace Maker*
Home: 598 Berridge Road, Hyson Green, Nottingham;
- *Higher Education: BSc 1st Class Hons (1914), MSc (1916), DSc (1918), all from University College, Nottingham (which he entered in 1912).*

Sir Horace Stephen GIBSON CBE, MA, MI.MechE, F.Inst.Pet (1897-1963, 66)

Industrialist (Petroleum)

- Managing Director of Iraq Petroleum Company (1950-7, 53-60)
- President of the Institute of Petroleum (1952-54, 55-57)
- President Council of World Petroleum Congress
- Knight of St. John of Jerusalem (1956, 59), Officer of the Legion of Honour (1956)
- *Born 12 May 1887, Rempstone near Loughborough;*
Died: 1963, at home at Manor Farm, Halam, Notts.
- *HP School: 1909-14, 5yrs; Previous School: Southwark St; Father: Gardener*
Home: The Lodge, Basford Cemetery & (later) The Lodge, Basford Sanatorium²
- *Higher Education: Emmanuel College Cambridge*

1 After the early death of his father, he was raised by his Grandfather / Uncle (a printer on Long Row) who also gave him the name "Robinson".

2 Basford Cemetery is at the junction of Perry Rd and Nottingham Rd. Basford Sanatorium (now Riber Crescent) stood on Hucknall Road immediately north of the junction with Arnold Road.

Sir Frank Stanley (Tommy) TOMLINSON KCMG (1912-94, 82)

Diplomat & Linguist (Japanese)

- Remarkable physical similarity to film star Clark Gable.
- Staff, Consular Service, Japan (1935-40, 23-28), becoming fluent in Japanese.
- Staff, Consular Service, Saigon (1941-42, 30); held under house arrest by the advancing Japanese army for 10 months, until released via the Red Cross.
- British Political Warfare Mission to United States³ (1943-45, 31-33)
- Acting Consul-General, Manila (1945-47, 33-35); Foreign Office (1947-51, 35-39); Washington (1951-54, 39-42); Imperial Defence College (1954-55, 52-53);
- Deputy Commandant, British Sector, Berlin (1958-61, 46-49);
- Married Nancy Gleeson-White, Australia's first woman diplomat (serving in London until her marriage) (1958, 46)
- Minister, UK Permanent Delegation to NATO (1961-64, 49-52)⁴; Consul-General, New York (1964-66, 52-54);
- British High Commissioner to Ceylon (1966-69, 54-57)
- Deputy Under Secretary of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (1969-72, 57-60)
- Knighted (KCMG) (1966, 54)
- Made generous bequest to University of Nottingham's Asia Research Institute.
- *Born 21 March 1912; Died 10 Sep 1994, aged 82, Bath.*
- *HP School: 1923-??(at least 1928), At least 5 yrs (Fee paying £1 per Term); House: Wollaton (1928); Previous school: Haydn Road;*
- *Father: John Derek Tomlinson, Police Sergeant (Ret); Home: 118 Winchester Street, Sherwood, Nottingham;*
- *Higher Education: University College, Nottingham, Degree in Economics (1933,21)*

Sir Rowland Sydney WRIGHT CBE (1915-91, 75)

Industrialist (Chemicals)

- Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) (1975-8, 60-63),
- Chancellor of the Queen's University Belfast (1984-91, 69-75)
- CBE 1970 (55), Knighted 1976 (61) (for services to exports with ICI)
- *Born 4 Oct 1915, Northampton; Died: 14 June 1991, aged 75, Lewes, Sussex.*
- *HP School: 1928-34, 6 yrs; House: Wollaton (1931) / Newstead (1934)⁵; Previous school: Northampton Town & County Secondary*
- *Home: 38 Tavistock Drive, Sherwood, Nottingham; Father: Manager.*
- *Higher Education: University College, Nottingham*

[It had been hoped to include a portrait of each of these individuals but copyright issues make this impractical at present. Anyone interested can try Googling the names on the Internet for themselves.]

³ In charge of the programme of Japanese language Propaganda Broadcasting to Japan from the US West Coast, based in Denver Colorado.

⁴ This period included the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

⁵ The House System was introduced to HP by Dr Spenser sometime around 1926 with 4 houses (B, Sch, Sh, W). In 1932, the system was extended by GJR Potter to 8 houses (adding F, N, T, Wd) and requiring half the pupils to change to a new house.

