

THE CENTRAL SCHOOL , CAMBRIDGE
ALSO KNOWN AS THE CENTRAL TECHNICAL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS FROM 1953
(formerly the UPPER GRADE SCHOOL)
PARK SIDE ,CAMBRIDGE 1913-1958



BLAZER BADGE 1950-55

A Record of Collections and memories for the
Class of 1950-55

C.O.B.s commemorate booklet

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History of the School and it's origins

From York Street, Paradise Street .Parkside,and finally to Queen Edith's Way 1871 saw the opening of the first Higher Grade school in King Street. This was enlarged in 1884 but closed in 1905 when nearby buildings were used to relieve congestion until 1913.A second boys' Higher Grade school opened in 1884 in Paradise Street. Both were run by the Old Schools Trust. These both closed in 1913 when they relocated to the then new premises in Melbourne Place and provided for 820 boys and girls. In 1919 the name was changed to the 'Central Council School' and became a senior elementary school. The next change was 1944 in to The Central School. In 1953 it changed again to be the Central Technical Grammar School to cater for Artistic or Practical pupils.

The last change to Cambridge Grammar school in 1956 was to provide more Grammar places .In 1957 the boys school relocated to Queen Edith's Way until 1974 when it amalgamated into Netherhall Secondary School .

The site in Melbourne place in 1957 was occupied by the Girls Grammar School.

From 1974 the School became Co-Educational and ultimately In 1998 The old Melbourne place site became and 6th Form Upper School.

Famous Alumni Include

Sir Jack Hobbs (Surrey and England Cricketer)

Ronald Searle (Cartoonist,official P.O.W. artist in Burma and originator of St Trinians.Which was based on the Girls School adjacent to us.)

School colours were Amber and light Blue

House names were ; Clarendon (Blue) Melbourne (Green)

Paradise (Red) Park (Yellow)

Sports venue was mainly Parkers Piece with Leys School for Swimming and Fitzwilliam College Ground for Sports Days held every July



Melbourne Place, Higher Grade Schools, 1913



With Grateful thanks to those who patiently endeavoured to teach and encourage us.

Roland Parker Chisel Giles

Peter
Albert George

Dick Annelly

Buster Brown

Basher Beckley

Percy Frankham

Syd Phillips

Harry Bell

Algy Newitt

Ted Edser

Jock Livingstone

Taffy Evans

Monk Mansfield

Richard Sell



THE CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS CAMBRIDGE 1950

Brian
Foister

Bryan
Good

Robert
Wells

Richard
Price

Trevor
Fitzgerald

Brian
Gates

Rodney
Wark

Robert
Cullum

Peter
Scott

Michael
Manni

John
Cowley

David
Ely

Graham
Kirkup

Harvey
Bridgeman



?

?

Dennis
Cooke

John
Scotcher

David
Nunn

Alan
Pettitt

Peter
Dring

Malcolm
Hopkins

Edward
Black

Owen
Gray

Photo to accompany response to Question : selected from an ageing School Photo , dated 1954



Buster Brown
Maths

Jock Livingstone
Headmaster

Dick Annelly
Geography

Harry Bell
Sports

Richard Sell
Arts & Crafts



Richard Sell (Arts & Craft) & Algy Newitt (Metalwork) @ our 2nd Old Boys Reunion 1998.



Roland Parker (French Teacher) who nearing, and in retirement wrote 5 history books, the second being The Common Stream of his village of Foxton, Cambridge, a dramatic tale of murder, pillage & adultery, which became a Best Seller



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The Central Old Boys in 2015 and, inset, in their younger days

Funeral reunites Central Old Boys once more



The Central Old Boys – former pupils of the Parkside-based Central Grammar School from 1950-55 – were among those attending the funeral of John Anderson, one of their members, at St Mary's Church in Willingham.

Robin Chandler fondly recalled John from their time at the school, which relocated to Netherhall as a secondary modern in the 1960s.

"He was the first one on the register and he was a very nice bloke.

"He became an engineer and had his own engineering firm over at Bar Hill at one time," said Robin, who noted that there are 20-25 Central Old Boys who meet twice a year, usually at the Robin Hood pub in Cherry Hinton and for a summer day trip.

"This year we went on the river at Hertford, on the marina, so we

do try and keep going," said Robin.

Ten of them attended the funeral on Friday, September 15.

Recalling their school days, Robin, who lives in Bedford, said there were 60 boys in his year.

"Until the late 50s it was the Central Technical Grammar School for boys and girls. It was a great school, in the centre of town, and we had very good masters and teachers."





