

BOOTHAM SURVIVORS

Who turned 70'ish in 2020 and were Leavers – mainly – in 1968
IN THEIR OWN WORDS
'A SLICE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY'



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Parents' Weekend 1967 with that epic view, which did NOT survive!

*"...There is a bit of an 'end of an era' feel to it, isn't there? – What a fascinating project,
Great work!" Janet Dean Knight*

INTRODUCTION

Who, what, why, where & when?

Whether you believe that floods and viruses are no more than sheer coincidence and an annoying intrusion upon our important lives, or be you convinced that Mankind needs to radically change the way he lives and handles earth's resources or be wiped off the face of the planet, the indisputable fact is that by March of this year many countries of the world were forced into social and commercial lockdown. No gatherings, no raves, no worship, and of course no Bootham old scholars' reunion.

We might have let this go and said, 'we'll meet next year', until John Dent pointed out that 2020 is – for nearly all of we leavers of 1968 – our seventieth birthdays, so, cause for celebration! John came up with the idea of a 'virtual zoom' reunion. Not only was the notion popular, others suggested developing the event into a written work of shared experiences, and something that would be not only full of reminiscences for we oldsters, but be a social document and of practical use to older students at the school. We decided to ask ourselves 5 questions; i) what school exam subjects did we take? ii) how did these help our career pathways? iii) how did our careers develop? iv) what job satisfaction did we have and how useful was the Bootham experience? v.) how did we see the future? 15 people attended the zoom meeting which took place on 31st May 2020, lasted 2 hours, and a file of which has been saved for the Bootham school archive. We compiled a written document from 24 contributions sent by email within our contact group of 29 people.

The texts submitted by each person were NOT been collectively edited. Apart from the odd typo correction they were assembled as they arrived, were shared by email among the group; and written in the first person they were genuine testimonies. Of course, they cover more than the above five questions They give an insight into the era we've lived through, our general interests, and personal lives. In fact, they shed light on the kind of folk we turned out to be!

John Fieldhouse June 2020

Following the success of this event, and written work – which was designed basically for our own enjoyment and to be shared amongst our year group only – we decided to rework it and make it available not only to the Bootham school archive, but to offer it for public research by way of York Explore archive and internet access. This involved ensuring that living people named in each person's account had given written permission. This was not always possible – nor preferable to some – though 20 of the original 24 contributors agreed to – if necessary - anonymise their accounts and sign the consent forms. **What follows is the result of that exercise of 'going public.'**

John Fieldhouse Nov 2020

"I think it is so different from our kids time there when it was expected that everybody would go to university. Also, the relationship of the boys to the city is very interesting." Janet Dean Knight, parent of two recent-ish Bootham students, former committee member of the Mount school, and member of York Area Quaker Meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to the following:

Elaine Phillips – Old Scholars coordinator at Bootham School for support, encouragement, and for putting into the Bootham School archive

Laura Yeoman - at York Explore, for her constant encouragement and her wise counsel on the rules and regulations that needed to be taken into consideration in making Bootham Survivors available to a wider public.

Janet Dean Knight – parent of two recent ex Bootham students, former committee member of the Mount school and member of York Area Quaker Meeting. Thank you for reading and views

John Dent – who started the whole thing off, following his able organisation of 2018 reunion, and encouraged so many of us either to attend the zoom meeting, to submit a written/pictorial piece, or both

Roger Camrass - for hosting the Zoom meeting, providing the screen-save shot, and writing the preface – **Fifty-two years on and still counting**

Colin May - meticulous research for ways of giving this work a wider social 'reach', and working so hard to obtain the necessary consents in order to submit to York Explore public research - and Bootham school - archives, and for giving our document the subtitle A Slice of Contemporary History

Neil Malcolm, Ian Taylor, and Others - who made suggestions which helped push the whole discussion a bit further on

Everybody - who contributed to either the Zoom meeting or sent a written appraisal – or both, and for those of you who took the trouble to revise your accounts and sign the consent form we hope we did not try your patience too much! All photographs and text remain the personal property of each appropriate contributor

John Fieldhouse - for being prepared to act as a collecting point for the accounts, for the labour of converting them into a consistent format, for writing the introduction and for providing the cover and afterword photos from his personal archive.

Let's also, take a moment's thought for those of our classmates who haven't been so fortunate as we to make their 'three-score and ten years', among them; **Richard Arkle, Paul Murdoch,** and **Trevor Waddilove.**

P R E F A C E

Fifty-two years on and still counting



A virtual school reunion for the class of 1968

The above screenshot is reproduced with the written consent of those who appear. Those who did not consent for public use are shown as silhouettes and the names removed.

Where did we all end up?

Ever wonder where you might be at the age of seventy? Few students leaving Bootham today will have any conception of how life will treat them judging by the experiences of 'class of 1968' old scholars who came together amidst the COVID-19 crisis in a virtual conference call last weekend (May 2020)

It was clear to we students at Bootham that by the end of the glorious sixties, life would change dramatically. We had left the post war years of austerity and were beginning to 'live it large' during the era of the Beatles and later 'Cool Britannia'. However, the implications for our careers were far from certain. New patterns were being set and old ones abandoned.

In his seminal book 'Future Shock' Alvin Toffler predicted change in the rate of change.

We all remembered a sparse careers room with a few pamphlets that suggested a limited number of options such as teaching, government service or the professions (law, medicine, engineering). The teachers of the time such as Freddie Legg were equally as vague, suggesting that our choice of 'A' levels would determine our life's course, neatly dividing us into the 'arts' or 'sciences' categories. It is true to say that none of the recommended options were ever followed through. Instead we each found ourselves in unfamiliar yet highly satisfying employment patterns over the following fifty years.

Setting the context

Unlike many boarding schools of the sixty's era, Bootham was extremely liberal in its approach to both education and work-life balance. We had full access to the City of York and spent many hours in coffee shops (and unbeknown to teachers, in the pubs). It encouraged a broad educational agenda with emphasis on sports, hobbies such as art and woodwork, and regular trips out to Yorkshire hotspots and funded European trips through the Clayton scholarships. We all agreed that the non-academic side of Bootham was superbly enjoyable and broadening. This reflected in the somewhat mixed academic results of that time, causing many to resit 'A' levels at local colleges prior to entering university.

With just 35 Universities available in 1968, and few in the general population interested in gaining a degree, many of us were able to squeeze into respectable establishments and progress to graduation. Again, few had any specific goals and often resorted to world travel as a means of 'finding oneself'. The career choices at graduation were almost as limited as they were at the school careers office – civil service, teaching, professions and if none of these were possible, perhaps a career in industry!

How did we find ourselves?

For most the process was evolutionary. Put a foot in the water and follow one's passions. Never stay still for long. John Dent offered himself as a 'digger' to enter the then obscure world of archaeology. Fifty years later he was respected as an eminent archaeologist after 37 different excavations. *Student B* won a local wine competition in London and found himself invited to open the wine department at *Retailer A*, later to become its CEO and Chair. Others transferred from general degrees to make a career in medicine and law.

What was remarkably consistent amongst the old scholars was the pattern of continuous discovery. Over the last five decades the world has changed out of all recognition. New industries and professions have arisen and the task at the time was to align interest with opportunity. Roger Camrass turned his interest in electronics to a lifetime in management consultancy – a profession that was quite unknown at time of graduation. Ivar Rachkind became a Chief Information Officer, starting out as a data processing manager in the early stages of IT.

Almost everyone agreed that life had presented many suitable opportunities and that we were fortunate to find our way into them. Monetary rewards appeared a secondary motivation for the large majority, and each seemed to be entering into a comfortable retirement with many interesting years ahead.

What advice can we give to current Bootham students?

If the sixties and seventies were a time for dramatic changes, we can hardly imagine what the digital age might offer current students who will be embarking on careers in this decade. One thing is for certain. Where you start out will not be where you finish. Machine Intelligence will

transform the professions as well as jobs in all industries. The workplace will evolve rapidly as automation takes

place. In his work 'London 2040'¹ Camrass predicts that we might return to cottage industries (arts and crafts) in our major cities and rural areas based on advances in 3D printing and biotechnology. This should be good news to Duncan Grimmond who pursued a career in specialist metal work resulting in at least one prestigious award for the business he founded.

To remain a successful educational establishment, Bootham needs to continue to offer breadth of education, encouraging flexibility and enterprise for the future. Independent schools do broaden one's outlook and increase one's sense of confidence and purpose. As we enter the new digital age, life will be about continuous exploration with associated uncertainty – what we now call the 'VUCA' world (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous.) Confidence and vision will be a necessary requirement for success in life in which ever forms one might consider important in financial, intellectual, social, or spiritual.

We as old scholars would always be available to share experiences and offer counsel to those at Bootham that wish to consult us.

In the remarkable book 'Homo Deus' by Professor Yuval Harari², he predicts that death is a problem that will soon be solved. Such are the possibilities of a fusion of infotech and biotech in the next thirty years that could propel careers to new heights?

2. Back to the Future: London 2000, 2020 and 2040 published by Roger Camrass and available on the blog section of www.rogercamrass.com

3. Homo Deus by Yuval Harari is a global best seller on the future of Humankind. Available through Amazon. Also read Sapiens and 21 Lessons for the 21st Century

CONTRIBUTORS

'a' stands for dates attended Bootham, and 'z' for attended the zoom meeting

ROGER CAMRASS a|1961-1968 z

A Levels - what career did I have in mind?

I took maths, physics, and chemistry at A level. Might have considered adding Art (opening the door to architecture) but was hell bent on a scientific or engineering career of some kind. Interestingly I could not have considered any other arts subjects – my language skills were appalling and still are! I spent much of the sixth form working and reading biographies of famous physicists. Colleague F once remarked 'Camrass, you are like the Pharisees standing on the street corners revising'.

