



03 Introduction

Shap is a Working Party, and my, how it has worked! In the years 1969 to 1993 it organised some 55 two or three day Conferences, as well as a number of one day sessions and a small selection of ten day long overseas visits. Since 1969 up until 2009 it has produced untold numbers of bibliographies, schemes of work, Mailings; and for 32 years annual Journals, the latter comprising 650 Articles; these came in printed form at first and are now all online on our website: www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/journals.html. Furthermore, *Shap* has granted Awards to sixteen forward looking individuals or groups who have developed interesting and creative approaches to our field of study.

For 50 years we have produced an annual Calendar of Festivals in the world's religions, initially in cyclostyled format, then in printed booklet form, and since 2012 as an online version with an enlarged and enhanced booklet. This is now accompanied by an A2 colourful Wallchart, produced by Paul Hopkins, and by an annual Pictorial Calendar, where each edition gives access to 12 of David Rose's splendid photographs (from 2003-2011 in colourful printed form, and from 2012 to 2018 via an online key).

In our attempts to spread the gospel of World Religions in Education, members of the Working Party have written many books, both scholarly and educational, in their own names; and in addition they have contributed to a range of creative booklets, books and articles, all to some degree emanating from *Shap*.

Now in 2019 *Shap* is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, when members past and present will join in a Jubilee celebration in the Lake District at the Shap Wells Hotel, where our first Conferences were held, organised by Professor John Hinnells, to whom this compendium is dedicated. The first section of this Memory Stick features the Programme and Presidential Address for this gathering, and the names of Members who have indicated they are likely to attend.

The second section relates to the decision of the Working Party to terminate all its activities (*apart from the annual Calendar of Religious Festivals*), confident that it has broken the back of the twin tasks it set itself of propagating the



study of world religions in schools, colleges and universities, and then stimulating relevant and exciting books and support materials in our field. Our contributors are fully aware that there is still room left for others to undertake further activity in this field. Our review of the progress Shap has made in its half a century of hard work points forwards in hope for the future - and yes, how the Working Party's members have worked!

The third and fourth sections provide chapter and verse for all that Shap has been doing. Twenty elements give detail of who Shap was and is - for Shap is people, not a place - of who wrote what and who studied and taught where, who led and who followed, who taught and who listened, where our Archive is stored and whom we encouraged with our annual Shap Awards, our history, our Journals and publications. And much, much more. In particular the Shap website, www.shapworkingparty.org.uk , has kept us all in touch with each other, and it is our hope and intention that it will continue to provide access in some form or other to Calendar materials, existing Journal articles, pronunciations (of technical terms) and other features of value not only to teachers but also to their students.

We hope you will enjoy this attempt to bring some shape to what Shap is, has been, and what it has done.

Peter Woodward

Shap Secretary