

Friendships forged at Lanfranc Boys School tended to last and the really lucky ones had their own friends who also joined the school either before, at the same time or later. Becoming part of a new school is an unsettling experience and you hope that making friends will be easy. Sometimes it is -- - but it can also take time. Together we looked forward to the future and had the excitement of life that childhood brings with it. Many of us would experience events together that ensured friendships developed and prospered. Then in August 1961 people had these friendships suddenly taken away from them.

We the friends of those who had been lost found it very difficult to understand the horror that was unfolding around us. How could they be gone, our school mates, our friends, our teachers, they were going on holiday. We could not believe this had happened. The feelings we had and could not explain --- our friends had suddenly become our memories. Never again to see that smile or share their dreams.

Out of this came something that we at the time could not have expected nor really understood, that was the sudden embracement given to all those who had suffered so cruelly by this tragic event. So many people wanting to help and provide support where they could. Strangers who acted unselfishly, enduring their own hardships. Our Norwegian friends of the Stavanger Red Cross who worked tirelessly - with compassion and understanding - that is remembered by so many people.

People from our own community who tried so desperately to ease the pain of the relatives and families affected. From this, new forms of friendship came into being. With people - who before had never met - but who went to unbelievable lengths to deal with a tragedy so inconceivable to those who had been affected. That bond that held families and friends together then has remained in the hearts and memory of so many people.

Our friends did not have the chance of taking their characters and skills into the world but they have left us with many happy memories of the achievements that they did obtain during their short lives.

Today each of us in our own way remember those who were lost, a tragic happening that had such an impact on so many families and friends.