Career Launch

After spending two years studying theoretical physics at Cambridge, I concluded that a Nobel prize did not have my name on it. My professor used to come to work on a bicycle and he was a lot smarter than I was so clearly no financial rewards lay ahead either. I turned to electrical sciences which was a doddle compared to physics and after two years as an engineer with a large telecom company (Plessey) I crossed the Atlantic to study at MIT. At that time, I was offered a PhD at Cambridge with a full grant, but the appeal of the USA persuaded me to take the risk. I had no financial support for MIT but decided to give it a whirl. Within two semesters I received a full research fellowship to design the early version of today's Internet (the ARPANET) so landed on safe ground. The cultural difference between the UK and USA in the seventies was amazing – it transformed me from being a complete nerd to a near human-being.

Career development & job satisfaction

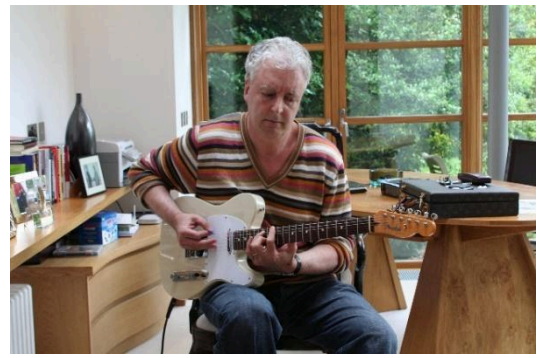
The MIT experience set me on course for the coming digital revolution. I returned to the UK at 26 and took a job again with Plessey to be worldwide launch manager for a new product sourced from Silicon Valley. I saw the rise of Valley power and spent many years commuting to Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Cupertino (60 trips in just five years).

In 1977 I left an 80,000-employee company to join a start-up with just seven people. Within twelve years we undertook a full IPO on the London Stock Exchange. I realised that intellectual challenge and financial reward were not mutually exclusive. Since then I have worked for US, French, Japanese and Indian multi-nationals, heading consultancy and business transformation. I always sought big risks with big returns and can take some responsibility for the turn-around of Fujitsu in Europe saving 26,000 jobs (mostly ex-ICL ones).

Today I look after the UK arm of a global IT research and events company, CIONET, that serves some 9,000 digital leaders in 22 countries. I love the challenge of helping to define the new digital age and have been lucky enough to meet and work with some of its digital leaders.



Roger lecturing



Roger playing his guitar

Thoughts for the next generation

If you have real ambition the sky will be the limit in tomorrow's digital economy. The second wave of digital technologies is about to hit the shore, with artificial intelligence, 3D printing, Blockchain, 5G, Internet of Things and much more. Your career is likely to centre on jobs and roles that do not exist today so play it by ear. In a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world, rewards will go to those with purpose and a propensity to take risk. Personally, I see the rise of cottage industries by 2040 with city centres devoted to 'arts and crafts' – but, what the hell, I could be wrong! One thing is for sure – a quality education will be essential in times to come – so stick with it!

I have three wonderful sons and have enjoyed a 40-year marriage, so I advise the risk takers amongst you to keep your families close and safe so not to travel challenging paths alone.



Roger and family

Reproduced with consent of all those in the photo – see addendum

ANTHONY CLEGG a|1963-1965 z

I thought that I may follow Duncan and send a blog as by four o'clock I may be asleep under the Observer.

I am a "fraud" as **I did leave Bootham before doing my O levels** as my father's business went bust. I did my O and A levels at Bingley Grammar School, scraping enough together to go to Art College for four years and then do a post grad. cert. ed. Two years teaching Art in Whitby which was great and then then thirty-two years at Bingley Grammar School which became a huge comprehensive with me getting promoted along the way (by default I think) to the post of Senior Teacher with a responsibility for pastoral care.

I retired in two thousand and four due to an ongoing heart condition. Then started gardening (very good for the blood pressure) and painting. Did a course in garden design, I loved it. Designed and built a-number of small gardens. Got too old for the physical side of things so now still paint, having regular exhibitions with the National Trust at Robin Hood's Bay on the East Coast. My other half Gill sells textiles along-side my paintings. At RHBay we have had the pleasure of bumping into John Dent who encouraged me to get in touch.

I am also chair of two local charities (which Gill refers to as "anoraking". Most of the meetings are in the pub. We also do volunteer work for Guide Dogs.

Sorry if I have gone on a bit and not followed the guidelines but the highlights in terms of worth was certainly the teaching, never boring, always challenging but very rewarding. Sorry, very corny.

JOHN DENT a1961-1968 z

A Levels; History, Geography and Art were my first choices for A level study, but Fred Legg suggested Latin would be more helpful for a degree in Archaeology, so I dropped Art after four terms (but not until after Life Drawing sessions at York Art School!). Even so, I learned a lot from the Art course, helped too by the 1967 trip to Rome trip, where I saw Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling and Moses 'in the flesh'.

University

In the weeks before starting Bootham I excavated the shins and feet of a Roman citizen from a stone coffin found on a York building site and thereafter never deviated from a desire to spend my life unearthing the past. I applied to University College, Cardiff, one of the very few places which offered a course at the time, and in spite of failing to make the grades they asked for went on to obtain an Honours degree in 1971. Of about a dozen graduates that year, more than half of us continued to work in Archaeology and so became members of the 'Cardiff Mafia' or, in the profession's argot, 'Taffia'.



With the lads, Benghazi 1972

Photo reproduced with consent of its copyright owner Dr John Dent see addendum. The identity of others has been concealed as it has not been possible to contact them.

Working Life

My subsequent career reflected the transition of Archaeology from little more than a paid hobby to a well-established profession. I spent four years as a peripatetic digger, working in England, France, Libya and Scotland and gaining experience and confidence to run excavations, which began with the speedy excavation of Hellenistic burials on a building site in Benghazi. Then for six years I worked for Humberside Joint Archaeological Committee, a 'quango' which received Government grants. Thereafter I became a local government officer, first in Humberside County Council's new Archaeology Unit until 1989, then Borders Regional (now Scottish Borders) Council until retirement in 2011. In 1982 I became Member no.37 of the now Certified Institute for Archaeologists (now with 3,500 members!), subsequently obtained two research degrees (MPhil and PhD) from the University of Sheffield and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (founded 1707). Since retirement I continue to write up excavations, assist archaeological researchers and bodies, and pursue a growing number of historical interests and lands with my wife of more than forty years, Ann.

Highlights

My 'digging years' from 1971 to 1993 provided me with the pleasurable experience of exploring the virtually tourist-free ancient cities of Libya and Tunisia. In Benghazi I was the first person to breathe the air of a buried room that had held the water supply of a Roman brothel seventeen centuries before. At a British Museum exhibition, I showed Prince Charles sword scabbards and other decorated metalwork from three Iron Age chariot burials that I had excavated at Wetwang on the Wolds. In the Hull valley my diggers uncovered the remains of an early bridge where animals had been sacrificed to the Gods and some Viking had thrown his sword and spear into the water for good measure. Twice I have found myself digging up silver coins by the score in circumstances more like Treasure Island than the more conventional methods of excavation, German dollars in particular recalling Fred Legg's classes on the Thirty Years' War. Looking down on fields as buried sites emerged from ripening corn, or revealed themselves in pasture by their shadows rewarded numerous aerial photographic searches, in many cases while seated next to a World War II hero, my pilot Jim 'Ginger' Lacey. From my days as a Regional Archaeologist in the Borders I still receive great pleasure from historic visitor attractions that I helped to establish or enhance, as well as companion publications that I or my team produced and illustrated.

Bootham reflections and opportunities

As a 'day boy', I did not sleep at school but attended until bedtime for six days a week. I lost all contact with my former friends and the school was my life for seven years. Unlike my boarding classmates, I did not become more self-reliant (I was a dreadful mess at University) and learned civilised independence later. I loved the school and cannot believe that had I followed my father and uncle to Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School I would have developed anything like the variety of interest, friends and experience that I enjoyed at Bootham.

Other members of the school also went on to become archaeologists, in one case a specialist in recent industrial archaeology, in another ancient anatomy - particularly teeth! Today archaeological programmes are screened on TV all the time and make use of a wide range of techniques - remote sensing and dating, DNA and isotope study for example - that simply did not exist fifty years ago, with the result that a career in archaeology is now far more achievable and depends much less on luck or connections.



Working on my wheels, 1984



John, Ann, and son George in Constantinople 2014

JOHN FIELDHOUSE a.1961-1968

Interior Designer

I worked for private practices – designers and architects – for ten years before setting up my own practice specialising in not only offices, but small timber-framed structures, some of which have live ‘green’ sedum roofs!

Teacher

After starting my own practice, I was offered spatial design visiting tutor post at Chelsea College of Art (University of the Arts London). Both my parents had been teachers, so I wasn’t enthusiastic at first. I thought, ‘the students will vote with their feet and I won’t have anybody left at the end of term.’ Ten years later it was going stronger than ever, and the college had got me running business studies and professional practice courses as well!

Fiction Writer

I started creative writing during my more mature years returning to develop my intuitive side, which while owning/running a business I’d felt compelled to frequently leave behind in favour of the technical and orchestrating sides. I spent ten years getting myself mentors, going on courses, taking part in and running workshops, seminars, reading and re-reading – sometimes in groups and aloud. I’ve had fifteen fiction shorts published, one full length novel in print, and a short story collection with abstract interior design photo images published in Aug 2020.

There’s a saying somewhere, ‘the only person you should compare yourself with is the person you were yesterday.’ Self-motivation – there’s something very ‘Bootham’ about all that!

GCEs

I left Bootham with 5 O levels and 1 A level, to which I added 2 further Os and 1 additional A the following year at local Tech college. Grades didn’t matter, nor did subjects. For admission to Regional Colleges of Art you just needed any 5 Os plus 2 As. All that’s changed. I did Dip (now Degree) in Interior Design at Manchester, then made it into the Royal College of Art to do a Master’s in Environmental Design (now Architecture). Two delicious educational ironies; i) I’d always had myself down as ‘too thick to go to uni’, yet in my final year at the RCA the DES made it into a university so it could dish out MA’s instead of MDes’s. ii) I’d always had myself down as ‘too numerically-challenged to do architecture’ yet when our year left the RCA, we were all offered a place at the Architectural Association with an opportunity to complete the RIBA exams in just 2 further years. After 7 years as a student NO WAY! One person only from our year took up the offer. I’d always wanted to go the art school route anyway, more fun!

