

Fyling Hall Alumni Newsletter

No 13

Welcome to the July 2013 Newsletter.

The ex-pupils of Fyling Hall continue to appear in the unlikeliest of places. **Alex Thomson (gap year student 1980)** is now Chief Correspondent for Channel 4 News and this year won Television Journalist of the Year at the RTS awards. He has worked a good deal in Afghanistan with a cameraman **Mehran Bozorgnia** (a finalist in the Rory Peck Awards 2009). In the course of a conversation Alex found out that Mehran had been at Fyling Hall in 1967-69. Mehran was born in Iran but is now based in Germany. He came to Fyling Hall because his parents had a two year posting to Venezuela. He recalled the weekly walk down the hill to Fylingthorpe to the phone box to call home and remembered his time at FHS as one of the happiest times of his life. 'There is a great sense of ease. A sense of peace about that whole area.'

From a very different generation **Michael Ludlow** emailed. He wrote:

'My three elder sisters and I were all educated at Fyling Hall. The eldest sister, Christine, is recorded on the website as the school's first girl pupil. One of the teachers was a young man, **Ben Pegler**, who had recently left Denstone College as a boy, and whom Christine later married. (They were the Portia and Shylock mentioned in the school history). The youngest, Pam, was the same age as Mab Bradley's daughter Clare. Alison, the middle sister, is my only surviving sister, now nearly 89. She is mentioned twice in the school's history, although mistakenly referred to as '**Alison Ludlow**, nee Piercy').

My mother Katharine was a contemporary of Mab's at Somerville College and they were life-long friends. (I have a photograph of Clare and Pam aged about 3, bathing in a tin bath at my

family's home in Surrey. It was summer and too hot for clothes!).

In 1937, when I was 4, my mother spent a term or so at Fyling Hall as one of Mab's teaching conscripts. Her Oxford degree had been in History. To do this, she had to take me with her as a pupil. For my first term, I slept in her bedroom at the school but was then transferred to a dormitory. I suspect I must have been the youngest ever boarder at the school. Sadly, it was not the happiest of experiences for me, although I had managed to get over most of my early problems by the time I left the school at the end of the summer term 1946, to go on to Rugby.

It follows that I was at the school for the whole of its time at Inglewood Bank during WWII, and saw Fyling Hall itself both before and after Inglewood.

One fact that the school's history does not mention is that while the school was at Inglewood, Mab opened a separate, girls only, branch of the school at, and known as, 'Cracoe Close', a big house above Ullswater, above Pooley Bridge. It also accepted boarders. My mother was again co-opted by Mab for two or three years as its headmistress, before handing over the role to **Norah Johnson**, who had been the PE mistress at, I think, both Cracoe and Inglewood.

My family's connection with the school continued with Christine Pegler's two daughters, my nieces Susan and Linda, spending some of their childhood years at Cracoe Close, and in the house to which the school later moved from Cracoe, closer to the village of Tirril. During that time my mother again, for a while became involved in a teaching post there under Norah Johnson, renting a bungalow on the banks of the Derwent

below Pooley Bridge for the purpose.'

I also had emails from **Glyn Hartley Morris** who was at FHS in the late 40s to early 50s. His mother, **Kathleen Mary Morris**, taught at the school.

Vicki Wibberley (1964-68) emailed some photographs of her time in the 1960s. (Others soon to be published on the school website)

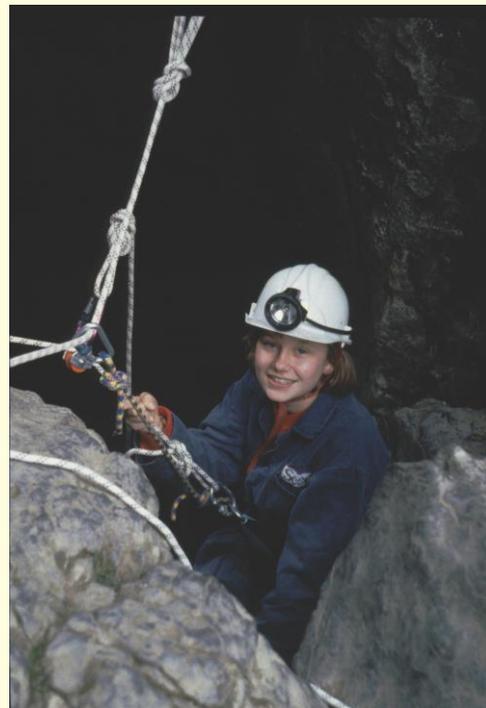


Sitting on John Woolley's van c1965

Ian Harding (member of staff 1979-94) sent some photographs of his time here. (Others soon to be published on the school website)



Venture Scouts c1995



Stephanie Taylor 1990 Calf Holes

J.C. Spender (here in the 1940s) donated this clock and weather vane in memory of his mother **Erica Spender** who was a matron at Fyling Hall in the 1940s. The clock replaces the old pigeon loft on top of the laundry room. On Prizegiving Day the weather vane shaped as the school crest will be unveiled by **Clive Rennison (here in the 1970s)**.



That is it for another Newsletter.

John Jeakins