



Mary Hayward - 'Profile' for Shap

Associations with Shap.....

My association with Shap began some years before I was invited to join the Working Party, and beginning in the year in which first took shape -1969. I had moved to Lancaster in the autumn of 1969 to take up a post on the newly formed Schools Council Project on Religious Education in Secondary Schools, directed by Ninian Smart. In December 1969 the Working Party came to Lancaster for one of its early meetings; I remember meeting John Finel at this time – and subsequently working with him in connection with my project work with teachers in West Yorkshire, but also in producing an early publication for Shap on World Religions in CSE – which involved regular meetings at the home of Owen Cole, at that time on the staff of James Graham College in Leeds. I attended many of the early Shap conferences at Shap Wells, gradually extending my understanding of religions through them, as well as through study for a Masters Degree alongside my full time post at Lancaster - where I studied Hindu tradition with Eric Sharpe. With all the confidence - and foolhardiness? - of youth, I subsequently found myself in 1972 agreeing to run a workshop on caste for a Southern Shap conference on Hinduism organised by Brian Gates at Goldsmiths College; I also wrote a piece on visits in RE for one of the early versions of Shap's orange Handbook, published by CRE.

After 8 years in Lancaster - 3 at the University and 5 teaching at St Martin's College, I took the step of moving back into school, as Head of RE in a school in Peterborough. I had been clear at interview that I would wish to develop a 'multi faith' curriculum, and offer 'world religions' options at CSE and O level, and develop and maintain links outside school to foster this. One such link was becoming an examiner for the AEB world religions paper - for which Peter Woodward was Chief Examiner. I recall that Vida Barnett and Alan Brown were, like me, assistant examiners. So again future Shap links were forged and strengthened. It was around this time (late 70s) that I was invited to become a member of the Working Party - I suspect in part because I was 'back in school'. Shap has often struggled to have teacher members who can attend meetings! My school was very supportive in this. The records indicate that I became a member in 1979.

As a member of Shap ...

1991 - 1993 Vice Chair

1993 - 1995 Chair

I guess I am really rather proud to have been the first woman to be Chair of the Working Party! Nevertheless, I remember feeling somewhat daunted! Looking back at this I can now think 'How ridiculous!' because reflection on my Shap experience makes me realise that what I found daunting was what I would now say was one of the Working Party's strengths



and highlights for me - its open debate and sheer argumentativeness alongside wit and good humour in a collegial spirit. This was qualitatively so distinct from other committees I knew - and have known.

- 1982 -1986 on behalf of Shap, Editor of the Journal; in 1982 I shared the task with Owen Cole prior to taking over from him.
- 2000 - 2009 on behalf of Shap, Co-Editor of the Journal with Alan Brown (others joined us from 2007-2009)
- 1983 - 1991 'York Shap' launched as a collaborative venture between York RE Centre (where I was now Deputy Director) and Shap. Nine residential conferences were organised bringing together teachers and lecturers from across the country. Colleagues from Shap gave invaluable advice regarding speakers and the involvement of faith communities, and of course many contributed as speakers. I still meet people who recall the conferences with great pleasure and even suggest they shaped the path they subsequently took. I suspect these were my 'major contribution' (but they happened too because of incredibly supportive colleagues at the RE centre who valued Shap's work)
- Initiation of plans for a Shap Archive and collection and sorting of materials with Peggy Morgan - we spent some interesting days on this, and it was excellent that Peggy was able to build on her BASR links to facilitate the deposit of the archive at the Bodleian.

There are of course other activities I undertook within Shap - being a sub editor of the blue Handbook, attending EAWRE events; representing Shap on REC; involvement with and producing two books with Alan Brown and John Rankin for the Chichester Project (an offshoot of Shap) – to mention a few, but those singled out above were central.

Richest memories....

...so very many. I don't wish to select.....but I have some very special memories from the Shap tour to Israel and Egypt in 1981; not the 'big' events, but small unique images and gestures which I hope I will always remember.

Mary Hayward