

# Bahá'í Journal UK

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*Mercilessly promoting the Faith* 

## Paul Booth – Mercilessly promoting the Faith

ASK anyone for their memories of Paul Booth and the response will be; selfless and courageous service to the Faith which he so loved, and in the teachings of which he was so well versed; a sense of fun, a “wicked” sense of humour (for one so spiritual!), laughter and broad smiles.

This was evident at The Scarborough Conference as I introduced myself to those I did not know, as Paul Booth's sister. My hand was shaken enthusiastically and vigorously, as his memory was recalled and tales recounted.

As I travelled to Scarborough on the third anniversary of Paul's passing, my mind was buzzing with ideas and information I wished to share with the many friends who would have known him. Some of these I would like to share with you here.

In the three years since Paul's passing I have been mindful of respecting a number of instructions outlined in his will of which he was very precise!!

### The Paul Booth Trust Fund

Paul left the residue of his estate to the National Office to set up a fund to sponsor those who could not afford to attend Summer/Winter Schools or Conferences. This fund has finally been implemented and is to be administered by three members of the National Spiritual Assembly. Two applicants have already been assisted this year. It goes without saying that the fund is not a bottomless pit and the Assembly would welcome financial contributions or any other ideas towards its maintenance.

### Mercilessly Promote The Faith

Paul was explicit in the will, that his Local Spiritual Assembly use the occasion of his passing to “mercilessly promote the Faith”! Since the boundary changes, there is no longer a Wealden Community, but in liaison with former Local Assembly members, we have distributed Bahá'í material at his funeral, held memorial meetings and created a Bahá'í resting place.

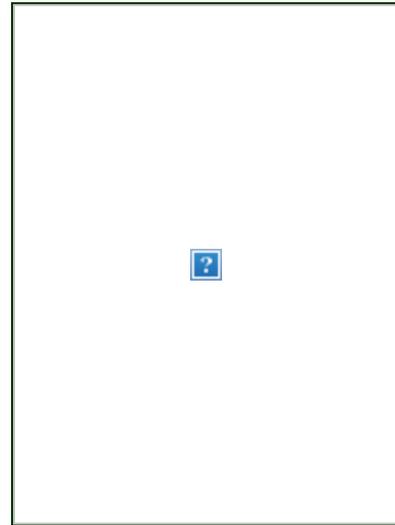
### Resting Place

His wish to be buried facing 'Akká was permitted by Uckfield Council, who have even allowed us to place a ledger at an angle over the site, engraved with the compass bearing to 'Akká, and a bench under a tree facing the site with an inscription recognising his years of service to the Wealden Bahá'ís. The site in Snatts Road Cemetery, Uckfield, E. Sussex is in itself a proclamation of the Faith and a tranquil place to rest and meditate. As I am going to

be in Australia for four years from January, I would appreciate any visitors who are able to check that it is kept clean and tidy.

### Teaching Opportunity

Two members of the church where the funeral was held have kept in touch and are interested to know more of the Faith. Paul had lived in Uckfield for 10 years which means



If you know who did this drawing of Paul, please [contact Mandy](#).

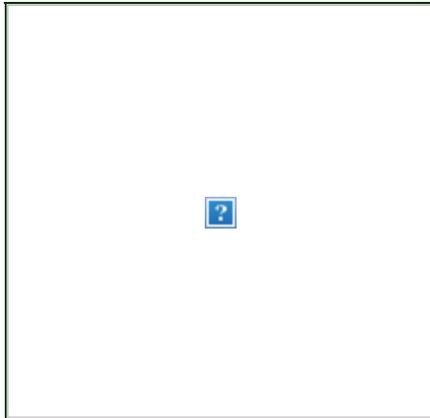
a goodly number of people who knew him, know of the Faith and this is an opportunity not to be missed. Are there any volunteers who can come to Uckfield to nurture the seeds he has planted? Contact Catherine Watson 08125 766584.

### **Book about Paul's Life**

Whilst I am in Australia, I will be compiling a book about Paul's life and would like to invite contributions, by way of memories, stories, anecdotes, photographs and so on. It seems a number of folk have seen Paul in sleeping or waking dream states. These accounts also I would love to hear.

### **The Bahá'í Association for People with Disabilities and Carers**

One such dream encounter experienced by Melfyn Dean has led to the formation of this new Association, which was founded on November 1, 2003. Contact: Melfyn Dean at [melfyndean@hotmail.com](mailto:melfyndean@hotmail.com).



[Mandy and Paul](#)

Faith”.

### **The Stranger on the Threshold**

This book of essays and stories of love and compassion written by Paul Bura includes an account of his vision of Paul and a bearded man wearing a turban, and mentions the Bahá'í Faith.

### **Audacious promotion of the Faith**

Paul's activities for the Faith and for the disabled are continuing. He has prepared the ground and it seems, continues to work through us and inspire us. So I would like to suggest that we extend his wish to all Bahá'ís that knew him and use the memory of his life and his passing, in as many audacious ways as he himself contrived in his lifetime, “to mercilessly promote the

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