

Fyling Hall Alumni Newsletter

No 14

Welcome to the January 2014 Newsletter.

The December Newsletter was somewhat delayed this year because of my being away at the crucial time and then the Christmas holidays, so it has morphed into a January version.

In the last Newsletter in July I mentioned an exchange of emails with **Glyn Hartley Morris** who was at FHS in the late 40s to early 50s and whose mother, Kathleen Mary Morris, taught at the school. In the autumn he came for a visit and brought one or two photographs he had found amongst his mother's effects.



This photograph shows **Kathleen Mary Morris** with a group of boys on the games pitch. Glyn remembers the blond boy on the left as **Michael Harridence**, also in the picture are **Jonathan Knapp**, **Roger Atherton** and **Richard Rutter** (son of the village doctor). Glyn remembers the blond boy in the background being called Fletcher but cannot remember his first name. Kathleen Mary Morris taught junior school children in the cottages (later the Fullers' cottage and now the Headmaster's house). She left FHS in the early 1950s to take up a Headship in

Bristol, but returned to Robin Hood's Bay in 1964 to become the first Head of the newly built Primary School in Fylingthorpe, where she stayed until her retirement.

Another name from that era is **Peter Gross ('Fritz')** who was both a pupil and a teacher at FHS from 1939 to, with interruptions, the early 1980s and now lives in Australia. He was 90 in September and his wife, Barbara (**Barbara Watkins** at school) was 85 in August. In that month they also celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.



As we are on weddings it is very pleasing to announce that of **Steven Allen (1989-95)** which took place on January 3rd 2014. He married Caroline in St. Stephen's in RHB followed by a stunning reception at school. As Steven was an FHS pupil and is now Head of Boys as well as Head of Games, a School centred wedding seemed entirely appropriate. He had ex-pupils as best men: **Jamie Noon** and **Stuart Fusco**. Here pictured with **Keith Allen (1990-97)**.



In the last Newsletter I mentioned **Ian Harding (member of staff 1979-94)**. Whilst at FHS he organised canal holidays on a long boat he used to own. He has now retired and re-entered that world. He recently wrote to me saying:

“I’m not sure whether, when I saw you, I said that Diane and I hoped to get another canal boat. We had considered fitting one out ourselves but in the end we decided to buy an existing boat and we have now done so. We moved on board on the 31st December and plan to cruise continuously. We have started a blog: abigailno1.wordpress.com (The boat is called Abigail No. 1) If you feel like reading it, please do so. Incidentally, Diane and I cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats last autumn and we did a blog for that, too. It is still up there in internet land, at: byjango.wordpress.com”

I liked the way he slipped in about the cycling. Not many retired people cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats....

Also in the last Newsletter I briefly reported on the gift of a clock and weather vane by **J.C. Spender (here in the 1940s)**.



This is placed where the old pigeon loft on top of the laundry room used to be. The plaque commemorating his mother, **Erica Spender**, is now in place.

J.C. as he was always known (actually, John Christopher) was the son of Michael Spender, who was the elder brother of Stephen Spender, the poet, and Humphrey Spender the photographer and artist. With the break up of her marriage to Michael Spender, Erica (nee Haarman) had taken a job as matron at FHS. Later she was to run the antiquarian book department of Marlborough Fine Art. J.C. himself is now Professor J. C. Spender with a distinguished career in the field of Business Management and is based in New York.

Andrew Pern (1974-85) has recently opened a new restaurant in York called The Star in the City. He has created a new 130 seat restaurant by renovating a former waterworks building in York's Museum Gardens next to Lendal Bridge.

Finally, and very regretfully, is the need to report the death of **Carl Norton (here in the late 80s, early 90s)** who was killed in December in a road accident close by his parents' business, the Flask Filling Station, on the Scarborough – Whitby road. Carl was one of three brothers who came to FHS and our deepest sympathies go out to his parents and brothers.

John Jeakins