Cambridge Central (Technical) School Old Boys 2nd Annual Reunion Nov. 1998

@ The Pike & Eel Pub (joined by Messrs Sell & Newitt)

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Algie Newitt

(Metalwork)

Dick Sell

(Art)





DINING ROOM

TECH DRAWING / ART



MUD LANE



Outside the Hafod Arms
Devil's Bridge
1953





FITZGERALD

JOHN SMITH.

JOHN POULTER

MICK COVILL.

JOHN ANDERSON

ROBIN CHANDLER

? B.G.

- CLEMENTS

LEANING FORWARD

JOHN CLEAL.

ANDREW GATES

TOOFUS GILES

314



201

BRIAN (GINGE)
JANUARY

DAVID ELY

RALPH
OLSEN

MR
PARKER



PETER ZOBEL

DICK RICKARD

BRIAN GATES

BRYAN GOOD

DAVE HOLGATE

RALPH OLSEN



DEVILS
BRIDGE
1951.

DAVID
COOKE

JOHN
SMITH

ROBIN
CHANDLER

BERNARD
WALMAN

656

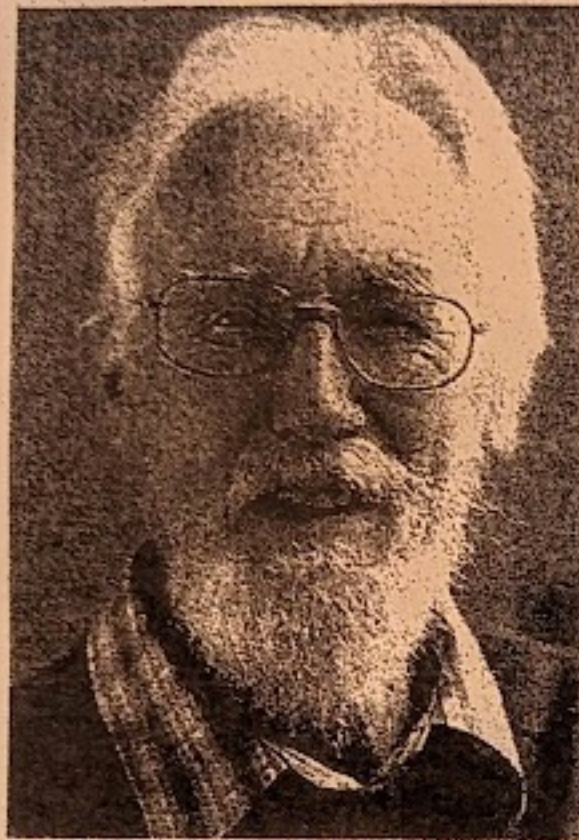


Lives Remembered

Richard Sell

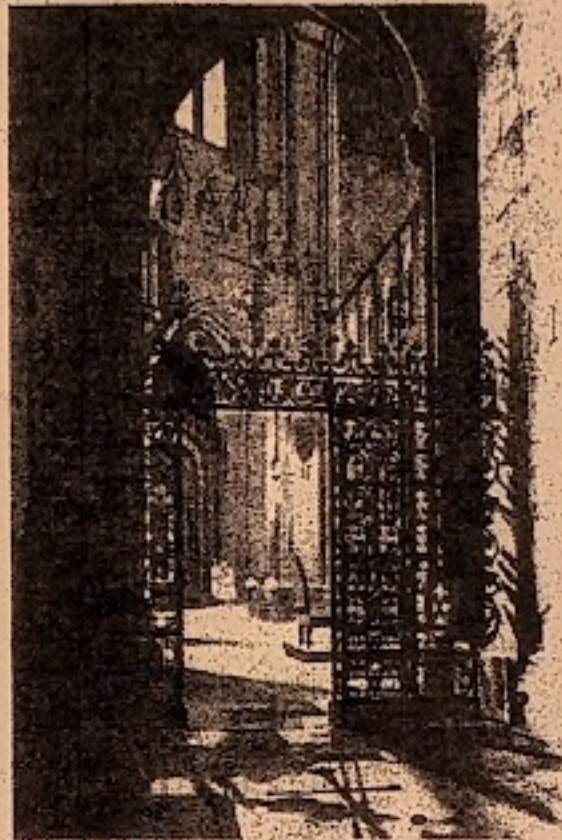
RICHARD SELL, who died on 8 November 2008, had an advantage over me, his strict contemporary, in that he received a measure of art training before his enlistment in the army in 1942. He was therefore equipped to chart his way with detachment through his time in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps with a sketchbook and watercolours, the results of which were seen in a hastily arranged retrospective exhibition in Ely after he had been diagnosed with leukaemia.

