



## **Memories of Selhurst by Tony Massey (1947-1950)**

I was at Selhurst Grammar School from 1947 to 1950. I was in the 6th form studying French, German, English and Latin for the A level exams. The teachers were Mr Wedd for French, Mr Oakley for German (I was the only student) , Mr Egford for English and Mr Scott for Latin. I played in the school's rugby team all 3 years and was a house captain for 2 years. In 1948 Mr Wedd asked me if I would accept an exchange with a French boy for a term. I was to go to Saintes in France and live with the boy's family and attend the local lycée. In return the boy would stay with my family in Croydon for a similar period. I agreed and greatly improved my oral and written French. I won a state scholarship in the A level exam with a place at London University. In August 1950 I was called up for National Service and was sent for basic training to the Rifle Brigade (Green Jackets) barracks in Winchester. While there I realised that going to London University would mean a daily commute to and from Croydon. So I sent off applications to Oxford and Cambridge.

Much to my surprise I received an immediate reply from Queens' College, Cambridge and a request to go for an interview. I was accepted to read French and German. After graduation, I found a job teaching at a private school in Ontario, Canada. I found I liked teaching and applied to do a Master's degree in French and Education at Yale. I was able to obtain a Ford Foundation Fellowship which covered all my expenses in return for a few hours a week as an assistant in the French department. After Yale I went back to Ontario and taught briefly in Toronto schools. I then went to Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario as a professor of language education. At the same time I completed my PH.D in French applied linguistics and did research into Canadian French immersion teaching. I am now retired as a professor emeritus.

Friends I remember from Selhurst are John Brian Williamson (captain of the rugby team, played for England under-19 team and was head boy at Selhurst), Ronin (or was it Colin?) Chapman who also went to Cambridge University and Geoff Shackleton who played in the rugby team. I enjoyed my years at Selhurst and know that my teachers and friends changed my life in many good ways.

Tony has provided this picture of the prefects in (?) 1949.



Tony would love to hear from anyone who remembers him. Send a message for forwarding to [webmaster@theoldcroydonians.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@theoldcroydonians.org.uk).