

Bits 'n' Pieces

Shekels



While looking through my Father's (Jack Ingham) box containing all sorts of historical bits and pieces, I came across this bag full of, what looked like, coins with 'C.P.S. 1' imprinted on them. Whatever were they? Perhaps coins for dinner money I wondered. My Father was at C & P between 1938 and 1944.

So I placed a photograph of one of the coins onto the Old Crossleyans Association Facebook site asking if anyone could help me.

Fairly quickly Sally Stevenson (née Naylor) responded, saying she had some, exactly the same, which belonged to her father (Brian Naylor) who was at C & P from 1937 to 1944. He had informed her that they were called 'shekels', for use at the school tuck shop. Presumably they were purchased at the school office to discourage any dodgy transactions!

On googling the word shekel it transpires that it is the term used for the basic monetary unit of Israel and historically a silver coin and unit of weight used in ancient Israel and the Middle East.

If anyone can give further information I would be grateful. I wonder if they are valuable!

JOHN INGHAM
email: inghamjr@gmail.com

www.oldcrossleyans.org.uk

Valerie Cowley

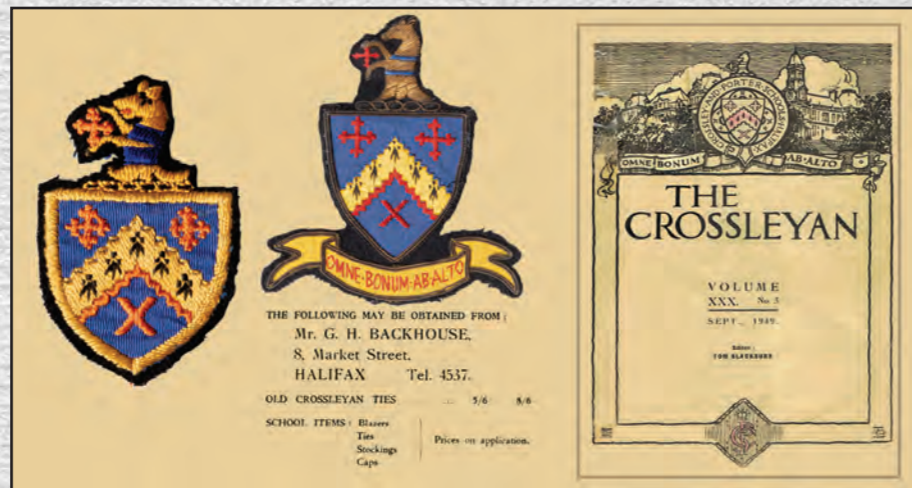
Valery Cowley (née Haggie, 1954 - 1962) writes that wakeful hours during the pandemic stirred up more memories of schooldays. She mentions fawn knee-length socks, always needing to be pulled up, and cross country runs along The Rocks, often being diverted to more relaxing pursuits. As a prefect attempting to maintain uniform standards, she recalls detecting pork pie hats hidden in 60s bouffant hair styles.

Other memories include staff, such as skilled pianist Mary Knowles, who played for our exits from assemblies in the gym and gave the unruly among us a broad musical background; Miss Walker, who taught art and made Christmas decorations as well as props and scenery for plays; Miss Matkin, who taught us to dance Picolet on the lawn and Miss Fitch, who read with us such quaint works as Thackeray's The Rose and the Ring and Hardy's The Dynasts. Miss Smith moved us on to Dodie Smith's I Capture the Castle. I can still remember the opening of Latin For Today: Britannia est insula. My year pioneered German with the anachronistically illustrated Deutsches Leben, all lederhosen. French began with Toto and his bol de lait and proceeded to the gruelling exercises in Whitmarsh. I quailed at the demands of pink Maths exercise books.

There were play readings and debates but tradition was broken when the school play was not Shakespeare at The Playhouse but Housemaster in the school hall, followed by Bonaventure the next year.

