

Sheila Reflects 1

1. School Colours

I must have received my School Athletics Colours lower down the School, as by the time I was in the Upper VIth I had “gone off the boil” rather. They were sewn onto my tracksuit, which I used when I played Netball in Manchester after College. When I bought a new tracksuit I lent my old one to someone, and it was never returned, so the Colours are gone. I have no memory of going up on stage for the Colours, but then, these events are over in a flash of shyness, aren't they? I do have a Bronze Medal, which was given at the same time as the Victrix Ludorum, to be kept when the trophy was returned the following year. All it says is HGS Victrix Ludorum with a laurel wreath. I suppose it was up to me to get my name engraved on it, but I never did.

2. The “Top” Corridor

Miss McGlade was a Needlework and Domestic Science teacher, although I don't recall anyone other than Miss Metcalfe holding any sway in the Domestic Science Room.

If one walked along the corridor alongside the Hall, heading away from The girls' cloakrooms with the 'quad' on the right, the Domestic Science Room was the first classroom on the left as one turned the corner to the right. There always seemed to be a smell of baking coming from there, as I think that apart from the cookery lessons, cakes and buns were made for the Staff Meetings sometimes. Quite a few cookers, sinks and large tables with integral equipment cupboards meant that on 'Cookery' days one just had to remember to bring the required ingredients from home. In our 1st and 2nd years the girls made cookery aprons in Needlework. We made Raspberry buns and Rock cakes, and one day we had a visit from a demonstrator who showed us how to operate the newest thing an electric food blender. We were all amazed that she put the whole egg into the mix, without removing its shell, but were reassured that it was the correct way to do it - not!

The next classroom along was a Science room in 1955-57. Benches and bunsen burners, and Mr Farrar showing us how to make an experiment to prove that tap water was impure. We labelled 'retort' and 'tripod' and 'evaporating dish'. Much later the room was converted to a classroom/lunchtime Common Room - was it for the Lower Sixth?

The third and last room along that corridor was the Music Room, containing a Steinway piano and a storeroom in which sheet music, instruments and exercise books were kept. Most of the choir practices were held here, the Main Choir, the Madrigal choir, the Male Voice choir, the Junior Choir and the Orchestra rehearsals all rang out, encouraged by Mr Boyd and later Miss Evans.

I have a vague memory of these three rooms each having French Windows on the opposite side of the room from their corridor entrance doors. These windows overlooked the Dell, which, incidentally, was not an abandoned quarry **, but a landscape garden designer's idea of a 'Garden Feature', which was very popular around the early 1900's. It was carefully contrived to appear naturalistic. Snowdrops, ferns and shade-loving shrubs were planted against a backdrop of dark stones, and contrasted against the green of the sloping lawn leading down to it. I don't think I ever saw anyone down in the Dell during the whole of my seven years at HGS, but the fact that we were not given open access to this area meant that it survived for the future, and there was no resentment at our exclusion. Children's trampling feet had acres of other space to explore.

*** I think I may have been wrong about the Dell and its origins. Later research indicates that it may have been a quarry that was adapted later to be a feature garden area.*

3. Four in a row

a. Plays and the Lecture Theatre 1957

I'm sure some of the visitors to the site will remember attending the Staff Play -“Hobson's Choice”. We were second formers. Also that year the School Play was Bernard Shaw's “Arms and the Man”. During 1957 the Lecture Theatre was opened, with its tiered rows of seats. Its entrance was a door at the end of the Science Block, which one passed on the way to the 'new' Gym. In the Sports photo of 1960 we can see a fair bit of the Science Block from the playing-fields side.

b. Hemsworth in History

I have a copy of "Hemsworth in History" by Mr Bulley. Its content is the history of Hemsworth and district from the Middle Ages. There is very little specifically about the Grammar School itself, apart from a picture which is identical to the one we already have - plus a Morris Minor parked in front, just to the right of the steps. There is a chapter on the Holgate Grammar School. That was not situated at HGS, but at today's RC Church in Hemsworth (if it is still there).