Born in Berkhamsted in 1922, Richard lived in India from 1923-25 and 1928-30, before enrolling as a student at Chelsea School of Art, where he remained until 1941. In 1942 he joined the army and rose to the rank of captain, ending the war in Air Supply



Inspired draughtsmanship: Sell, and a lithograph from 1978

at Akyab on the Burmese coast. Demobilised in 1946, he returned to Chelsea, continuing there until 1949, and studying thereafter at the University of London's Institute of Education.



He took up teaching full-time to support his family in 1950 – he had married Jean Bryant in 1948 – and from 1954 he turned to lithography as his medium of choice.

He became a member of the Senefelder Group of artist-lithographers, and was the most patient craftsman I have ever known. He moved at his own sure, concentrated pace, a devotee of refinement, and this approach continued after he gave up all teaching in 1980.

Between sessions in his studio he liked nothing better than to be commissioned for pencil portraits, many of them of Cambridge University dignitaries. His sheer draughtsmanship was inspired. In that last retrospective, a recent drawing of his cat, spontaneous and strong, could have sold several times over. On visits and on holidays he worked with watercolours, but his forte was so obviously lithography, which benefited from his unhurried, firm approach. He stayed with his stones down the years, spurning metal plates. He liked complication, such as reflections in shop windows, and was prepared to stand on view for hours sketching the apparent contradictions in front of him, puzzled onlookers included. Carrying this into lithography often took many weeks.

Richard was honoured at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition of 1985 with the non-members' print prize and was further rewarded by the rapid dispersal of the other editions of his three prints on show. He made no attempts to find a dealer in London, although he was represented in several exhibitions there. He was ever drawn to the intricacies of ancient architecture and the "Cambridge Lace" ornamental wrought-iron work in Cambridge, where he lived for most of his life.

It was he who arranged, transported and hung a charity exhibition for three of us of a certain age a year ago last spring. Soon afterwards he was diagnosed with leukaemia – through which his patient demeanour changed not at all.

Anthony Day

If you would like to contribute an obituary of a friend, colleague or family member, please send a piece of no more than 500 words to Obituaries, 'The Independent', 191 Marsh Wall, London E14 9RS, by fax to 020 7005 2064 or by email to obituaries@independent.co.uk. We reserve the right to edit copy for length and style.

DON'T
WORRY,
SIR!

WE'LL DREAM
UP A SOLUTION
SOMEHOW — NOW
I'D BETTER SET
THIS EVACUATION
MOVING.

Frank
Hampson's
creation Dan
Dare: Pilot of
the Future

Artist who taught boys to dream of Dan Dare

Huon Mallalieu

On April 14, 1950, with the publication of the first issue of *The Eagle* and the public's first encounter with Dan Dare: Pilot of the Future, Fridays were transformed for a generation of British boys. According to the 1985 *Times* obituary for Dan Dare's creator, Frank Hampson, Colonel Dare, Chief Pilot of the Interplanet Space Fleet, "was a hero for the space age that, in 1950, was still over the horizon. Dan Dare embodied all the old-fashioned virtues of leadership and sportsmanship that were not yet ideals to be sneered at."

Hampson said that he wanted "to give hope for the future, to show that rockets, and science in general, could reveal new opportunities. I was sure that space travel would be a reality."

Hampson used living models for his characters, an exciting innovation in comic art, and he constructed scale models of spaceships so that the drawings would be correctly proportioned and accurately detailed. Hampson drew and wrote the plots for most of the episodes for nearly ten years, chronicling the struggle of Dare and his friends against the irredeemably evil Mighty Mekon of Mekonta and his reptilian Treens.

At first he was advised by a young science fiction writer, Arthur C Clarke, but Clarke's brother recalled: "I don't think

he ever found a mistake in it. In the end he suggested that the standard of the work and the research was so high that they were wasting their money getting him to check it." Clark went on to fame with *2001: Space Odyssey*.

When Hampson parted from *The Eagle* after several increasingly uncomfortable takeovers, he lost his rights in his creation along with much of his original artwork, and he died in relative penury. Now full-page drawings for the Dan Dare strips can sell for up to £7,000 each.