Bestwood Remembered - Skylights

This view (c. 2000) is looking West from the Landing outside Room 10 on the top floor of the Main Building. It shows the Admin Corridor (bottom left) leading to the Foyer / Music Room (centre right) and the Main Hall beyond (centre, with green roof). Just visible to the left of the large conifer in the distance is the Gymnasium.

This picture shows some of the 'Pilkington Dome' skylights that were so effective in bringing natural lighting to the darker corners of the buildings. There were 3 Circular Domes along the "Admin Corridor" (only 2 visible in the photo) and 5 Rectangular Domes over the Foyer / Music Room. There were additional domes (not visible in this picture) over the Boy's Gym Changing Room (6 Rectangular) and on the roof of the Main Building (2 Circular) providing additional light to the corridors on the top Floor leading to the 1960's era Senior Library.



Regrettably, I understand these same skylights became a bit of a security issue in the later days of the Gainsford Crescent site.

The observant will notice that the main school entrance has been substantially changed from the 1960s, with the original 3 sets of Double Entrance Doors reduced to just one (shown in the picture). Also, just visible to the right of this entrance, there has been a major extension to what used to be the 1960s Music Room / Dining Room. This was built in the late 1990s to provide a large student cafeteria. It was an ungainly position which significantly altered the otherwise impressive entrance to the school / college, but was presumably necessary to be so located to be near the original kitchen facilities

ooOoo

Stanley Road Remembered: The Technical Block

This photo (taken in Jun 2010) shows the Technical Block viewed from the top of the Northern (Girls) Staircase of the Main HP Building, looking over Stanley Road to Bradgate Road in the distance. The Technical Block is located on the opposite side of Stanley Road from the HP Main Building and stands in what I have always taken to be the grounds of the Forest Fields Junior School. The main buildings of the Primary School are obscured by the wall on



the left of the picture. I do not know for sure that this building was ever formally part of High Pavement School. However, HP boys who attended the School in the 1940s and 50s well remember attending classes in this building.

The building was constructed after the HP Main Building (1895) but certainly before 1913 (when it appears on OS Maps). I suspect that it was built at the same time as the rest of the Forest Fields Junior School.

Colin Salsbury (HP: 1942-49) recalls that there was a large Woodwork Shop on the 1st Floor and a couple of classrooms that were used by HP. He also recalls that on the Ground Floor there was a large classroom equipped with rows of domestic kitchen cookers (gas) presumably for the teaching of cookery. Although this particular facility was not used at that time by pupils from HP (which was then Boys only) I suspect that it may well have been used by the girls of HP before they left Stanley Road for The Manning School in 1931 (and possibly even after the move to Manning). Interestingly, Colin Salsbury recalls that his own mother (who was educated at nearby Scotholme School) clearly remembered sometime around 1911 being sent for cookery classes to the Forest Fields School - presumably to this same domestic science facility.

ooOoo

Colin Frank SKELLETT OBE

Colin Skellett was born in Nottingham and educated at High Pavement Grammar School (Gainsford Crescent). Through part time study, Colin went on to earn a degree in Chemistry from the North Staffs Polytechnic and an MSc in Engineering from City University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Chemistry and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management.

In 1988, Colin was appointed Chief Executive of Wessex Water to guide them through privatisation and he has been Chairman or Chief Executive since then. Wessex Water is widely recognised as the best performing UK water and sewerage business. Colin also participated in the formation of the international charity Water Aid, that supports water and sanitation improvements in many parts of the world and he served on the council of Water Aid for many years.

In Feb 2019, Colin was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Bristol. In his acceptance speech, Colin recalled his humble beginnings with an amusing anecdote. He grew up on a council estate in Nottingham and no one from his family had ever been to university. He therefore left school in 1961 at the age of 16 after completing his GCEs and his first job was as a trainee chemist at the Nottingham sewage farm. As a 'new boy' Colin was given the great responsibility of looking after all the false teeth that were found (he had a box full!). He also had the honour of tracing and handing them back to their respective owners – who had usually accidentally flushed them after a 'good night out'. Colin did not say if Wessex Water still provides such a service.