c. School Shield

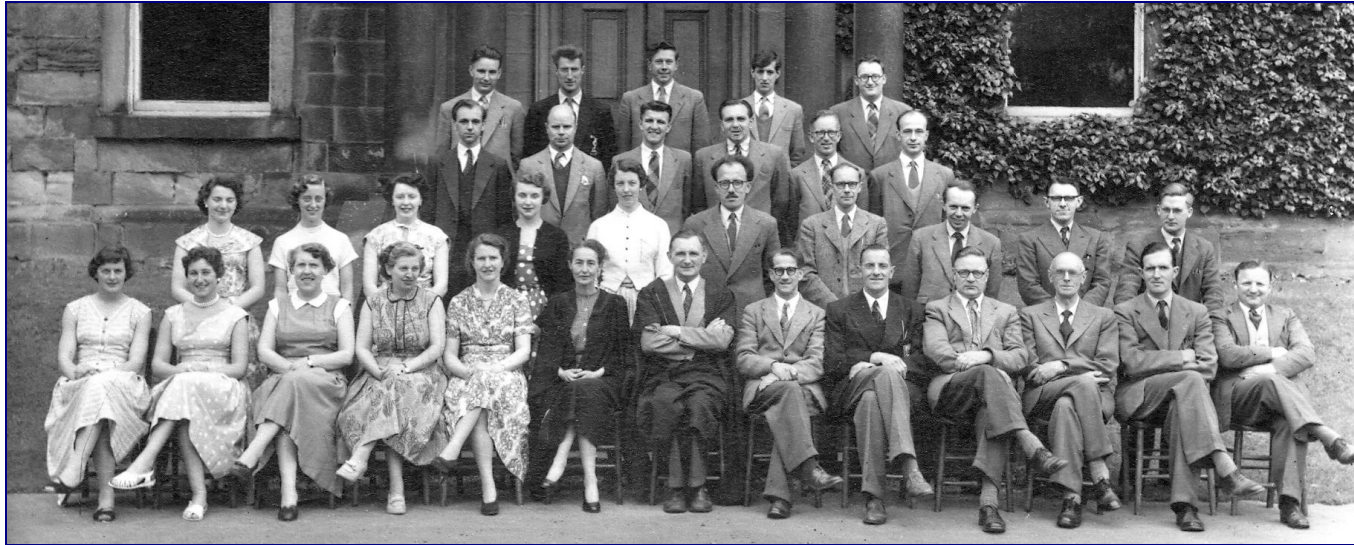
I have just answered my own earlier question about who designed the school shield. It was designed by Mr W. J. Leonard, who also designed the House Shields which hung in the Hall. In his obituary for Mr Leonard in 1962, Mr. Hamilton wrote, "*The school shield was designed by him (Mr Leonard). He did the necessary research, he did the preliminary sketches and generally pushed the job along to its completion*".

d. A Saturday Job

Yes, Dave, I did sell celery in Elmsall Market - and a million other things as well, including turkeys at Xmas. I had my own "section" which was formed at the gable end of the lock-up stall. A few orange boxes and a trestle table made me my own small selling area, and the suntan was free! Pete Dickens ran the greengrocer's stall directly opposite ours, helped by Marcia Bradley and her friend, and at the end of the day, just before packing-up time, when fruit which would not 'keep' had to be disposed of, Pete and I would be calling out the prices. I would start at "*one and six a pound bananas*" and he would drop to "*one and five a pound*" &c. I recall that one day we got them down to three-pence a pound! Not a soul in sight to buy them though. I worked for the Ward family who had their 'base' greengrocer shop in Wakefield.

4. Some initials and Subjects of Teachers in 1956

1955-56



Back Row L-R: Mr. Owen, Mr. Tate, Mr. Wood, Mr. Sale, Mr. Young

Third Row L-R: Mr. Boyd, Mr. Collins, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bulley, Mr. Colley

Second Row L-R: Mrs. Podmore (Miss. Collins), Miss. Hampshire, Mrs. Blatherwick (Miss. Parkin), Miss. Harrison, Mrs. Lumb, Mr. Walker, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Wharton

Front Row L-R: Miss. McGlade, Mrs Whittaker (Miss. Elliot), Miss. Ward, Miss. Metcalfe, Miss. Harris, Miss. Smith, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Manning, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Atack, Mr. Lock, Mr. Farrar, Mr. Swinbank

Teacher	Subject (s)
Miss B. Fleming (1956-57 photo?)	Needlework
Miss E. Hampshire	French
Miss M. Clifton	Maths, Physics
Miss M. McGlade	Needlework and Domestic Science
Miss O. Walker	PE
Mr J.A. Bulley	History
Mr T. Manning	Science
Mr. A.W. Walker	English
Mr. C. Dodd	French
Mr. G.R. Burnett	English, Religious Knowledge
Mr. P.F. Collins	Woodwork and Metalwork, but he also taught us Maths in our 1 st and 2 nd years (1955-57)
Mr. W. Farrar	Physics, Maths
Mrs A.I. Podmore	English
Mrs D.E. Whittaker	French
Mrs. M. Lumb	Maths
Mrs. V. Street (1956-57 photo?)	French

1956-57



Back Row L-R: Mr. Sale, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Owen, Mr. Wall, Mr. Farrar, Mr. Dodd, Mr. Young

Third Row L-R: Mr. Reed, Mr. Colley, Mr. Bulley, Mr. Tate, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hassall, Mr. Hodson, Mr. Wharton

Second Row L-R: Mr. Swinbank, 2, Mr. Burnett, Mrs. Sharpe (Miss Clifton), Miss. Hampshire, Miss. Woodward, **Mrs Street or Miss Fleming?**, Mr. Kennedy, 9

Front Row L-R: Mrs. Lumb, Mrs. Whittaker, Miss. Ward, Miss. Metcalfe, Miss. Harris, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Collette, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Atack, Mr. Lock

5. The Pig Sties

I remember them. They were uninhabited, and had been for some time. They were built of yellow sandstone blocks standing about four feet high, and situated about fifty yards away diagonally from the Dining Hall. Those wooden stairs I mentioned a while ago near the milk crates were part of the structure in that playground which included the Lost Property office (wooden shed), and a classroom at the top of those stairs where we had a Needlework lesson in the 2nd year, and RK lessons with Mr. Hassall in the 6th form. The playground sloped down towards the pig sties which stood at the lower end of this 'block', separated from it by a few feet. They formed the lower boundary at the end of the garden of Mr Leary, our school caretaker. Remember, his house was near the bottom of the steps which led up to the changing rooms of the Gym. You could also reach the pig sties from the bottom end of the Main Boys' Playground.