Christmas holiday work helping in the Post Office was fun but rigorous, heavy sacks of mail to be sorted and delivered, often in deep snow, to farms with intimidating livestock or blocks of flats with no lift. You were paid according to age and for some reason the boys seemed to just swan about with parcels in vans.

School Memorabilia



A neighbour of Eamonn, called John Turner, who was at C&P between 1943 and 1949, recently showed Eamonn some school memorabilia.

He recalls being given the two badges by Headmaster, Mr Bolton, in assembly on his first day. Everyone received both a blazer badge and the smaller version. John remembers that older boys such as Jack Ingham and Harry Wolstenholme wore the smaller badge on their rugby shirts but is unsure where his was displayed.

At that time the magazine was sent out each quarter. As the magazine appears today, that would be a year-round full-time job for someone! We have used content from the magazine in this edition.

The Last Boarders

In the 2008 edition of The Crossleyan, Dot Denton wrote about her time as one of the last boarders. You can read the article on the 'Magazine' page of our website <http://www.oldcrossleyans.org.uk>. Dot has now sent this photograph,



which was taken in 1954, of the boarders outside Standeven House and wonders if anyone else has memories to share. Are you on the photo or do you know anyone who is? We have names for the majority of those pictured but wonder what they went on to do..

Sue Ko (née Nicholl)

Sue Ko (née Nicholl) attended Crossleys from 1958 to 1966 and has lived in Hong Kong since 1974. She was surprised to open up her local Hong Kong newspaper, The Standard, recently and see a photograph of her old school.

The article on overseas education was extolling the virtues of grammar schools in England. No schools were named in the article and the photo did not have any title, but it clearly showed Fabrizio De Vito, who was head boy in 2019/20, sitting on a bench on the arena with the Crossleys building in the background.

Sue contacted a company mentioned in the article and was given a link to where they sourced the photo on the internet. School suggest that it was one of a set taken on results day last year.

Yet another example of Crossley Heath's worldwide connections.

Pat Martin

Pat Martin sent the obituary for her cousin, David Helliwell, along with this photo showing DRM disc jockeys in 1973. David R. Mitchell himself is pictured front right with David Helliwell front left. Do any other Old Crossleyans feature in the photo?

The Discobooticoff mentioned by Pat in the obituary was the base for what must have been the biggest local D.J. business at the time. Somewhat hidden away in Gills Court, off Waterhouse Street in the town centre, it also operated as a shop selling music and clothing, as well as serving coffee.



**DRM DISC JOCKEYS
1973**

War Memorial Update

Eamonn looked into the Imperial War Museum's website information on war memorials and, after getting in touch with them, he was able to update the entry for the School memorial. This is what now appears.

CROSSLEY AND PORTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL - WW1 OBELISK

Current location
Crossley Heath School
Saville Park
Halifax
Caldendale
West Yorkshire
HX3 0SG
England
OS Grid Ref: SE 08186 23878
Denomination: Undefined
[View location on Google Maps](#)

MEMORIAL DETAILS

Memorial type	Column
Dedicated	Continues
Date	1914-1918
Country	West Yorkshire
Country	England
Commemoration	First World War (1914-1918); Second World War (1939-1945)
Category	Location: Date: 20 October 1920; Allocated by:
List	WGL 100
IWM Reference	23389

Source: Eamonn Croft

Description
Stone obelisk mounted on to a short plain small flowerbed. The inscription is inscribed TO THE OLD SCHOLARS/ OF THIS SCHOOL 1914 - 1918/ 1939 - 1945

Cheltenham Crossleyans

In January I was contacted by a gentleman who works at a care home in Cheltenham. He told me that a recently arrived resident, who had come to join her husband in the home, had been talking to a lady who already lived there with her husband and they had made a remarkable discovery. Both these ladies were Old Crossleyans and would both have been at Crossley and Porter at the same time, although they differed in age by three years. He said that they had enjoyed reminiscing about their schooldays and had mentioned three teachers in particular; Miss Knowles, Miss Herbert and Miss Dewhirst. It would have been the early 1940s when Muriel (née Pugh) and Pauline (née Wilkinson) attended Crossleys.

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