Colin is married with three children and two step children and lives in Bath. He was awarded an OBE in the 2012 Queen's Birthday's Honours for services to business and Water Aid.

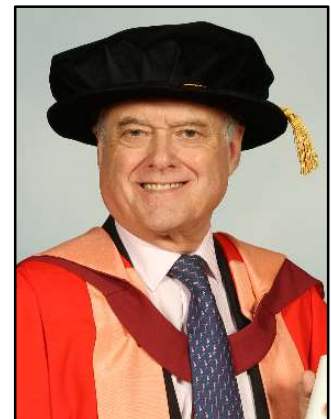


Image by kind permission of the University of Bristol.

Graham Wybrow

FROM Bruce PHILLIPS [HP: 1961-68, Wollaton House]
Science at High Pavement (1)

[The following article was passed to us by our Web-Master Lawrence Milbourn. It is from Bruce PHILLIPS who is not a member of the Society but has some interesting recollections of his days at High Pavement. For space reasons, it has been necessary to divide his article into 2 parts, with Part 2 to follow in a later Pavior.]

I saw on your website a request for memories of the school, particularly Science.

I started at HPGS on Gainsford Crescent in 1961 and left after my A levels in 1968. I have since had numerous careers, having finished my engineering qualification just as Rolls Royce went bankrupt in 1972. In 1994, I bit the bullet, walked out of a job, and trained to become a teacher, converting my Engineering to Physics.

In the first two years, our form master was E.W.N. Smith. A lovely man, he was the only teacher who ever called me by my first name. This was in shock when much later he saw how long my hair was when I was probably in the fifth form!

From the Science Department, I remember three Physicists: RV Bloom taught me for a couple of years and was a thoroughly likeable chap. I got on with him well partly because he drove a BSA motorcycle with sidecar and I had, and still have, a passion for motorcycles.

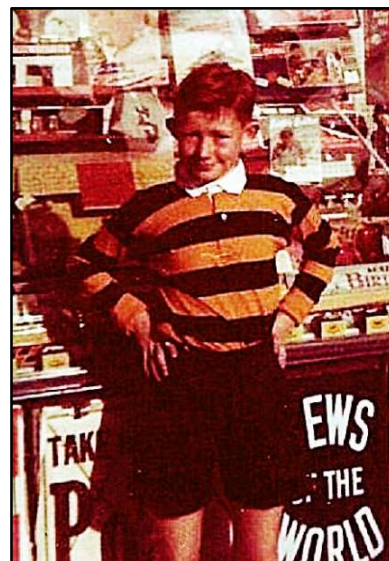
Sam Thrasher seemed to me to live up to his surname, though the most memorable lesson we had with him was in the second form. We must have been twenty minutes into the lesson and he was becoming exasperated as none of us could answer any of his questions and we were clueless as to the content. Eventually, he asked "What form is this?" When told we were 2S, he admitted that he thought he was taking the third form!

I think it was Mr. Thompson who taught us in the sixth form. The most pleasant gentleman you could ask for.

John Preston was my Form Master for a couple of years. He was a good Chemistry teacher and I did quite well in his lessons but I never really got on with him. One year, when he was taking orders for the School Magazine (or possibly "Mathematical Pi"), I refused to buy one, saying I had a better use for my money. He gave me lots of pressure but I wouldn't cave in. When the magazines finally arrived, he handed one to my pal, Tony Huskisson (could be Huskinson), and said "and don't let Phillips read it!" I assured him that I didn't want to.

For the third form, we were taught science by Mr. Horton, who I think must have been a new teacher as he struggled with our group, though looking back, we were a bit of a handful. His most memorable lesson was a demonstration of how some metals react with water. We saw how they burst into flames and danced around the water. At the end, he found a small piece on the bench and just threw it in. There was a violent explosion and he rushed into the prep room.

S.W.Hill taught Biology and always had a funny little story to tell; my favourite was about an analyst who was examining human waste and told a visitor "This may look like faeces to you, but it's my bread and butter!"



1st-year Bruce (1961) modelling his Wollaton House Rugby Kit.