Career Satisfaction

Setting up my own practice was the big one! I’ve no children, so I took the risk. We benefitted from some bright-as-button clients, who appreciated the service we provided them with but, I was operating on borrowed time, capital expenditure nearly always exceeded fee income, and after 22 years I could no longer justify forking out for my professional indemnity payments. I’m wistful I’ve had no family life; I’ve just had **three lovely careers!**

STEPHEN GOLDWATER a1964 -1968

As I mentioned before, I am not really comfortable with Zoom and therefore don't feel able to join in that part of it. However, I am certainly willing to go along with Neil M's suggestion of giving details of our activities or careers since we left Bootham. However, I have spent the last forty-five years since university in various information jobs, training as a chartered librarian and working in reference, financial, legal and antiquarian settings but the world of librarianship and information work has changed so radically and dramatically, and the technology so transformed, that I don't know that I could describe anything which would be of much use to anyone thinking of going into that field now. On top of that, because of all the Internet resources, people now usually do their own research and enquiries, and often don't need to make use of a centralised information team. I am certainly willing to do what I can and would like to be a part of all of this. Let's see what comes out of the Zoom meeting on 31st and, if I can add something, I certainly will.

...And Later

At Bootham I took English, French and History A levels. Although I passed English and History, I got fairly grim results and, after leaving Bootham, went back to my home **town**, to a local comprehensive, where I retook English and French, getting an "A" in English. I chose these A levels because I was better at arts subjects and enjoyed the English and French set books. I had to take a further A level in order to be accepted for university and passed Sociology, then a fairly new A level subject. I also needed a science, having failed O level Maths at Bootham, and got O level Human Biology. I don't think I had any idea of particular career objectives; I think I was aiming just to go to university and do English but without clear plans of what to do after that.

Having been accepted **for university**, I did a degree in English and American Studies with a minor in fine art history. I still had made no specific choice of career and, after leaving university, went to **a** local music college, doing the first year of a three-year diploma in popular music but only stayed for one year because it seemed it was based on playing in bands and, as a solo pianist, I didn't feel it was helping me.

I had a family friend who was a teacher and she suggested I took teacher training, so I did a one-year post-grad certificate of education course, teaching English and History during the compulsory teaching parts. I decided that I didn't want to look for a teaching post and, in order to earn some money, found a job in an eighteenth-century private subscription library. I felt quite at home there and, as the Chief Librarian was a Fellow of the Library Association, I joined the Library Association and **did** a post-grad Diploma in Library, Archive and Information Studies qualifying as a Chartered Librarian.

My career has been in a mixed range of information units. I stayed at the **subscription library** for about five years before moving to London, to a job in a local authority reference library. After eight years, I moved to the information unit of one of the main financial advisory companies and this was followed by jobs at an American law firm, an accountancy institute, a health service library, a small independent publisher and an antiquarian bookseller. Most recently, I have been working for one of the large property advisory firms as their information officer where I stayed for almost twenty-four years, only retiring last month. It is satisfying to have had a career during the transformation of information provision, from old-fashioned catalogue cards to the latest internet sources.

However, music and playing the piano has always been very important to me. At Bootham, I used to get up early in the morning to play the piano and I have simultaneously had a career in music. Always wavering between classical music and jazz, I took a piano teaching diploma and a

performing certificate and have taught the piano as a private teacher for more than twenty-five years. I also took a diploma in music composition **and** a certificate in jazz.

I have been a resident pianist at hotels and restaurants as well as playing at a number of London venues.

In retrospect, Bootham was quite liberal and, if you chose not to work, they let you pursue your own interests. I spent my time collecting old radios from Bargains Unlimited in Fossgate, obsolete televisions from Cussins and Light in Walmgate, clocks from Bulmers in Lord Mayor's Walk and 78 rpm records from the Oxfam shop in Parliament Street. I played the piano in the Music Rooms at any free moment. I will always feel nostalgic for the time I spent at Bootham, even though I had to make great efforts afterwards to catch up academically.

NIALL GREEN a1963-1968 z

A Levels: Biology, Chemistry, Geography

I had a strong interest in Biology and Biogeography, but my A level subjects were chosen to avoid Maths and Physics at which I was hopeless. My Bootham career advice was 'don't bother about University, you are not up to it'. Not sure how my life would develop from this stark warning, I persisted with my interests. Before I sat A levels, I gained a University place in Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Dublin after completing Matriculation exams in May. After this there was not much incentive to complete my A levels and my results reflected this!

Career objective

At University my subjects were chosen to reflect my intention of working in Wildlife Conservation, and was influenced by my birdwatching experiences at Bootham. As a student I participated in seabird surveys and bird ringing projects and was involved on the Committee of the newly established Irish Wildbird Conservancy. At the end of 3rd year, it was clear that there were too many Zoology graduates for the number of jobs available, so I deserted to the Botany Department with the aim of working in Ecology! I graduated in 1972.

Career Development

In 1973, I joined the Civil Service to work as an Agricultural/Horticultural Scientist in Edinburgh to develop statutory test systems for marketing varieties of cultivated plants in the UK, which was required under new EU legislation. These tests were also used to award Intellectual Property Rights for novel varieties required under UK, EU and International legislation/agreements.

The work was very varied and all driven by legislation, involving development of new and revised crop test protocols to reflect changes in plant breeding, implementing research on long term seed storage, cultivated plant taxonomy and nomenclature (very dry), drafting legislation (very tedious) and training - students, those working in the breeding and seed production industry and foreign government officials; I also supervised MSc and PhD students, mainly through Edinburgh University and was an external examiner for a PhD student at Birmingham University.

Changing from studying Zoology to Botany, I never thought I would work in Agricultural and Horticultural Science. I worked for just under 40 years and retired in 2013.

Career Satisfaction

I enjoyed providing the training courses and the student supervision and also the representation work for the UK and EU which gave some relief from management responsibilities. I spent 20 years representing the UK at an International Technical Working Party, meeting many friends and visiting many countries.

Reflection

I enjoyed the freedom and liberal attitudes at Bootham, with opportunities to play sport, and leave to enjoy the city, canoe on the river and cycle (the farthest was to Scarborough!) My interest in ornithology was greatly developed at Bootham, helped by our Biology teacher driving a small number of us to far-away places, such as Spurn Head, to birdwatch. He also introduced us to ringing Starlings caught in the box trap on the cricket pitch and Tree Sparrows at a local colony of nest boxes in Strensall. I was also fortunate to gain a Clayton Travel Scholarship with Colleague N to go to Iceland to study the geology and bird populations - it was a great experience.

DUNCAN GRIMMOND a1961-1967 z

On leaving Bootham with four O levels I ended up at Harrogate College of Further Education where I acquired a further 5 O levels and an A level.

Still not knowing what I wanted to do, other than have a good time, I studied Craft, Design & Technology in Birmingham developing metalwork skills which were unfortunately not available at Bootham.

I spent the summer of 1974 living in a tent in Cornwall making and selling jewellery on the beach at Newquay, followed by a shared bench in a jewellery workshop also in Newquay.

Back up north I opened a craft workshop in Ripon and worked in the city for 10 years making and selling jewellery and restoring antique silverware and jewellery.

I was commissioned to make silverware for the city Council regalia and also Wakeman's Horns for the 1100th anniversary of the granting of the Charter.

I was later commissioned to make the copper lanterns which illuminate the security gates at the end of Downing Street.

By chance in 1995 I was asked to make a zinc clad counter for a new restaurant which, by word of mouth, perfect timing, and a most fortunate advertisement, led to setting up a specialist zinc and pewter cladding business. This was at the beginning of the fashion for "Zinc bars" and I have until recently, been running to keep up with demand.

In 2000 a young Frenchman knocked on our door "I am a zinc worker from France, do you have a job for me?" He turned out to be the most gifted and talented craftsman I have ever met and with his assistance the business was transformed completely. He designed and made, unaided, the entire copper roof for the extension to the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace which brought my small business the John Smith Award for craftsmanship. Since his return to France after 13 years with me I have continued trying to match the high standard of work he set.

I have not retired. I wouldn't know what to do with myself if I wasn't engaged in making something out of metal.

I became a "piston head" with motorcycles in the 1960's and cars in the 2000's and to my shame I have 36 wheels on the road in one form or another.

I build and restore vintage/classic car bodywork and have built four cars and am working on my fifth.

This year excepted I generally attend a couple of rallies and GP Retro meetings in France, Germany and Holland and take every opportunity to improve my conversational French, Italian and Dutch.

I hope to see you all, somehow, this afternoon. My grasp of IT is still not what it could be...as usual, it's operator malfunction.

ROBERT HARDIE a1963-1968

As you know from previous mails, I am continuing my Luddite approach to computers and will be unable to get involved in anything complicated - ie. beyond e mail.

Having enjoyed a varied but hugely enjoyable career in commercial property (also reasonably lucrative) I would be happy to speak or correspond with any who might like to consider such a move and pass on my experience. It is the sort of qualification that could satisfy any personality as there is work across the full spectrum of easy going to geek.

No idea if this will prove of any help but it's in the ether anyway.

JOHN HELLER a1963-1968 z

I left Bootham with terrible results. I resat my A-levels the following year and succeeded in getting grades which allowed me to do Law at Sheffield. I had to take a further year out because no university would offer me a place on the basis of my first attempt in French, Economics and History. I spent the year living in Munich learning German at the University of Munich and then went to the US with Neil Malcolm to sell ice creams in Detroit.

I shared a flat at Sheffield with Colleague J and Colleague M. Colleague O was also there in my first year. I am very much in touch with J, Colleague H, Neil and Colleague B. Colleague P was my best man although we have not seen each other for nearly 20 years.

I met my future wife on the first day at university and we have been married 44 years. We were both lawyers. I went to the City to do my training. I then joined a firm in 1976 in Bradford (where she lived) which had 56 people and left 30 years later when there were over 2000. I was a commercial litigator and was involved in the management of the firm. **I enjoyed being a lawyer;** it was a very exciting firm to be a partner and I was well rewarded. I have been very fortunate in all respects.

