

The Shap working party on World Religions in Education



Alan Brown



I was first introduced to the 'Shap' approach when teaching in Leeds in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Owen Cole sent a letter round to Heads of RE/RS regarding a meeting concerned with setting up a group wanting to promote the Shap ethos. I remember going with him to a small group meeting with Donald Butler. Then things changed and I moved to Bishop Otter College, Chichester, where John Rankin was my boss in the RS Dept. John became a member of Shap in the early 1970s and later suggested I might like to become a member.

By then I was moving to work for the Church of England as their RE Officer. The bonus was, or one of them, that I had a secretary, so I became the obvious person to be the Secretary of Shap as I had access to secretarial support. Then things just moved on and I was Secretary for a few years then Vice - Chair and then Chair. Then Secretary again and then Treasurer. So I felt fully involved as, with Mary Hayward, I edited the Shap journal for a number of years, as well as editing the Longmans' edition of the Festivals book, and, with others, I helped edit an edition of the Handbook. So I felt fully involved in Shap for 20 or so years!

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