The most memorable teacher had to be Stan Middleton. He called me The Burning Bush because my ginger hair was very long, as was the fashion, though it was against school rules. He would enter the room with a stick of chalk which he passed to his lips as if smoking a cigarette and pretending to inhale and blow out smoke. He would then call out “Windows, please” and the designated window monitor would open the top windows. I met him years later but he didn’t remember me. He told us how he wrote from life’s experiences, and gave us an example; when walking in the rain, he noticed that the water flew off the end of his shoe as he put his foot forward. Many years later, I read the novel in which he had used that same example.

Bill Gray was also entertaining. He always wore odd socks, which we believed started as a bet but then just continued. He could be very firm, but there were moments of hilarity. He walked into one lesson with a pipe, which we had never seen him use before and the classroom erupted with laughter. He stood quietly at the front, holding it by the bowl, and each time the laughter subsided, he would give it a little shake, which started us all off again.

He once described my handwriting as looking as if it had been written by “a drunken spider using a screwdriver.”

A group of us went to Annecy with Mr. Gray and Mr. Millidge (le Patron) for a fantastic holiday. On the Barton’s coach as we travelled, Bill taught us every Rugby song he knew. It was very entertaining. I was the best French speaker in the group, so the others used to ask me to buy the wine at the local shop. I got lots of free drinks out of that!

I saw Bill Gray many years later, when I had a newsagents shop. He had his arm in a sling and I asked if it had happened playing rugby. “No. Pi**ed.” Came the reply. He didn’t look well and died a few years later.

Arthur Blackburn, who taught me Metalwork and Tech Drawing, had taught my father many years previously at Claremont Secondary.

One Maths teacher, Mr. Pannell tricked me into joining the Cross-Country team. “What are you doing on Saturday, Phillips?” “Nothing, sir” I replied, aware that Tony Huskisson was nudging me and telling me to say that I was busy. “Oh, good, you can run in the inter-schools competition for us. Huskisson will take you round the training course and show you the ropes!” I grew to love running and ran for the school in many competitions but I didn’t excel.

Bruce Philips (1S, 2S, 3P, 4S2, 5S2, 6th-Form Engineering.)



Bruce (1966) - but not in school uniform.

FROM John BARLOW [HP: 1959-66, Trent House]
Travels with the leather industry

[A couple of years ago John submitted two items to The Pavior dealing with his employment as a railway signaller after leaving the leather industry. He has now submitted this interesting piece based on his original area of work in that industry.]

In 1975 I joined the Tropical Products Institute, a section of the Ministry of Overseas Development providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries. I was the sole person dealing with hides, skins and leather and was charged with carrying out appropriate laboratory work and being available for overseas assignments.

One of my first requests came from the Falkland Islands, to assess if a commercial tannery would be viable. Approximately 20,000 sheepskins were produced per annum, all of them being air dried (plenty of drying winds) and sent to the UK for subsequent processing into leather. Could this processing be carried out in situ, to provide employment and revenue?

This was essentially a political gesture, showing our willingness to help, rather than a commercial decision – the small number of skins involved, allied to the expense of shipping all the chemicals and machinery from the UK, indicated that a tannery could not succeed,

However, off I went, to carry out a survey. Travel was via Buenos Aires, then south to Comodoro Rivadavia, then across on an Argentinian (!) service to the Falklands (Les Malvinas to them). The new Governor and his wife travelled on the same flights, although they were met on arrival at Port Stanley, by an honour guard and their official limousine – an old London taxi!

On landing, it was immediately apparent that the fear of invasion by Argentina was profound⁶ and the total defence force of 40 Royal Marines was considered inadequate. I travelled around the islands, visiting several locations that were to become famous, or infamous, a few years later when the invasion occurred. At one spot (Goose Green, I think), I was advised to walk across a field towards the sea in order to see a penguin rookery. There were thousands of penguins (including little ones) all totally unused to humans and hence completely unafraid. I completed my survey and reluctantly had to indicate that a tannery could not be justified, and that the existing method of skin handling was the optimum.

Another trip I made was to the New Hebrides, in the South Pacific (subsequently renamed Vanuatu on independence). Here were considerable numbers of cattle, providing beef and also grazing underneath the palm trees. However, the hides of slaughtered animals were not being used at all, disposal being to throw them into the sea. Not only was this a loss of revenue and a source of pollution, but it attracted large numbers of sharks – a slight deterrent to the tourists enjoying the beautiful beaches.