I have two children now in their mid-30s. We sent them away to school. Although we live in North Yorkshire Bootham was the last school we would have sent them to. Bootham catered to my worst instincts namely laziness. I enjoyed my time there and have kept up the above friendships but too many of us ended up with appalling results. I had to learn that hard work was the only way I was going to succeed and that was instilled into me by my father. Touchy feely he wasn't. I am now completely retired from any commercial work and am a governor of the local comprehensive in Boroughbridge – a real eye opener.

PATRICK HUGHES a1962-1968 z

I'm not sure I can presume to offer much **useful advice to current pupils**, who will start their working lives in a very different world with some huge challenges. I just hope they can even begin to forgive our generation for leaving them with climate change, biodiversity loss and all the other hangovers they will have to cope with. So, I can only give my own background, which follows, for what it's worth.

I didn't really appreciate at the time how lucky I was to go to Bootham. It certainly gave me a good education and the grounding for the future, and the sporting and other activities were excellent. I did feel I had outgrown it by the time I left and, looking back I felt a single sex school gave us a rather unnatural start in life. Despite (or because of) the Quaker upbringing my time at the school confirmed me in the atheist/humanist viewpoint which I retain to this day. I well remember many of the staff, who were more than just teachers to us, being also "in loco parentis". I had great respect for David Champion who helped to develop my interest in Maths and also, I remember, devoted a lot of time at term ends to making sure I had all the details to change trains successfully at Stalybridge, Stockport and Crewe to get myself home from York on my own to Stafford, from age 11. Later on, DC re-routed me via Kings Cross to my new home in Hertford after my parents moved house in mid-term.

My A levels were in Maths supported by Physics and Chemistry and my results gave me a shot at Cambridge, which I managed to miss despite an extra term at Bootham. I was actually relieved, however, as I felt much more suited to my next choice, which was a Pure Maths course at Warwick.

I used the remaining gap-9-months to raise some cash and in March 1969 set off on my travels, starting with three weeks on a Spanish banana boat out to Jamaica to meet up with Steve Miall. We flew with his mini to Guatemala from where we started a 10,000-mile road trip to New York via Mexico and Vancouver. Whenever our money ran out (frequently) we stopped to earn a bit more, gardening, berry picking, hay baling and working to help construct a demolition derby arena. The one regret was very narrowly missing out on Woodstock.



TWO ENGLISH YOUTHS, Pat Hughes and Steve Miall, who are touring the continent, are working this week at fairgrounds to earn money for trip home. They get mopping up instructions from William Margeson, left assistant grounds superintendent.

Having made it back safely from New York I arrived at Warwick in the frame of mind to make the most of it, and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I met my wife Chris on the course, and we got married just a couple of weeks after graduating. I still had no idea what to do as a career and, as she was enrolling to train as a Maths teacher, I did too. We ended up as Maths teachers in twin boys' and girls' grammar schools in Peterborough. I stuck it out for 18 months, which confirmed

that I was definitely not teacher material. A desperate visit to the Warwick careers department redirected me to accountancy, and I managed to train and qualify with a KPMG predecessor firm in Leicester, Chris continuing her career in a local school. After seven years there, and thinking to travel a bit before our two eldest daughters reached school age we signed up for an assignment in Jamaica, where I worked as an audit manager - a great learning experience as I had to take on much more responsibility than I ever had in the UK. Back in England a year later I joined a Deloitte predecessor firm, working happily for another seven years while our family expanded, until commercial work dried up in the 1991 recession, which coincided with the birth of our sixth and youngest child.

Loss of security at this time was an emotional upheaval for both of us (we both went grey!). However, Lawson's recession happened to follow shortly after Thatcher's privatisation of the electricity industry. Our new local electricity company, which was an audit client, needed a whole tier of administration they had never had before as part of the EMEB, and I began a new career with them doing their financial accounts. The electricity industry went through some turbulent years through the nineties and I rode the wave through successive reorganisations, a management coup, more reorganisations, a takeover by a Virginia company, sale to Powergen, which was taken over in turn by E.ON. By 1999 I was in Powergen's International wing, an exciting job involving regular trips abroad. However E.ON closed us down in 2004 and redundancy finally caught up with me again. This time I was better prepared for the transition to another new career. I became a freelance financial controls specialist, and in that capacity I was back working for E.ON two months later. That line of work was enough to see me out, with 5 more years with E.ON, four years at National Grid, and two years at Jaguar Landrover before I finally retired in 2016. It is true that all these industries have traditionally been associated with carbon emissions, but I can confirm I worked with many good people within them who were in a position to influence real change and were genuinely trying to raise awareness and promote greener transitions.

My career, whilst relatively unspectacular and unplanned, was important to me and I always prided myself on maintaining integrity and professionalism in my work. My job was always more of a means to an end, however. Family has always been more important than career, and I feel satisfied and a little lucky that I was able to hold it together throughout to provide support for them and help them thrive. Though it was sometimes hard to afford everything, we were able to pay the bills, pay for music lessons, ballet lessons, gymnastics, and all the little things our growing family needed. We had some memorable holidays (several times loading up our 8-seater people-carrier and driving down to stay near colleague K in his idyllic part of France, in the foothills of the Auvergne north of Montpellier). We were able to afford to home-school the 3 younger children, up to age 11.

I don't miss my career however, having definitely moved on now. Retirement has been everything I had hoped it would be. It continues to be a delight to share in the achievements of our children, who all got good degrees, have all found supportive partners, and are doing well in life. It is a particular privilege to experience grandchildren arriving one by one and growing up (all the joys, fewer nappies, no sleepless nights). We now have 9, going on 10 - most live locally and we see them every week. Two live near London, and we have two bilingual and dual nationality grandsons living in Rio, which has meant a number of trips to Brazil in recent years, with some great holidays (luckily, we got in a visit in January just before the pandemic). For some years we have both been challenged by supporting Chris's mum through her final illness.

We have both kept busy and fit developing and cultivating our allotment (you name it we grow it!). We have enjoyed spending time at our caravan in Mid Wales (temporarily inaccessible, sadly). We have done various courses and join in local activities. I have taken a new interest in family history research, investigating and debunking some family myths, but enjoying finally having the opportunity to sort out boxes of family papers and photos, finding out about some interesting characters from my ancestral past. I can't now imagine how I found time to fit in a working career.

NEIL MALCOLM a1961-1968

What a fantastic job John you have done and are continuing to do for all of us. Bravo and it is interesting to read all the replies and suggestions, ideas, and thoughts.

I am afraid I am not a zoom person so shall be unavailable.

A few further thoughts based on replies as read.

Having looked at the Bootham magazine and caught up with some on-line writings etc I am more aware now of the sort of programs and speakers that are available to leavers or indeed as career advice for pupils presently I am glad to see things have moved on from the advice given to some in our group!

My thoughts for all of us to be 'available' in any or whatever wished sense of the word is based on US College/University Alumni.

As you know, Alumni take a great delight in supporting their graduates in many aspects, career, financial, social etc, to the grave. It can be to the point of almost being incestuous/nepotistic but having many US friends most agree it is of great benefit and help.

I remember Andy McGregor and I talking that if we did not get into medical school then the best available option was Marine Biology!

We all I assume, have had very dendritic pathways to get to where we are now, and I am sure that would be of interest and help to be known and delineated.

Let's just say that I was a 'late starter' after my A level results, however at all stages in my meanderings and at every crossroads, I always welcomed any and all advice.

Never usually taken of course, but possibly subconsciously absorbed.

...And Later

I still, till the finite of September 2021 am working, if only 5 days per month in my ICU of choice in Niagara Ontario, as part of a retirement package designed by and for me.

I wonder, if thought of interest, as before we have such a vast network of contacts to be able to point requested interest in the right direction as wished.

Whether such access even at our late stage would/might be still valid or of any value.

We all have instances, but here classically is mine.

At this stage I had managed by sheer obstinacy to get into an Anaesthesiology program in Pittsburgh

The chief resident had tried for three years to get into a very specialised Army program for Cardiac Anaesthesiology.

He gave up on a Friday and asked our program boss what he should do

Saturday - he had a personal call from the specific US Secretary to report for duty Monday for the program

The answer was the chief of the US program went to high school with the boss of our program and a place was created/made available with one phone call.

My experience was similar. One phone call and all-of-a-sudden, I was a fellow in an ICU in Miami I returned to friends in Edinburgh where they had been writing letters for three years to do such with no luck

Perhaps such a contact base is important

...And even later

I have read with great interest all the stories as presented and without doubt every tale is fascinating, and the Introduction and Preface is quite superb writing.

Forgive this stilted offering, I feel I suffered not pursuing my pleasure in the "Arts" as opposed to "Sciences" in the great streamlining of our education.

And on that theme the path of a medical career can be quite parochial and insular, although the writing colleague H is an exception that makes the rule.

(Amazing the coincidence of Johnny Heller and I working selling ice cream with the same company "Jumbo" on one side of Detroit whilst John King was on the other in 1970)

And we never would have found that out without all this, some fifty years later.

We three have exchanged memories and hopefully pictures of those days as a result.

I especially enjoyed the stories from Duncan Grimmond and Stephen Goldwater as again in a narrow medical pathway one can lose sight of others fantastic tales

To the dendritic pathways of post Bootham, I wish to add some pre Bootham pathways.

Due to a chance meeting of my parents with the previously mentioned Fred Legg, two summers in a row at the same hotel in remote Arisaig, the option of Bootham became a reality, that then extended to my brother Colin, as well as cousins Iain and Jimmy Ferguson, and cousin Marjory Ferguson who went to the Mount.

On that note, like the joint meeting in 2018 with the Mount, would there be any interest in attempting to reach out to some of those girls who attended to see if this effort might be expanded to include them, if they wished to likewise write their histories plus the various interactions between us, whilst at school and or post!

And is that something that Elaine might be involved with?

As well as the pathways that led us to Bootham in the first place?

