

Alderman Flavell

This article has been submitted by Neville Flavell (HGS 1944-51), the Grandson of Alderman Flavell.

Alderman Absalom Flavell JP, School Governor 1922-52 and Chair of Governors 1927-52.



As such, he would, of course, have chaired the governing body who appointed Russell Hamilton as Headmaster.

In his political and civic life he was a Labour stalwart: a union man, a Parish, District and County Councillor, and subsequently a County Alderman as well as a Justice of the Peace. Looking back, I sometimes wonder how he managed to fit it all in, particularly as he never had a car and relied mainly on public transport!

Absalom Flavell (1875-1958) came from Sedgley in the Black Country, first to Rotherham in 1899 and then to South Kirkby c1910 to work in the local colliery where he spent the rest of his working career as a miner. Although he could have retired, he carried on mining when the Second World War broke out and younger miners were conscripted into the forces. However, he had a near-fatal accident in 1941 at the age of 66 when he was hit by runaway tubs underground, suffered multiple fractures and was not expected to survive. But he did recover - the family always attributed it to sheer will-power and cussed determination!

Absalom was also a lay preacher in the Methodist Church based at Barnsley Road Chapel, South Elmsall, where he was a long term Trustee. In addition he served on several church committees as well as being a representative for the Pontefract Circuit Meeting. His lifetime contribution both to the school and to the wider community was truly enormous.

Neville Flavell