Again, I toured various locations and found that slaughter methods did not even consider the potential value of the generally good quality hides. Instead of using proper flaying knives, (which have a curved end to prevent cutting into the hide as it is being removed) sharply



John at HP in 1961



Falklands landscape.

⁶ The Falklands War was in 1982

pointed daggers were being used, making endless cuts and making the perforated hide worthless.

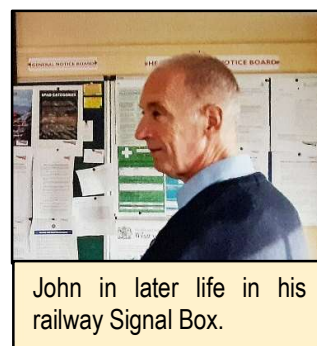
My suggestion was to arrange for a number of islanders to visit commercial abattoirs in either Fiji or Australia and also to receive flaying knives and quantities of salt for preservation. As before, numbers of hides were not sufficient to justify further processing in the islands, but properly flayed and salted material would give a considerable profit (and keep the tourists happy).

Back at home, I was interested in developing simple and cheap equipment to allow small tanneries to carry out quality control checks on their production. Now, one of the most important properties of leather is its strength, or resistance to tearing. Official test methods relied on complex and expensive apparatus, to measure the force that is needed to propagate an initial tear.

I decided to develop an alternative, using a rotary kitchen scale instead of complex electronics, with the leather sample held in a simple clamp. Extensive comparisons between my bargain basement set-up and official methods showed no significant differences, so I went ahead and published. Well over 100 requests for reprints of the short note came through and I believe that many of these Heath Robinson machines were made and used.

As mentioned in my earlier articles in *The Pavior*, I left the leather industry in 1996 but since then things have, alas, now changed, for the UK leather industry, which has all but disappeared due to a combination of financial, ecological and nationalistic problems. Many countries that formerly sent raw material to the UK for processing have established their own facilities, usually protected by the restriction or prohibition of exporting native hides and skins.

The vast majority of UK hides and skins are now sent abroad for conversion to leather and leather products, decimating our industries in tanning, leather-goods and shoe manufacture. (Now we are even dependent on foreign suppliers for the leather and boots used by our armed forces!).



John Barlow

ooOoo



Gainsford Crescent, Bestwood (1955-2002, 47)

FROM Tommy GEE [HP: 1936-43, School House]

[Our old warrior Tommy Gee continues to thrive and we have just received his latest contribution. How that man gets around! He asks if he is our oldest member and I think the answer must be 'Yes!' -Ed]

Dear Colin

The Pavior for February 2023 has just come in the post together with this week's copy of 'The Friend' (the Quaker journal).

I have been away in Brazil 'on safari' (*safari* is apparently a Hindu word but seems to have universal acceptance, even in Brazil), escorted by my son Nathaniel who is an architect by profession. We went in order to make a study of work by the famous architect Oscar Niemeyer. He was, of course, the creator of the city of Brasilia, the country's modern capital.

We travelled on the Amazon, hiring small boats, rather like the punts on the Isis at Oxford but the most arduous part for a 97-year-old was the British Airways flight from Sao Paulo, from which we travelled to Rio. In Rio we worshipped in the chapel at the foot of Mount Corcovado, below the famous statue of *Christ the Redeemer*. This required a couple of funicular (?) trips to Sugar Loaf Mountain for the view.

My best memory is of a small girl gently tapping her palm on the surface of the river and attracting pink nosed dolphins which she was able to 'cuddle' and to massage their teeth (60 on the upper jaw and another 60 on the lower) - an amazing rapport.

I like the Brazilian people who are the least racist I have come across and straddle the colour spectrum with a mix that works well, from black to white and straight to curly. I once learned their language (Portuguese) but it is now rusting with disuse.

From the departure lounge, (where I hope to hold a 100th birthday party in two years' time), I pondered: Am I your oldest member? I was at HP 1936-43!

My college (BNC) is holding a lunch on 5th May for its matriculants of 1962 and before. When I attended last year I was the oldest one present then. The college porter had a key which allows us into the pedestrianised Radcliffe Square where we parked on the cobbles outside the college gate. I then travelled on my small blue scooter into the chapel and to the lunch in the hall.