And so, to my impoverished contribution as per guidelines that I have been mulling over these last few weeks

A Levels

Well as I had mentioned before; late starter was probably a kind way of saying, as expressed by others that laziness took precedence over hard grind after O levels however as was usual in those days coming from an extended medical family background, Biology, Physics and Chemistry chose themselves, much though I hated them all especially Physics.

I do remember quite an antipathy to students choosing Medicine as a possible career by certain masters, and never understood why till much later when it was explained to me that by whatever reason some science teachers were jealous, as having been excluded from medical school in their day.

However, I did scrape into Dundee University having to drop back a year to redo the same subjects! No resits that year although that did become more the rule than otherwise, right up to and including finals.

Career development

Well in those days there were long summer holidays between University terms, and I do remember one year, ?1968, travelling down to the South of France with I believe Colleague B and Colleague L, in a car as passengers with Colleague M and Steve Berry, was it?

And the following year a trip with Colleague H and Colleague J through Czechoslovakia a year exactly post the revolution and being stuck in a huge convoy of Russian soldiers

Perhaps I need correcting on people and facts for the above trips

And then as mentioned Ice Cream Salesman, being robbed at gunpoint in Detroit two years running, and spending time camping and touring around Michigan with a new friend in her VW beetle.

Never really interested in any subject at Uni, however my father wished me to take over his GP practice afterwards, whilst my mother wished me to become a paediatrician, both of which career pathways horrified me, and I took a year off afterwards and hitchhiked all across the USA ending up in Hawaii for six months with aforementioned girlfriend selling waterbeds and liberally partaking of the local vegetation. Did have, like colleague G the chance to sail as crew on a large sailing boat to continue the excitement but was kicked back to the UK to London, Whipps Cross and Addenbrookes, Cambridge for house jobs

Took off again and ended in Pittsburgh where finally decided Anesthesiology was a means of enhancing further travel as it is a very portable career. "One of the big syringes, a couple of little ones, plug in the ventilator, then back to the crossword and no worries about actually having to speak to ones' patients"

Picked up an interest in ICU as mentioned before and finally became interested in something I began to enjoy

As my mentor, Professor J Civetta in Miami said when he talked at our conference in Niagara in 2010 "40 years in ICU, it seemed like a good idea at the time"

It may be that the man was the stimulus for my ultimate career, as though he was Professor of Surgery, Medicine, ICU and Anesthesiology, he wore earrings, a Zapata moustache, clubbed hair and took me deep sea fishing as well as Dolphins games where he smuggled in large quantities of alcohol and joints.

So "40 years in ICU, it seemed like a good idea at the time"

Now in Niagara Ontario where we now run three ICU's and over fifty beds with a group of fifteen Intensivists and as you may realise, we are fairly busy with Covid 19 and Ontario as of June 2020 is still in lockdown

Having met up with Colleague H, Johnny Heller and Colleague J (and better halves) early March of this year for a time in Edinburgh, it was kindly impressed upon me that no one is indispensable such that it fits my planned slowdown of work to full and happy retiral in 2021.

Thoughts of and for Bootham

Agree with many that **we may have nothing to offer this world in terms of advice**, however a couple of thoughts

Tacit knowledge is important

Likewise, "who you know just as well as what you know" is important

Be as positive and dendritic as one can

Don't burn any bridges, build up a network of contacts, if like me 'the grass must be greener on the other side of the fence"

Blah blah blah!

Like colleague H, Bootham trained me to be a "Lapsed Agnostic" as I think Dennis Norden was it coined, but the underlying ethos of Bootham has stood me in much good stead that I found valuable then and even more so now.

Didn't work one time though, as in the desert in one of his Highness palaces, UAE as his personal Intensivist, I uttered those two words in a discussion on religion to an Emirati who after turning apoplectic nearly resorted to killing me

Apparently being a Christian is bad enough but to be a nonbeliever is even worse!

Anyway, more than enough

As I am a great believer in 'networking', I stand by that such that if anyone wishes to do the same here in Niagara among the vineyards and restaurants and lakes, then when all this Covid nonsense is over please come and visit, and I mean that sincerely.

Hopefully I should be around for a while as I have had my cardiac stent re bored, my Covoid antibodies should be at maximum, I have had my Pneumovax and Shingles shots, as well as annual Flu shots.

Hell, might even be invulnerable!



Neil 2020

COLIN MAY a. 1963-1968 z

A Levels

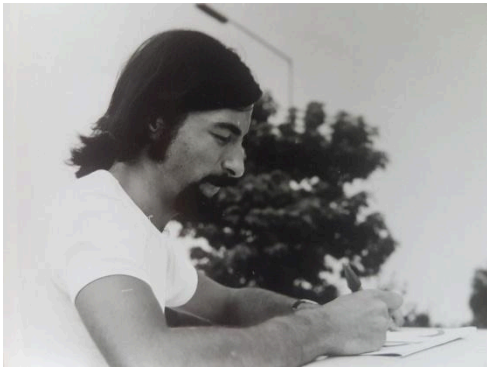
No career objectives at all in my choices. History 'cause I loved it, many of the first novels I read were historical. English 'cause I did OK at O level. Languages were a non starter for me, I only just scraped through French O level and had been brought up by my parents both refugees from Nazi Germany to avoid speaking German. So scrabbling round for a third A level I did the cobbled together part politics part economics hybrid Comparative (U.K. and U.S) Constitutions and the British Economy.

‘Career Development’

Doing this hybrid A level proved important as almost by accident it led me into Sociology. I enjoyed the British Economy part and went to Manchester not to do History but to do Social Sciences intending to specialise in Economics. This was a reaction to my parents having hard times financially, I would have had to leave Bootham except that the local education authority and I believe Bootham itself helped out, and I thought economics was a better bet than history for secure financial future. Also, with this in mind, I signed up for a sandwich course with an industrial company which guaranteed me a job if I worked for them for a year before University and in the summer breaks.

Neither of these decisions worked out. I disliked the economics taught at Manchester which was the approach that underpinned Thatcherism, and switched to Sociology which I had never even heard off before my first year there, and which to my surprise I found I liked. Also, my

20-year old self decided industry wasn't for me. I had long hair, a beard, had participated in student sit -ins and anti-apartheid demo's so when the choice was between a summer Greek island hopping or a steel mill in the West Midlands it was a no brainer for my 20-year-old self.



Hitching in Europe 1969

I don't regard myself as having had a career. Rather different jobs nearly all in the Public sector, and my 'career' has included some unemployment and underemployment. There wasn't any plan other than meeting a need for modest financial security, though at times I have contradicted this by walking away from jobs I haven't liked with no next job set up. I have been able to do this in part as I have no children and in part because I can live frugally when necessary.

After a post graduate degree in Sociology at York and starting a PhD at Edinburgh, which I did not finish, I had a number of academic jobs with time limited contracts including at Cardiff University and with the Open University teaching Sociology/Social Science and on the staff of social research projects. One of these took me to Oxford in 1980 where I have lived pretty much continuously ever since though I've not had anything to do with the University for many, *many* years.

It was in the second half of the 80's that I first experienced sometimes being unemployed, sometimes underemployed and even over employed, once doing four poorly paid part-time jobs at the same time.

A self-assessment of my transferable skills resulted in me getting a job with the NHS as part of a team managing some training programmes in the local NHS region which lasted until the NHS regions were abolished. Next, I became a civil servant in a Regional Office of the Department of Health. This was a job I did not enjoy, so took an opportunity to get myself made redundant at 50.

Some time out i.e. more unemployment followed. Then I joined on the bottom rung, an NHS/ Social Services front line team supporting adults with Learning Disabilities living in the community in Oxford. I worked as part of this team for 11 years until austerity cuts and ever-increasing form filling meant the job changed so much that most of one's time was spent being a budget manager in front of a computer screen and relatively little on what I thought was essential, face-to-face contact. So, I decided to walk away into retirement at 62.5.

Job Satisfaction

This came from helping people. I can't explain why but I was drawn to supporting adults with learning disabilities and took pride in being part of a team which did a good job in the main helping

these vulnerable adults live fulfilling lives. Also, I got a great deal from the shared commitment, camaraderie, humour and mutual support of my fellow team members.

A research monograph I co-authored might still be on a few course reading lists, and might have gained wider relevance as it was about Black Magistrates or rather the lack of them in the mid 1980's. But I got much more of a buzz from teaching sociology/social sciences than from doing research, especially when a student with modest academic ability had a good result, which for some Open University students and students on second chance Access Courses could be life changing.

Looking back, I can see, the most job satisfaction came from being on the teaching or social services front line, and the more remote I was from the front line, as when I was a civil servant, the less my job satisfaction.

Beyond Work

I am proud of having played a small m part in transforming a site of derelict garages into a thriving community garden that in pre-covid times was used by many local groups.

I have always got a lot from my interests. I am a keen skier even though I don't like the cold. As well as going downhill I have taken part in runs but on skis to raise money for Sport Relief and also to claim the world record for skiing round Christ Church Meadow in Oxford.



Pre Bootham Skier 1961(?)



and with a new friend 2019

While absolutely hopeless at playing an instrument, belated apologies to anyone who heard me trying to learn the clarinet at Bootham, I started going to gigs in the holidays. In '69 I was at the Rolling Stones in Hyde Park concert and the much better Blind Faith concert there earlier that year.

The shared experience of live music and festivals continues to be a big passion, and in pre Covid times embraced going to jazz, 'world music', classical and unknown local bands. This has expanded into doing reviews and occasionally interviewing artists. While in these covid-19 times I am grateful for live streaming, for me it will never be more than a pale substitute for the excitement of actually being there in the audience whether it's in a grand concert hall or in a dingy dive.

The world can turn in sudden unexpected ways. In 1989 I went to Berlin as soon as possible on hearing the Berlin Wall had opened to be there, to celebrate and to hammer away at the

abominable monstrosity. I went back last year for the 30th anniversary. For me it was part of a journey of reconciliation with Germany particularly as the date die Mauer was breached, the night of 9-10^{Nov}, is also the date of Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass), the attack on Jews and Jewish properties in 1938, and the night my mother started her escape from Germany.



Above the Wall in 1989, breached but still an awful presence, and at the only section left to stand as a memorial (Nov 2019). The writing makes the link between 'Kristallnacht', 9 Nov 1938 and the Mauerfall 9 Nov 1989.

