

Former Uplands School pupils reunite

Before lockdown, several former pupils met up to reminisce

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Former pupils of a long-closed school for boys in Scalby reunited over 50 years later at the Crescent Hotel, before the coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

Uplands Preparatory School for Boys opened in 1953 and closed in 1965, and stood on the site of what is now a housing estate off Wordsworth Close in Scalby.

It was set up by headmaster Ian Dawson and enjoyed success until Mr Dawson's untimely death.

The reunion was the idea of ex-pupil Guy Avis, who lives in Canada, and who contacted friend and fellow ex-pupil Mike Shingler.

Mr Shingler, a local businessman and Scalby resident, helped his friend in finding and contacting as many former pupils as possible.

He contacted a few other local "old boys" who together managed to find and persuade 29 to attend the reunion.

It took place at the Crescent Hotel before the lockdown prevented gatherings.

Mr Shingler said: "I believe I speak for everyone who attended, including one of our teachers Rosy Monsey, who was in those days fresh out of teacher training school, that we all had a very happy and emotional time.

"Especially as a lot of us had not met up since leaving Uplands all those years ago".

Uplands School was the idea of Ian Dawson, who had gained a double first in Classics from Oxford University before serving as a Lieutenant Colonel during World War Two.

After a brief spell as a professional actor, Mr Dawson joined the teaching profession and moved to Scarborough to take



The reunion of Uplands Preparatory School pupils in Scarborough.



This picture shows around half of the founding pupils on a day out on Scarborough beach in 1953.

over as Headmaster of Lisvane Preparatory School in 1951.

However, in 1952, after disagreements with Lisvane's governors and chairman over how to improve the school, he decided to go in a different direction and set up a school of his own.

With the backing, and in some cases, funding, of a

number of parents of boys at Lisvane, Mr Dawson bought a substantial property on a three-acre site in Scalby.

This was then converted into Uplands School which opened its doors in January 1953 to approximately 40 boys.

The school's students included Simon and Angela Dawson, the children of Ian and

his wife Betty.

Angela was the only girl at the school.

The school enjoyed success until the untimely early death of Ian Dawson, which prompted its permanent closure.

Not long afterwards, the site of the school was developed into what is now a housing estate off Wordsworth Close.