



Burnley Heasandford Towneley

TECHNALIANS

Newsletter Number 2 : New Year 2010

For all former Technical High School students and staff of Burnley

After our initial gathering in July 2007 to mark the ± 50 years since Heasandford and Towneley merged to form Burnley Technical High School, 2008 was a year in which we adjusted our thinking; from a special one-off reunion, to an evolving ex-student association, "The Technalians", to embrace all those, students and staff, who had been a part of one or other of the three Technical High Schools in Burnley between 1945 and 1970.

We set up a web-site in May 2008 to provide a universally accessible contact point; and we resolved to meet annually on the last Thursday in March, which we did for the first time on March 26th 2009.

The past twelve months has been a year of maturation. The ad hoc steering group has been extended with inclusion of Marie Hamer (Eastwood), Michael Hamer, Mary Hayman (Halstead) & Colin Ormston. The website has brought a stream of former pupils, from around the world, seeking to make contact with lost friends and with those who share their memories [see page 4].

An attempted autumn "regional reunion" for those in the South, Westcountry and Mid/South Wales came

to nothing. However, we are aware of other groups of ex-students meeting to maintain contact with each other. We welcomed some of Colin Ormston's "Mid-60s" group to the 2009 Reunion Buffet; and this year we recognise the long established "Class of 55" group, meeting annually since 1985 [see page 3 & web-site].

Suggestions for activities to be included under the Technalian umbrella will always be welcome

Deaths

Margaret Rushworth (Jolly) August 2009
Neil Clarke October 2009

Mr IGNATIUS REDHEAD

Timothy Riley recently made contact. He was at BTHS until 1969, only one school year before it became a comprehensive.

In particular, Timothy is looking for an obituary for Ignatious Redhead, who taught many of us maths, and was for Timothy, the Headmaster who taught the Sixth-Form Economics [see website]

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2nd ANNUAL BUFFET REUNION

at the Belvedere & Calder Vale Sports Club
on Thursday March 25th 2010 at 7.00 - 10.00 pm

2007 and 2009

After the successful 50th Anniversary Reunion at Fence Gate we moved to the Belvedere in 2009 for the first of what we hope will be a long series of annual reunions. About 40 people attended both reunions (although not the same 40 at both!!) with lots of happy friendships being restored. As Anthony Wakefield later said, *"We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the reunion meeting people we had not seen for 50 years. Yes 50 years, incredible."* Many came with treasured photographs and cuttings in brown envelopes. These all added to the display boards with scanned and photocopied pictures. An innovation in 2009 was the rolling sequence of projected pictures. There are comprehensive sets of photographs of those attending both reunions on the web-site. If you were there the photographs will bring it all back; and if you were not there they will give you just a flavour of the events. David & Ann Brown wrote, *"We really enjoyed the Belvedere evening and the meal was excellent. It was nice to chat to people about the school and look at old photographs."*

MARCH 25th 2010

Booking forms for the 2nd Annual Reunion have been distributed - by post where we have a postal address and by email where we have somewhere to send it to. So some will get two copies. The booking form is also available on the web-site as a PDF file. If you know ex-students who are not on the mailing list, please feel

free to direct them to the web-site or print out a copy of the form for them. Please be sure to return your booking form to Peter Roberts in good time. There will be space to display any photographs or other materials you may be willing to share.



Herbert Balham looks at pictures of the 1958 school trip to Bourton on the Water

This board of photographs was where the Technalian Reunion started. These pictures, destined for the Exhibition to mark the closure of Towneley High School in 2006, were circulated to a small number of people in contact with each other to help identify those in the photographs. In the end, the network of contacts expanded and we were able to identify everyone who went on the Bourton on the Water trip, the first mixed party to go away from BTHS. The time away included visits to Oxford, Chipping Camden and two of Shakespeare's plays at the Memorial Theatre at Stratford upon Avon. There was also a full day's rambling in the Cotswold countryside. From the network of contacts made studying these photographs came the 2007 Reunion.

"Class of 55" Reunions

It was in May 1985 that a former Burnley woman, back in town for the first time in 25 years, walked into the "Burnley Express" office looking for help to trace former school friends at Burnley Technical High School. To her surprise she found two of them working in the "Burnley Express" offices. It was Gladys Brown, who as a 15 year old emigrated to Tasmania. Twenty five years later Gladys Hobson was back, on a Tasmanian government Scholarship, to study girls' education in Europe and the Gifted Children's programme in Britain. Her new-found contacts, Jean Gillett (Bowling) and Joan Casson (Couche) gathered many of their old school friends together for a reunion at Coal Clough House.



Friends reunited at Coal Clough House, May 1985. (BACK) Sheila Kenyon (Bell), Sheila Ford (Foy), Marilyn Platt (Till), Sonia Dawson (Lupton), Brenda Castling (Bird); (MIDDLE) Sylvia Waterworth (Sunderland), Merle Stuttard (Wilkinson), Joyce Ramaden (Clowery), Joan Casson (Couche), Jean Gillett (Bowling), Janet Smith; (FRONT) Valerie Blackburn (Wilcock), Gladys Hobson (Brown), Enid Harrison (Smith).

Elizabeth Harrison (Spencer) wrote on October 10th 2009 -

"Most of us went to Heasandford in 1955 and transferred to Towneley the following year. We continued through school in all-girls classes. We have been meeting since 1985, usually about 10 of us but recently have recruited additional people through Friends Reunited. Our October 2009 reunion had school friends from Florida USA, London, Gloucester, Milnthorpe, Bingley, Bradford, Blackpool, Skipton as well as the local "girls". Since 1994 a smaller group of us have held an additional reunion weekend away in May. In 2009 we made our 4th visit to the Cober Hill Centre, near Scarborough.

Sadly, Margaret Rushworth (nee Jolly) died on August Bank Holiday. *Margaret had been to all the reunion gatherings and we will miss her."*



Friends reunited at the Hare & Hounds Inn, Haggate, October 2009

Ann Hirst, Valerie Knights (Nuttall), Sheila Krautner (Badcock), Gwynne Wilson-Brown (Gladys Brown) and Elizabeth Harrison (Spencer)

More photographs on the web-site

Web-site : www.technalians.org.uk

The Technalian web-site was set up in 2008 with the four-fold aims of being -

- 1). a central source for information about reunion activity.
- 2). a contact point for Technalians,
- 3). a depository for information, photographs, etc of technical high school life,
- 4). a graffiti space for memories and anecdotes

The web-site seems to be fulfilling its function under each of these headings. There are former students out there, across the country and around the world, who are finding their way to the Technalian web-site and then making contact. Sometimes they have memories to share, sometimes photographs, sometimes information, sometimes wanting contact with people whose names they have seen on the web-pages. There are five who have contributed to the "Memory Collage" page since the last Reunion in March 2009.

A glance at the pages showing head boys/girls, school captains, etc proves that we are lacking information of the very early days of TTHS / HTHS and of the last few years of BTHS. This reflects our lack of contact with many former pupils from these periods.

A major project came unsolicited from Neil Whalley last summer when he offered the results of scanning his copy of the 1956 Towneley Technical High School photograph. Part 3 (of 17)



is shown here with Neil at the right of the 4th row back. Of the 334 faces on the whole photograph, we have names for 198 (59.3%). One of the most recent contributions came from an Auckland (NZ) funeral director who identified himself [Ray Jagger] and his brother in law [Peter Disley] - amongst others. CAN YOU PUT NAMES TO FACES?