Now I share my life with a wonderful German lady, Gabi and, having always felt as much European as British, have taken up my option of adding German citizenship to my British citizenship. It hasn't improved my German though which still doesn't go beyond a few rudimentary words and phrases.

The Bootham experience.

When I arrived at Bootham the offspring of two German parents albeit by then British by naturalisation, I was lacking in confidence academically and socially. The gentle way Bootham ushered you along suited me and helped me enormously with both, though when encountering the big wide world after leaving some of the confidence gained ebbed away rather fast. Certainly, I enjoyed the friendships and fun I had at Bootham, but not the compulsory swimming and diving

One of the big pluses for me of the Quaker ethos meant no officer training corps (obviously). My parents gave me a choice between Bootham and another independent school where being in a corps was compulsory. I hated the idea of being in one. Also, I was delighted that we were one of the first generations benefiting from the abolition of having to do two years national service in the armed forces. (Abolition of national service conscription announced 1957 and last compulsory conscription in 1960).

I have a twinge of regret I did not do a science A level, probably chemistry in my case. I recall a very brief discussion with the school about A level choices and getting the impression wrongly that mixing Arts and Sciences A levels was a non-starter. I hope and expect this possibility is made more transparent for the current generation.

However, I did benefit from the teaching and also am sure I wouldn't have got as good A level results elsewhere. This opened doors for me and in a roundabout way led me to Sociology/Social Science which still influences how I think about the uncertain times we live in.

The most important legacy though is the influence of Bootham's Quaker values. They played a big part in forming me and have stayed with me throughout, though not the religious element.

Would I send children to Bootham if I had any which regrettably I don't? I am uncertain for though I have benefitted from private education I am critical of its overall impact on society. However, if I lived near to York, could afford it, now that it is co-ed and if the children I have not had wanted to go, on balance probably I would.

Thoughts for the current generation

I have been lucky to live at a time when societal conditions for people like me have been favourable compared to those faced by the current generation. The challenges they face, the uncertainty of the 'new normal' and impact of A.I and digital printing technology printing make for such a different world, and I am hesitant to offer any suggestions. But here goes.

It seems likely you will need always to be open to change in order to negotiate a world that's changing so rapidly and shot through with uncertainty. Learning how to learn fast and being able to demonstrate this probably will be a highly valued attribute.

From the shelf labelled, 'Do what I say and not what I do', always read the small print before signing up or agreeing to anything.

Be ready to respond if and when chance comes and hits you from below, whether for good or ill. In the bad times make sure you hold onto your sense of humour as well as being resilient

If you find you have got into something which turns out not to be for you, leave if you are able too, but time it so your exit works for you.

Bootham type values can help you navigate your way through all that is to come. 'Do as you would be done by' was good advice back then and it is for now and for the future. Treasure and care for your significant others, aim to leave the world even a better place than when you arrived, and make sure you have fun. Now where's the corkscrew.



ANDREW MCGREGOR a|1963-1968

Thanks John, for your initiative in suggesting this. It would be great to catch up with everyone. However, although I have used zoom during the lock down to keep in touch with family, I have reservations about using it for an on-line reunion for a-number of reasons. That said I would be happy to take part if others felt differently. Even if a mass zoom-reunion does not take off, your efforts are likely to be a catalyst for more interaction between people now that we have an e mail list. Being one of those the wrong side of 70, and having just retired at the end of April, **I am ever more reflective** and do regret not keeping in touch better with others over the years. I do like Neil's thoughts on passing on some of our life experiences to others.

STEVE MIALl a. 1961-1968 z

I did French, History and Maths at A-level. I didn't have a career goal in mind - I just wanted a broad education. I was sorry to give up the sciences, and actually later did Open University courses: cosmology fascinates me still. My A-levels were not great (CDE I think) but I got into Exeter after a gap year: a term of teaching O-level maths in Jamaica put me off teaching for life; a term of working for the UN was fascinating, though it coincided with a period of black power riots in Kingston which were a bit uncomfortable; and 5 months driving from Guatemala to Vancouver to New York with Pat Hughes: a great time.

Economics at Exeter university was a mistake except for the social life (I still have University friends) and 2 weeks of programming in Algol that set me on a new course. I moved to Manchester to do computing and stayed in computing/IT for the rest of my career. I also met Sue, luckily, who was doing the same course; we married in 1973, had 2 sons and a daughter, and they've all got on fine. We now have 5 grandchildren.

I worked for Simon Engineering for about 16 years and enjoyed the challenges: getting involved in computer-aided design of chemical plants and expert systems for mechanical design as well as the admin side of business - stock control, planning, accounts, etc. Learning several more computer languages along the way, and moving into IT consultancy. Then I moved to a small software company (Genesis V) which was developing systems to do computer-aided design of relational database systems and stayed there, as a director, until gradually retiring over the last 5 years or so: I've only had one customer asking for work this year, which is good.

I have to admit I find our varied histories quite interesting: it seems we have mostly been fairly content with our careers even though they weren't, for the most part, planned. I know my choices involved a fair bit of luck.

But career tells only a small part of my story - I'm sure it's true for you, too. I've had fun doing a wide variety of other things: gliding, sailing, hiking, swimming, travelling (Sue became an amateur archaeologist and that's taken us places), woodwork, welding, pottery, photography, drawing (I'm doing a Drawing Skills class now, or was until Covid-19 lockdown), learning languages (Latin just now), and of course, family. Mostly stuff that Bootham didn't prepare me for at all.

I have serious doubts whether these recollections will be any interest to 17 or 18-year-olds. I remember being a teenager, and taking advice from random pensioners was never cool! They're growing up into a different world, too: while we've been mostly breezing through a comfortable life (apart from regular recessions), there've been some major crises developing - the coronavirus being one, but also the climate crisis and the mass extinction that's going on. A sea level rise of a metre or more in their lifetimes! Plenty of opportunities for climatologists, ecologists and civil engineers!

IVAR RACHKIND a1963-1968 z

I'd be interested in joining in, and Zoom would work for me although I think more than 20 might be a problem; perhaps Teams is a better tool. As regards timing, I moved to Austin, Texas in the mid-80s and have been here ever since, **now fully retired** as of July last year, so GMT/BST – 6.

Belatedly here is my input. But first thanks to all for being on the Zoom cal. It was fascinating to me to hear from you all after over 50 years. And some of you remembered me!! We were last together in our late teens and now are in the 68 – 70+ range and at the end of the careers we were yet to start all those years ago.

I took three A levels, Maths Physics and Chemistry. These were an easy choice as a) those were my main interests and b) I was headed to a career in Mechanical Engineering, so these were required. From early childhood I was always interested in 'how things work' and would take things apart and put them together again, Meccano early on and the lawnmower later. I don't recall any career advice at school, probably because I said I wanted to be an Engineer and got a 'that's nice', 'no advice needed' response. My A levels were not quite as good as I needed and so I didn't get into my first choice (Leeds) and but did gain a place at Newcastle, which turned out to be a really good choice. I also applied for a Thick Sandwich Apprenticeship (1-3-1 = one year working, three at university, one year back working) with a number of companies and was lucky to gain the one-per-year with a small company in Wolverhampton, H.M.Hobson, which made power flying controls. Unlike all the other companies which gave a small grant while at university, Hobsons continued to pay me a full salary for those years. So, I covered my expenses at uni and was pretty well set, even buying a car. Did I fall on my feet or what?

My recollection of Bootham over the years was it was not the happiest of times for me. Talking with you all on Zoom and reading your emails I think my memory of boarding school is not accurate, and I was a lot happier than I used to think. I know I was intensely unhappy in the first term and I think that overshadowed my memories. Thanks to all for straightening me out a little. I do have fond memories of many of you, and recollection of some of the masters (David Champion, Swinger Johnson, Tony Pimm, Grubby Kay, Mason, Hawthorne, Cyril Rankin, Lindley to mention just a few, and probably now all gone on to the big school in the sky). I also recall being a bit of a rebel, sneaking out with one or two of you to smoke and drink in a local pub – never getting caught and punished! Bootham gave me a good grounding for life, helped set some standards to behave by, and taught me independence. I am quite clear that I would probably not

have had the career I had without it. And so, had I had children, and stayed in the UK, I would have seriously considered sending them to boarding school for a few years at least.

University; Reading Mech Eng made me realize I didn't want to be a mechanical engineer after all; not good at mechanical design, and didn't want to spend my career getting my hands dirty, as I saw it at the time. Sadly, my mother died suddenly two weeks before finals, so I was in a complete daze during the exams; I recall leaving the metallurgy paper blank. The university took pity on me and awarded me a degree anyway. I had a great time at uni and did very little work, up 'til all hours, sleeping through lectures, and spending lots of time working in the university theatre. I decided I didn't want to go back to work and would rather stay at uni for another year and both the company and my prof agreed that I could stay on a fourth year and do a quick degree in Electrical Engineering. Quite by chance I did a two-week course in 'computing' after 2nd year finals, programming in Algol 60 (nobody knows it these days) for a GEC KDF9 with paper tape input. I thought this was the best thing since sliced bread, just me vs. the machine – right or wrong, no ambiguity, and so when I went back to Hobsons at the end of four years at Newcastle and was asked what I wanted to do I said I wanted to work with computers, to do business management kinds of things. The response: "We're just about to setup a Data Processing department would you like to join it as a junior programmer?" "Yes" was my enthusiastic response and so I started a career in what is now known as IT.

Career, I moved to Wolverhampton and bought a little (new) house in Shifnal that all but broke the bank. But that was quite the right thing to do. Since then I have paid the mortgage every month and now have a lovely large house which we own; mortgage is behind us. I stayed at Hobsons, now Lucas Aerospace for a few more years and in 1976 reluctantly left for a better paying job with GEC in Cowdenbeath. I thought I could live in Edinburgh and commute to Cowdenbeath. After taking the job and moving to Scotland I discovered I couldn't afford a house I wanted to live in in Edinburgh, and so finally settled in a village outside Dunfermline. That lasted just a year and then I made an internal relocation move to the factory in Rochester, Kent, and bought a house in Sittingbourne. I progressed up the IT ladder with responsibilities in the UK and then Europe and in the mid 80's, following a very successful project I designed and implemented throughout the European finance departments using early PCs and early email, I was offered a move to the US.