On September 14 a sale at Bloomsbury Auctions in London includes a small archive of Hampson pencil drawings and other documents, which are particularly fascinating because they list about 50 of his "inventions" for the strip, many of which became fact during the next decades. The lists, sent in 1958 to a schoolboy fan, include a vertical take-off jet — three years before the launch of the "Flying Bedstead", the ancestor of the Harrier jump-jet — as well as reconnaissance drone, 3D television, a dog spacesuit, "translator wig" and a Taser-like paralysing pistol. An accompanying letter to the boy fan says that "it has been interesting to note just how many Dan Dare ideas are working out in reality. We fervently hope that the Mekon remains to be fiction. The lot is estimated to £1,500.



The Netherhall School

A Short History 1871 – 2021

The Netherhall School has existed in many forms since its creation 150 years ago. It welcomed its first pupil on 9 January 1871, just a week before the founding of the German Empire. The 1870 Education Act had established school boards; these were to act as local authorities to provide new schools, where necessary – though these were not yet compulsory. In Cambridge, it was estimated that there was a shortage of 420 school places in a city population of nearly 30,000. Anxious not to have one of the new board schools – where religious education was thought to be at risk – a committee of the Old Church Schools recommended 'hiring for certain hours on weekdays the Jesus Lane Sunday School in Paradise Street'.

The new school was known as the Higher Grade School because it aimed to reach a higher standard than the existing elementary schools. Pupils – they were all boys – paid 6d [old pence] a week if they were under 10, and 9d if they were older. Until 1897, the school was paid by results, receiving four shillings [20p] for every pupil who passed examinations in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

In 1913, the school moved to new buildings near Parkside. The years of the First World War were difficult, with many of the male teachers fighting in the trenches: in 1919 180 pupils still had no teacher. Forty-one former pupils and teachers were killed; one of the dead was the winner of a posthumous Victoria Cross.

There was a further change in 1919. Following the raising of the school leaving age [to 14] the School became selective, with the new, if rather dull, name The Central School. Pupils were admitted only after passing locally-set examinations. Numbers continued to expand, and there were over 300 pupils by 1933.

The Second World War saw many casualties amongst former members of the school. The Cambridgeshire Regiment arrived in Singapore just in time for the Japanese invasion of February 1942, and large numbers were captured or killed. 84 former pupils and staff lost their lives in the war; they are commemorated in the Book of Remembrance still in the Library.

Following the 1944 Education Act the school changed again. Now known as the Central [Grammar Technical] School, it was designed for able pupils whose strengths were artistic or practical, rather than academic. This phase was not to last: the provision of grammar school places in the city was regarded as insufficient, and in 1956 the school became the Cambridge Grammar School, moving to new premises on Queen Edith's Way in 1957.

In 1974 it amalgamated with the Netherhall Secondary School to become a split-site comprehensive school; it was for many years to be the only school in Cambridge with a sixth form. In 1998, the old Grammar School building [now known as Upper School] was replaced by the present 'Italianate' buildings. When the old secondary school was

demolished in 2010, it was replaced by a new 'Lower School' built on the Queen Edith's Way site. For the first time since the 1970s, the school is a single entity.

Since the late 1980s, the school has experienced almost constant change, not least a degree of state involvement in the details of education which would have astonished those who, in 1871, was anxious about the implications of the new board schools. A National Curriculum arrived in 1990 but may not see its twenty-fifth anniversary. To judge from its first 140 years, however, the Netherhall School will meet all these challenges.

In the decade since 2011, Netherhall has faced competing pressures but has emerged, on each occasion, strengthened by the challenges confronted. The curriculum has been re-shaped to meet the changing needs of our student body and experiences both within and beyond the classroom have been enriched. Netherhall students continue to reflect a vibrant mix of different backgrounds and cultures and the school ethos can be captured through the commitment to being inclusive, individual, and inspirational.

Important changes have taken place in the status of the school and the structure of governance, with Netherhall gaining Academy status, and moving away from Local Authority control in 2016. As part of this process, Netherhall first became federated with Bottisham Village College and later that year was a founding member of the Anglian Learning Trust. In addition, the Sixth Form provision has been expanding following the successful re-branding of The Oakes College in 2019.

Although those working in education are often faced with the unexpected, no one had anticipated the impact of the global pandemic experienced since the spring of 2020. Crises, however, can also bring out the best in people and institutions. Staff, students, and their families have displayed admirable courage, resilience, and versatility when faced with the unexpected, enabling a variety of inter-locking challenges to be overcome: covid-testing, remote learning, support for key workers, staggered timetables, student "bubbles" as well as teacher assessed grades. When the whole school community pulls together, as it has - done on so many occasions over the last 150 years, Netherhall can continue to look to the future with optimism.