

**Alan Parker**

**Music Student**

**1968 to 1971**

**Founder of the Bretton Hall Website**



I came to Bretton from a boys secondary modern school in Doncaster with my then friend Allan Morris. Both were instrumental players of a good standard. I played Clarinet and Sax and Allan the Euphonium. I came from a 'straight up and down background' and found it quite difficult to get on with some of the more 'sophisticated' characters that came from co-ed schools and colleges. I immediately took a shine to Wendy Fletcher, Janet Evington, Bob Cook and Ann, the Women's main rep. Stayed in contact with all except for Bob Cook. Lost contact with Wendy and Janet after their weddings in 1970's (big shame). Back in contact again with wonderful Ann and her husband Richard after the reunion 2007.

I played a lot of Hockey at Bretton and this became a big part of my life after I left. I ran the formal grace choir from 1969 until its end at Christmas Formal dinner 1970. Composed about 30 graces and used some very fine ones from my talented predecessor Arthur Lucas. Started the Bretton Big Band in 1970 with a grant from the Student's Union. This kept going for a few years and started again in about 1980. Heard it again on Sunday night before the dinner for the 'younger years' at the 2007 reunion. Much improved from our humble attempts.

Sang solos in Carmina Burana, and at the Leeds institute recital of the Faure Requiem in York Minster. Member of Jim Wild's A Cappella Choir, Wind band, and Orchestra. Got introduced to other music by influences from the art and Drama students, in particular Steve Channing, who had a room below me in King's Head. Got introduced to folk music by many very talented Kennel Block performers. Loved to listen to Marcia Corfield. Came second a couple of times in the Beer Race to a gardener from the hall, who I never managed to catch. Inspired by Roger Burrell, who still inspires me now. Did anyone else see how good he looked at the 2007 reunion?

Taught at Castleford High School, Don Valley High until 75. Then worked as Youth Tutor at Knottingley high until 85. Moved to Scotland after building a boat. Had a business selling commercial fishing gear. Taught at Tobermory High for a while. Stopped teaching in 1990 (too bloody old) Back to fishing gear, self catering properties, and a bit of IT work. Got married and divorced. Got a son called Tom. Live very happily with my partner Jackie on the wonderful Isle of Mull in the town of Tobermory (Balamory if you have young kids)



Bretton Hall was an inspiration to my life. I made it a point to be first one back after the holidays and last one to leave. That was also the case at the reunion. Couldn't really say goodbye to anyone as I was too full of emotion at the occasion. I feel very very strongly that all this energy and history should not fade into oblivion.