And so, in Spring 1986 I moved to **Austin, Texas**, and apart from a five-year stint in Iowa, I refer to as exile, this is where I have been now for over 34 years. I met my wife (Mary) a couple of years after moving to Austin and we have been married now for nearly 29 years. We have no children but do have a 4½ year old god daughter who we consider to be our granddaughter, so we don't feel we have completely missed out. Career-wise I continued in IT steadily moving up in the company, now Emerson Electric following a couple of acquisitions, finally ending in the CIO role for a \$3.5B piece of the corporation.

After Emerson and six months off, I went back to working part-time helping some friends in India with their global IT business. I stayed two years and in July of last year decided I was finally ready for full-time retirement.

I loved my job. IT is always changing and so I always felt continually challenged with new technologies and projects, and an ever-changing business and business environment. I feel truly lucky to have had this experience, and with its responsibilities for people in many places around the world, with the chance to travel far and wide, sometimes taking Mary with me, flying business and first class, staying in many beautiful hotels, and eating in fine restaurants. I happily travelled about 35% of the time; long flights were a particular joy. These are some of the things I now miss

being retired. None of this was in the plan all those years ago; luck and sometimes being in the right place at the right time played a huge part.

Now being retired I find it hard to see how I found the time for work. I seem to be busy with many things including being Mary's 'assistant'. She has been a Residential Real Estate Agent for 35+ years and is still very busy, so I am now the Real Estate Boy, given many menial tasks!

Career advice for those at Bootham now; this is simple for me. Choose something you love doing, your work career will probably last 40 years, be led by your heart, BUT also choose something that will provide the wherewithal to enable the lifestyle you want. Start with a little planning by thinking about what you want to look back on when you reach retirement age. These goals may change over time, but they will guide your career choices and life choices along the way.

One final note: Many of you may remember my brother John was also at Bootham a couple of years behind me. Sadly, he died in June of last year after an eight-month fight with pancreatic cancer, which initially seemed to be going well, and then took him down quickly in the last couple of months.

My best regards to all. I hope we can meet again in the not too distant future and, after Covid, face to face.

DAVID RICHARDSON a1963-1968 z

A Levels were Double maths, Physics and History, mainly because I didn't want to be conventional, although another 2 years of Chemistry did not really appeal. It could have turned out to be high risk as Bristol University at that time took no account of the History grade in their offer for the civil engineering course. However, in the long run, all those history essays for Freddie Legg were probably a good grounding for all the writing I had to produce over the next 40 years, even if the subjects were engineering and economics rather than history.

Formal careers advice at school was virtually non-existent though I seem to remember spending quite a lot of time in the 'careers library' and booked myself onto residential weeks run by different engineering organisations in the holidays. My decision to pursue Civil Engineering was finally made after a period of local work experience in an architect's office.

Bristol University was a good place to study engineering, there were only about 30 of us on the civil engineering course though many of the lectures were combined across the whole engineering faculty. David Champion's classes had already covered much of the first-year maths. It was certainly a full-on course with lectures, tutorials and practical lab sessions 9 till 5 most days and lots of course work to get through in the evenings. My social life was limited but, as in York, there were opportunities to get involved in city as well as university activities

After graduating from Bristol, many of my contemporaries went into the big engineering consultancies, mainly then based in London but I was looking for a public sector role outside the South East so started working for West Yorkshire County Council in Wakefield then Yorkshire Water in Leeds. After 8 eventful years based in Wakefield that included marriage and two children I finally succumbed to the pull of London when I took a job with Crown Agents in a section that offered engineering consultancy support to overseas

aid projects. Had a good four years with them including 10 months in post-hurricane Dominica and shorter spells in Belize and Yemen. Then the organisation got into financial difficulties and retrenched their activities and with two children now of school age I was under pressure to find a more family friendly post. I applied to the flood management division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (now DEFRA) where I ended up spending the rest of my career until I took early retirement in 2008. In my early years there I was also able to complete a part time M.Sc. in Engineering Hydrology at Imperial College. Being a specialist group of mostly engineers, unlike career civil servants, we did not move around the department every few years so were able to develop strategic policies for flood management that largely endured through political changes. I had a variety of interesting roles including research commissioning and engineering and economic policy development and in my final year was head of the division for 6 months through the summer 2007 floods that included attending COBRA meetings at the height of the emergency when there was a significant risk that much of South Wales would lose electricity supplies.

Career satisfaction - I got a great deal of satisfaction from many of the projects that I got involved in though now looking back, with the benefit of hindsight, much of what I did may well have been more transitory than I would have hoped.

In Yorkshire the Skipton bypass was built much further from the castle than originally proposed, a route I suggested after walking the route preparing the soil survey, though the project was not realised until many years after I left the area. Whilst at Yorkshire Water I had the opportunity, as part of a very small team working on the Rivers Aire and Calder, to be involved in a wide range of activities from flood alleviation works to planning issues. Although the systems were rudimentary by today's standards we did have an overall view of a range of activities in the whole area that may not be as easy now as functions have become more specialised.

In Dominica I had full responsibility for project delivery at the end of a very long and tenuous supply chain with no mains electricity or telephones. In retrospect I regret that I was too focused on the logistics of the project and did not develop opportunities to contribute to broader development aims. This and the other overseas projects that I supported from London gave a very good insight into project logistics and the need to consider all aspects of the supply chain.

With DEFRA I was able to contribute to a wide range of initiatives over the years. One example, in the early 1990s I backed a very speculative research project at the Institute of Hydrology for automated flood mapping using a combination of new national digital data sets. Over the next decades this led to the comprehensive flood risk mapping of the whole of England and Wales that is now maintained and developed by the Environment Agency and has been used for a wide range of activities from flood warning systems and planning policy to insurance and national risk assessments and all the flood information now publicly available on the web.

Throughout my career I realise that I was really fortunate to be working at a time where even in large bureaucratic organisations there was considerable scope for creative input and innovation and I was lucky throughout to have managers who encouraged this and gave space for developing new ideas. The increasing trend for managing through detailed objectives and targets can easily crowd out the scope for creativity and innovation and with it a great deal of job satisfaction. It is reasonably easy to monitor the number of cases processed but it is very much more difficult to specify and record the quality of solutions and approach to the work. This is where, in my view, a many outsourcing approaches fail.

The whole public service system depends on a level of public trust and integrity, it is easily lost and very hard to regain.

Thoughts for the next generation

Overall, I enjoyed my time boarding at Bootham and it certainly developed my independence. I transferred from a co-ed Grammar School at 13 and my academic outcome might not have been very different, though

on balance it might have been better to stay in a co-ed setting. Bootham certainly gave me opportunities, resources and time to develop woodwork and other interests to a level that would not have been possible if I had not been boarding. Particularly in the last two years there were many opportunities to get involved with City organisations such as Youth Action York which encouraged me to get involved in similar organisations at University and in my early career.

This generation seems to be much more informed and self-confident, I do hope the current problems do not set this back and I am particularly concerned for grandchildren that the emphasis on exams and testing does not detract from a development of questioning and enquiry and desire to really understand how the world works.

I have never used more than a fraction of the specialist knowledge I gained at university, but it was the key to getting subsequent jobs and my professional qualification that opened subsequent career opportunities.

When I started work engineering offices still had rows of drawing boards, rather than desks, scientific calculators were rare and computers only existed in separate buildings where they needed to be fed stacks of punched cards or punched tape and, if you were lucky, you got a ream of printed results a day or two later. Now it is all computer aided design at individual work stations with almost instant results and 3d graphics. Having the experience of spending days working through hand calculations did ensure a better understanding of the underlying assumptions that may not be apparent to those using today's bespoke computer programmes, though, when results are so easily recalculated, it is much easier to explore a wide range of solutions.

As one of the Mount said at the 2018 reunion, there is some irony in that the ethos of the schools tended to encourage alumni into public sector or community-based roles which did not provide the opportunity for us to afford schools like Bootham even if we had wanted to. Our two children certainly did well in the state system.

STUART ROSE a1962-1968

Well you have all shamed meso here's my two bobs worth!

I didn't join the call because I'm currently Zooming, Microsoft teaming all week, including 5 hours to Dubai today and as someone said...it's not my thing.

I came to Bootham in 1962, straight from Africa where my Dad (ex Bootham) had been working for 10 years. I was oldest in the class and very behind educationally...did and mostly failed Physics, Chemistry and Biology (my Mum saw convinced I'd make a great doctor!).

Did retakes with a place at Guys but fluffed that too...then worked short term in a Path Lab and the BBC...filing, not filming!

Wrote to 30 plus companies...all turned me down bar M&S where I stayed 17 years before jumping ship to work for Ralph Halpern at the Burton Group.

Then Argos, Booker, Arcadia and back to M&S. **40 years plus of shop keeping!!**

Thought I was retiring in 2010 but am still at it currently Chairing Ocado, and Carrefour in the Middle East. Why? Because work seems to come my way and having thought I'd never get a job I like to stay working...also believing it keeps me alert.

I really enjoyed Bootham. I met some good friends...and have happy memories of you all. It taught me to respect people from all walks of life but wasn't great if you were a little insecure and very indolent. That's why I didn't send my Son there.

Married first time round for 30 years, two kids, and married again last year.

I've had great luck and stayed healthy, despite a dose of covid-19.

Stay well...I hope the Zooming was fun.

IAN TAYLOR a1961-1968 z

A Levels. Maths, Physics and Chemistry - failed Chemistry. I don't think that the death of my father a week before the exams impacted my performance, but it was very bad timing - as his death was after heart attack no.5 it was the right thing for him. Spent a year re-sitting A levels at tech. college then on to Liverpool to take a degree in mechanical engineering. No particularly informed reasoning behind this course of study and no real knowledge about what the course would entail. I reflect that I received very bad career advice at the time of deciding A levels, hopefully they are much better today in this respect?