Myself once during a stopover in Rome with my sons: Simon (wheels) and Nathaniel

As ever, Tommy

[We don't keep records of the birthdate of our members but we do keep records of 'years at HP' which is nearly as good. By that reckoning Tommy (HP: 1936-43) is probably the oldest current member, although not by very much. Two other members claim (HP: 1937-44) and (HP: 1938-44). In fact we currently have 18 members who joined HP in 1944 or earlier and are now therefore nonagenarians (ie 90+) – Hey, that's enough for a rugby team !

However, the oldest of all time is almost certainly our honorary member Dorothy Sarah Baldwin (HP: 1914-18) who died on 1 Jan 2014 (born 8 Feb 1902) at the great age of 111

years and 327 days⁷. At the time of her death, she was the second-oldest living person in the UK. *- The Other Ed (the good looking one!)]*

ooOoo

FROM Linwood (Ted) TURNER [HP:1956-62, Forest House]

Dear Colin,

I was at High Pavement 1956-62, Forest House, dear old 'Shep' Shepherd was house master. With reference to the debate on school ties I enclose a photo of my old prefect's tie which I believe differed from the standard school tie with having the double blue stripes. The prefect badge unfortunately had to be returned.

One incident I will always remember about Mr Shepherd was the 121st school scouts who went to a camp we had at Whatstandwell, with Mr S as Scoutmaster.

He sat on a hillock watching us erect the tents and on completing this task, he said that where we had put the tents would be susceptible if it rained. We had to dismantle everything and start again in a different spot. I was in Seagull patrol, I recall we also had Curlew and Kingfisher amongst others.

Happy days !

Linwood (Ted) Turner



High Pavement School Prefect's Tie (c.1960) showing the double broad blue stripes.

[Thanks Ted. Shep was a popular master but didn't drive us very hard in our second form Geography lessons back in 1943-4. He spent a whole period reading to us from that humorous classic 'England, Their England' by AG MacDonnell, including the famous village cricket match which still makes me chuckle. Maybe you have read it.

Regards – Colin (I was a Seagull too!)]

[Thanks. You have helped fill a hole in our school history. I can remember there being 'another' school tie for 'senior' pupils but couldn't remember whether it was for 6th-Formers or Prefects. Until now, I have been unable to find a surviving example making me think it was more likely to have been a Prefects Tie than a 6th-Form Tie (of which there would have been more in circulation). I thank you for your excellent photo. If anyone can shed more light on the matter of 6th-Form Tie or any other variation of uniform (eg jacket edging for School Colours etc) please let me know – it is all part of our history. PS. I always wanted to be a Scout but, for some reason, never was. Regards, Graham Wybrow (Archivist)]

⁷ See Feb 2014 Pavior for announcement of Dorothy's death. See Feb 2011 Pavior for brief profile of her life.

OUR END PIECE

Alan A SMITH [HP: 1943-48, Basford House] Just An Ordinary Bloke – Part 2. Recollections of HP

[In this edition, 92 year old Alan Smith in Australia records his recollections of his time at High Pavement and National Service in the RAF.]

Charlie Mardling: The French teacher, Mr. Mardling, reprimanding someone who presented a poor excuse with respect to his homework. In a raised voice he addressed the culprit, “I might look like a cabbage but I am not green!”

Eric Shepherd: We were up at Strelley playing Rugby. As a result of a collision I lay on the ground gasping for breath. Mr. Shepherd leans over me, “Can you breathe?” I managed to gasp the affirmative. “PLAY ON!”

Cricket: Cricket practice somewhere. Hutton⁸ is “hogging” the batting. In desperation I voice my frustration. Promptly the bloke in charge took the bat off Hutton and thrust into my hands. I took my place at the batter’s end and looked up only to see Hutton with the ball. He bowled me out with his first delivery! One day in June 1948 I took a day off school. The first Test Match – I watched the World’s greatest batsman, Don Bradman make 138 at Trent Bridge– his 28th Test century!



Strelley Cross-Country: Up at Strelley again, we were cross country running. I come along the road, something does not seem right. Where are the buses? Turned in the gate and could see no one on the field or near the shed in the distance. “S*** they’ve all gone home without me. My clothes are in that shed.” As I scampered across the field teachers emerged from the shed and began setting up the rope funnel through which we finished. That was the first time I won the cross country.

