

## Welcome to the Summer 2010 Newsletter.

### Introduction

In May a link with the earliest days of the school was severed when **Harry Dale Wood** died. He was the last survivor of the original quartet of boys who were the first pupils Mab Bradley took on in 1923. They therefore became the founding pupils of what developed into Fyling Hall School. There is a longer appreciation of him in the News section of the School website. Some years ago he wrote a piece for the then school magazine, *Fylingtales*, in which he recalled a distant world of a Whitby lit by gas lamps which were lit by a lamplighter, a one armed ex-serviceman with a long pole. The school was given a half holiday on the birth of Mab & Dr. Bradley's daughter Clare (Mrs. White). A mock election was held at the school. He recalled: 'Once the Conservative candidate was himself the son of an MP. The Liberal was less committed and I don't remember who, if anyone, represented Labour. In those days the Socialists did not consider it worthwhile to contest Whitby.'



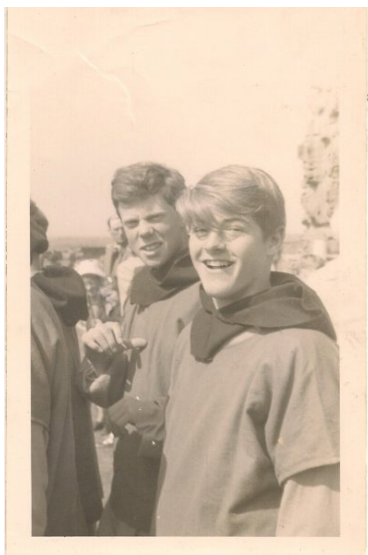
**Harry Dale Wood**

**Mike Chadwick (1949-1955)** wrote from Australia recalling his days at Fyling Hall. He wrote: 'I was one of those who played rugby against the girls in 1950; I was only eleven at the time. It wasn't Bill Flood who suggested that the girls play rugby, in fact, he was initially against it. It was the girls. If I remember rightly, **Eileen Lenham** was particularly vocal in her demand that it happen. After they had beaten us at hockey, I think they wanted to 'do the double'. John Woolley was right, they made a formidable pack, and I don't envy him in the front row! I remember tackling **Julie Camm** around the legs in full flight in the mud bath in the middle of the rugby field. She dropped so easily. She was about 15-16 at that time.' As a consequence of his writing to me Mike ended up going to visit Peter Gross ('Fritz') and had a very successful meeting. He says Peter still walks in the way he remembers and still has the thatch of hair he always had, except now it is silver.

Mike also asked about **Andrew Woolley** who had been in the same class as Mike. I sadly had to inform him that Andrew died in New Zealand a few years ago. He recalled a rather poignant story about Andrew Woolley at Fyling Hall: 'One occasion in which I remember Andrew was when a former classmate, **David Yates**, had died in surgery for the removal of a brain tumour. Andrew always liked David, and was upset when the news came through. Mabs announced it in morning assembly held in "The Barn." I remember Andrew saying to me volubly, "Chatty, Yatesy's dead."'

**John McCormack (1963-1976)** now Father John McComack wrote to say he is appearing on The Weakest Link on BBC1 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 5.15pm. He is not allowed to say how he did, but did make a comment about leaving the country shortly after so you perhaps that is a hint.... (Update: we have just heard the broadcast has been postponed and the BBC have not announced a new date for transmission as yet).

**Peter Jackson (1961-1966)** sent a photograph of himself and **David Sutcliffe** in the pageant that celebrated the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Synod of Whitby. He remembers the event being repeated on three or four nights and being filmed by Tyne Tees television.



**Peter Jackson & David Sutcliffe  
1964**

### **Fishing and Country Pursuits**

Does anyone recall activities such as fishing? When I came to Fyling Hall as a member of staff in 1973 some boys had fishing rods and went to the beck at the bottom of the hill and Stoupe Beck. There were legendary stories of sea trout taken at Stoupe.

I used to fish as a boy and thought I would relive something of those days and on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1974 I noted in my diary: 'After school yesterday I fished Ramsdale Beck and

took two trout from the stretch upstream from the bridge.'

My diary entry claims one was 7 or 8 inches long which now seems a lot for the beck, but I can only trust my own evidence.

Sadly I do not think there are any trout in the beck now. I have walked it in recent years and have seen no activity at all.

In terms of other country pursuits I do remember in the early 1970s **Derek Hearne** used to keep a ferret down at Sunnyside Farm (where Mr. & Mrs. Jones lived) and in the autumn terms **John Woolley**, as Headmaster, used to organise a group of boys to act as beaters for the grouse shoot on the moors. He mentions this in the opening chapter of his book Deliver Me From Safety which records his participation in the Denstone Inaccessible Island expedition of 1982. Were there any other examples ?



### **Ramsdale Beck: no trout now?**

If any of you use Facebook you may come across something called The Official Fyling Hall School Page. Of course it isn't.

John Jeakins