No particular career objectives - stayed in the Liverpool area initially in order to support my mother who had lost her husband.

Career Development? After about 5 years of home cooking, and a good amount of socialising, I took a job in Christchurch, linked to further study at Southampton Uni. and enjoyed what the south coast, sailing in Poole and flying at Bournemouth Airport (Hern) had to offer. Job was uninspiring and studies of dubious benefit to anyone, so moved as an engineer into chemical manufacturing in Eaglescliffe in the NE (near Darlington). Kept up the flying until marriage dictated that my spare funds went in another direction!

From crude chemical manufacture I moved to the more 'exacting' pharmaceutical manufacturing industry as an engineer for Merck in North London and then Eng. Manager for a company local to where we still live in Tameside (North Manchester). Wanting to make my fortune I moved into design and build contracting - telling a southern based, specialist life sciences company that they should have a northern office and that I should be their 'man'. It is great to be involved in a £100m build of a new facility over a 5-year period, for a new drug - but not such a valuable experience when the clinical trials fail and the new plant's owner (Glaxo, Pfizer, Zeneca etc.) mothballs the facility prior to it being stripped apart in preparation for the next blockbusting drug.

I then moved into the project management of Life Science facilities generally. I was working on a new medical research facility for Liverpool University at the time of Cameron's second election when public funding for all manner of new construction works was put on hold, and I took voluntary redundancy - a bad decision. A friend working out of St Albans asked me to be his man in the north - working on the preparation of R&D claims for clients and from this small beginning in c.2012 I progress to writing technical reports over the last 6 years, until the onset of Covid, for KPMG.

Career satisfaction. I have mentioned that a big pharma. plant can provide excitement and challenge over a lengthy period but, in hindsight, the enduring value of such facilities is often never realised so where is the satisfaction? I'd have to revert to my involvement as the Project Manager in the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. A £6m design and build project about 20 years ago - competitively won by me (working then for Parsons Brinckerhoff, Manchester), designed by a Ugandan team with whom I had had previous knowledge, funded by Pfizer, New York, on the behalf of the stakeholders - San Francisco Aids Foundation. An aids clinic, education unit and laboratory - desperately needed and from day one it has been put to essential use. From a Google this morning I see that it is still an integral part of Uganda's life science infrastructure - currently dealing with issues resulting from Covid as well as other diseases. Yes, I am very satisfied to have been involved. Here, I think I am measuring success by the benefit provided to others in need.

Thoughts for the next generations

Get good career advice. Work placement schemes could be useful.

Does Bootham offer flight training. More specifically - the opportunity to join a gliding club which would be a good grounding for subsequent powered flight or further challenges in gliding (thoughts here with Richard Arkle who died whilst piloting a glider). I mention this because I am aware that several of us took some kind of piloting qualification after leaving Bootham.

University is not essential. There are many avenues to be followed requiring less of an academic training that might better suit those for whom a computer has a low level of interest. (I worked for a project management company for a time and was in the office when a digger dug up the IT feeds to the building. Everyone was told to go home because employees were at a loss to not have computer access - how sad?)

The value of Bootham; I really enjoyed Bootham for all manner of things except for the achievement of a high level of qualification. But then if I had gone elsewhere what would I have achieved? However, in considering the education of our two children we could not see the sense in having children, to send them away to boarding school (assuming that the funds were available?), when we had the capability to look after them at home. So, James and Kate were schooled locally, and they are both doing well with their spouses and our three grandchildren.

JOHN WAIND a1961-1968

English, History and Economics. The choice was dictated purely by the fact that English and History were the only two subjects in which I gained half decent results at O level and Economics sounded vaguely interesting and novel. I had by that stage reached the conclusion that for me maths, the sciences and languages were non-starters!

From Bootham I went to Manchester and read law. My choice was again in part determined by wanting to attempt a new subject and to an extent by my parents (who were both medics) trying to steer me in the direction of a main-stream profession.

I thoroughly enjoyed university life but initially wasn't particularly enamoured with law. However, I was offered some work experience in a solicitors' office during the first summer break which proved to be pivotal, demonstrating to me that (for better or worse) the law impacts on all aspects of life and provides a diversity of reasonably remunerated career opportunities. After Manchester, whilst attending The College of Law at Guildford, I was offered articles (a trainee solicitor role) with a two- partner general practice high street firm in south Manchester. To cut a long story short, I effectively remained with the same firm throughout my career, albeit that as a result of a series of acquisitions, office openings and merger it had become a mid-tier commercial/ private client firm of 125+ lawyers/staff by the time I retired in 2009.

Career satisfaction is the difficult one! The occasional satisfaction of a case won against the odds! However, I guess I gained the most satisfaction from the growth of the firm plus the opportunity to encourage and assist with the development of the staff. For example, two of the current partners started working life as secretaries with the firm. Many of the staff commented on the reasonable work/ life-style balance ethos of the firm which was another source of satisfaction. I was also fortunate in forging life-long friendships and camaraderie with some of the partners.

I very much hope that the Zoom reunion is a success. I regret missing the 2018 reunion and would love to attend any future event. My eldest son and family live in London so the London pub gate crash event sound particularly appealing!

RICHARD WALLER a1961-1968 z

A Levels. I took Double Maths, Physics and Chemistry, but only got two of them and with low grades. I would like to blame playing too much sport, but I'm not sure I would have done any better not playing. I guess the choice of subjects was mainly dictated by my O levels, which probably reflected the subjects I was most interested in.

I decided that I wanted to do civil engineering -probably because it wouldn't be an office job and I would have good opportunities to travel.

Career development. I squeezed into Salford University to study Civil Engineering through clearing. I suspect having been at Bootham helped me getting selected but there were 100 on the course so as a new University I don't think selection was too tough. It was a sandwich course which was industrially orientated. Whilst the University was not well established, I came out with a degree from an industrially orientated course including two 6 months sandwiches. The first was in a design office in Liverpool. Ward Ashcroft and Parkman were a mid-sized consultancy specialising in Highways, Water and Sewage. I helped in the design of a big new sewage works near Formby. The second spell was as a site engineer for Kier's new A470 road project in South Wales.

On leaving university I was employed by Ward, Ashcroft and Parkman in Liverpool again working on sewage and infrastructure development designs. After a couple of years, I was moved, as part of a small team to open an office in Bristol. Lots of interesting projects and much time spent enjoying the delights of Bristol's folk and jazz scene -and the beer and cider.

To get chartered I needed more site experience and so I managed to get a Site Engineer job in the Sultanate of Oman working on a 20 town Rural Electrification Project. If I had hoped to be in an outdoor career overseas -this was it. I was travelling around the interior of Oman on desert tracks supporting the various sites with far more responsibility than I would have ever gained in the UK. I stayed for 18 months and then bought an old and defective Mazda and drove back to the UK across Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. Including sections of desert this took a month and included lots of adventures -which is another story.

Once back the only place I could find work was in London for a mid-size consultancy, Sir Frederick Snow and Partners. I progressed quickly and was soon project managing the design of major sewerage and sewage treatment works for Anglian Water in Grimsby. Many water and sewage projects followed until in 1987 the firm offered me the chance to be chief engineer on a major water treatment works supervision project in northern Saudi Arabia. I was there for 18 months with my wife and baby son until the Saudi Government ran out of money. It was a tough posting and the hypocrisy of the Saudis upset me, so I swore never to go back -which I haven't.

Back to London I progressed to Associate level. Following their 'best year ever' and me expecting partnership the firm went bust -poor financial management I believe. I then re-joined Ward Ashcroft and Parkman but in their London office. Through a series of mergers etc the firm went on to become Mouchel, one of the largest UK consultancies. I moved to the international department based in Sutton, Central London, West Byfleet, the Middle East and finally Woking. I was now Regional Director having spent 12 of those years managing water supply projects all over Africa. When returning to UK management I was responsible for their water, ports and development projects in Southern England. This also included some projects in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The company assured us that the recession of 2008 would not be a problem and a year later they too went bust and sold out to Lloyds Bank. That's twice that my pension pot took a big hit!

So, in 2010 I set up as a sole trader civil engineering consultancy which lead to projects ranging from local highway drainage to oil and gas project in Arabian Gulf and included involvement in a main sewerage design for Karachi. Over the last three years I have wound down work, so I am now fully retired.

Career Satisfaction. Whilst I am very pleased to have had a civil engineering career it has not be particularly remunerative, but I have enjoyed it nearly all the way. I have to say, design was never my forte, I much preferred managing people and projects involving a breadth of technical experience. I have travelled all over the world on business but of course much of the work is in an office. I had not appreciated at school that one can start one's career outdoors but generally they end up substantially in an office once into management. Of course, by then one is generally happy with that outcome.

I don't exactly have 'arts' blood in me but I certainly enjoy some woodwork DIY (Thanks to Swinger Johnson!), sketching and wood carving. I also still manage to play lots of sport – cricket (Surrey over 70s), golf and tennis.

Thoughts for the Next Generation. In retrospect I think I could have had a very enjoyable life as a skilled tradesman or craft worker. These days many of the non-academic trades are in high demand and should be considered seriously by the less academic if one doesn't already have a clear motivation in a specific career.

However, I do believe that with a strong desire and commitment to a particular path one can be successful if one has the determination, passion and perhaps a little luck to pursue it.

Independent private school are not right for every child but by and large crucially give life skills, such as good communication, confidence to deal with a variety of situations, self-esteem as well as a certain level of academic ability.

I was a very shy boy when I started at Bootham and it has taken time to have confidence to present to large groups and present an independent opinion. Bootham certainly helped in this regard.

Yes, I enjoyed Bootham - especially the sport and breadth of societies and if I lived near York, I would love to have sent my son there, as I suspect it has moved with the times and would have given a rounded co-educational education.

AFTERWORD

We're not saying that this is it. In the words of at least two British personages,
'We will Meet Again.'

*with
see*

Head

in-spite

*green
hasn't
either!*



*photo reproduced
consent of owner;
acknowledgement*

*But not on the
Nix's Lawn,
Because
of those
immaculate
stripes it
survived*