School Trips: I enjoyed the school trip to Devon in 1947 and more so the 1948 trip to the Isle of Arran. In the Sept 1948 edition of The Pavior there is a photograph of the Arran group. Of the 16 students I can name but one other than myself. I believe that those trips imbued in me the motivation towards adventure walking. Then there were the potato picking spells, enough said about them except for the effort put in by the Land Army girls.

‘Croc’ Crossland: In the junior school there was a respect/fear of an old bloke who limped and usually walked with the aid of a cane. “Croc” Crossland, the Deputy Principal. Thank goodness I was not taking Chemistry. Then one day obviously our General Science teacher was indisposed, and in walked “Croc” as his replacement. He talked endlessly, my mind began to wander and then my eyes too. “Croc” was on to me, “Get out of the room.” “No,” I replied. He repeated the demand and I answered in the negative. The performance went on a little longer and then I reluctantly left the room. Apparently after the door closed behind me, he said, “I like that kid, he’s got spunk.” Little did I expect to be taught by him but in the last two years at the school he was our most enthusiastic, most motivated teacher of Geology. It was his major subject at university and he had not been allowed to teach Geology previously. He was in his element and at 17 and 18 we saw him as a father figure. One day he came in

⁸ Fellow pupil Geoffrey James Hutton (not Sir Len – although by the sound of it, just as good).

with a young man. He introduced him and explained that he was a former pupil at the school. The newcomer took over. He had won a scholarship to Oxford to read Classics, lost his enthusiasm and switched to Geology. He took the five of us out to Eakring and in the corner of a field was an oil well with its “arm” going up and down (a nodding Donkey)! Apparently oil had been discovered there in the late 1930’s and that well had been pumping oil day and night all through the war and was still doing it in front of us in 1948.

Job Satisfaction: Also in the last two years we had Frank Wells teaching us maths. One afternoon as the lesson was winding down he posed the question, “Have you given any thought to what you want in the way of work?” Three of us essentially shrugged our shoulders. Oliver Stone said that he had been thinking of mining engineering. Colin Kendal was attracted to teaching to which Frank responded that you would never be rich but some days would be very satisfying. In retrospect that was the first time anyone had introduced the concept of “job satisfaction” to us.

Slide-Rule: Our Algebra teacher was a youngish man who had returned at the end of the war. We learned that he had worked with anti-aircraft gun batteries. Towards the end the enemy was launching V2 rockets from northern France and aimed mainly at London. Our radar could track the rocket’s launch and trajectory, advise the guns which would fire explosive shells into an imaginary box through which the rocket would pass as it approached its target. The explosions might deflect the rocket from its course. He used a slide rule more than two feet in length to determine the rocket’s trajectory and then passed the information to the guns. Two years later I was using the same type of slide rule to determine the wind speed and direction at various heights as a weather balloon rose through the air. The slide rule was calibrated in sines, cosines and tangents.

Bill Benner: And then there was Bill Benner, the art teacher always approachable and willing to explain. He introduced us to early English church architecture. The Norman with its rounded arches, then simple arches with a pointed top which progressively came more and more decorated. A Norman example is Southwell Minster from the early 1100’s through to all the highly ornate cathedrals over the next 4 to 500 years

On a Charge: It was during the initial training period of my National Service in the RAF that I was put on charge. I presented at a morning parade unshaven. My excuse was the complete lack of hot water. Incidentally on that day there was a call for blood donor volunteers. I volunteered and was excused the penalty associated with the charge.

Overseas Posting: A noisy altercation with the Adjutant resulted in me requesting an overseas posting. They sent me to Newton aerodrome near Nottingham! And there the OIC came into the Orderly Room wanting a specific AMO, (Air Ministry Order). I could not find it. It was not where it should be. He began to lose his temper demanding why it was not there. Finally I enlightened him that it was issued before I was born and I could not be held responsible for its absence. He turned on his heel and left. That was near the end of 19 months of forgettable service.

Finally: Incidentally, in 2001 (aged 71) the Red Cross wrote to me, thanked me for 153 blood donations and explained that I had reached the age at which they would not accept my blood again.

Alan A Smith