



# Friends of BRGS

Spring  
2008

A newsletter produced by BRGS  
for former students, parents and  
the community

Bacup & Rawtenstall  
Grammar School

ISSUE  
14

## Students and Friends Reunited

***On Saturday 11th October 2008, we shall be welcoming back former students of all ages to BRGS for our whole school reunion. This is a major event in the school calendar which takes place once every 5 years, so please do not miss out: do put the date in your diary and spread the word among friends.***

At our last reunion in 2003 nearly 1,000 alumni travelled from across the world to meet up with friends and former teachers and to relive school memories. Former students who had lost touch with each other were reunited and friendships renewed. Since 2003 there has been a number of physical changes to the school including a new sports hall and sixth form centre, but you can be assured that one thing has not changed: the guarantee of a warm welcome.

So if you have never set foot in school since leaving 30, 20 or even just a couple of years ago, the reunion presents the perfect opportunity to change that!

During the day there will be plenty of time to socialise alongside a number of activities, details of which will follow in the next newsletter and on the school website.

The traditional thanksgiving service will take place at 11.30 a.m. at BRGS on Sunday 12th October.

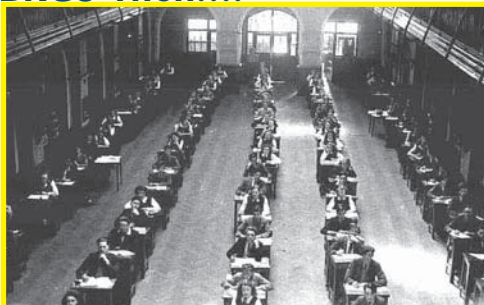
If you are eager to trace former classmates to encourage them to come along to the reunion but you need a quick reminder of who was in your form, do look at the school website where we have been busy expanding our archive section and adding class lists: [www.brgs.org.uk/alumni/class\\_lists.asp](http://www.brgs.org.uk/alumni/class_lists.asp). If you have your own copy of a class list and it does not appear on the website please do contact Laura Sharples at [lcs@brgs.org.uk](mailto:lcs@brgs.org.uk).

For further information about the reunion please contact Emma Gauntlett at [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk).

The provisional programme for the 11th October is as follows:

- 12 pm School opens
- 1.30 pm Official welcome by Marc Morris, Headmaster
- 1.45-3pm Afternoon teas available: an ideal opportunity to arrange to meet and chat to former classmates over a cup of tea.
- 4-5.30pm Buffet teas available. In the next 'Friends of BRGS' newsletter there will be a booking form for the buffet tea (other refreshments do not need to be pre-ordered).
- 6-7pm Evening concert with music from current and former students.
- 7-9pm Canapés and drinks evening reception in the sixth form centre. Perhaps you can only spare a couple of hours in the evening? If so, do join us for an informal time to mingle and relax with friends. For younger former students who are considering partying all night, this could be a great meeting point before heading out for the evening.

### BRGS Then....



### BRGS Now....




## Welcome

You can't fail to miss that we are in the midst of planning for our reunion in October. It

promises to be a fantastic day and I would encourage you to put the date firmly in your diary. For those of you who find the concept of reunions a little daunting then please do put any preconceptions you may have to one side and come along to what will be an informal and friendly day.

This newsletter shares our delight at becoming a Maths and Computing Specialist School. As a high performing Specialist School we have also been celebrating a second accolade as we have been selected to be one of the few Training Schools in the country. The school has a number of plans to develop in these areas which will no doubt feature in forthcoming newsletters.

With best wishes,  
Emma



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# A Challenge for Year 10

2008 started with a difference for Year 10 as they arrived in school on the first day of term to be faced with an entrepreneurial challenge organised by Jane Young, Head of Year. Normal lessons were suspended as the entire year group was given the opportunity to take part in the first round of a national competition run by an organisation called LionHeart Challenge to find the most successful enterprise team at BRGS.

Students worked in teams of ten, in a highly demanding, action-packed, task-driven business challenge which ran throughout the whole school day in the Sports Hall. Teams were able to focus on developing their enterprise skills with an approach designed to reflect the real world of work and they were engaged in a completely different way from in the classroom. Teams were supported by a team of Business Coaches as they worked to design and deliver a brand new product with the objective that the product must encourage healthy living for young people. Innovative inventions included a holographic lifestyle chip, a personalised pedometer, a sleep and tone bed, a 'Chat yourself fit CD' and a fitness monitor.

From the very beginning of the challenge

the atmosphere was highly charged as students worked competitively to develop their ideas, research the market and formulate a highly detailed finance package for their product. The afternoon culminated with each team presenting their idea to a team of judges in a format which resembled the television programme Dragons' Den.

Standards were extremely high and the judges commented on how difficult their task had been. The winning team designed an eco-exercise bike: an entertainment centre powered by pedalling which is environmentally friendly and designed to make exercise fun. The winning team of Simon Allen, Josephine Ansell, Jacques Dark, Marie Hartley, Amy Hughes, Rachel Leyland, Sam Limmack, David Parry, Stephen Partington and Anna Shahid will progress to the regional heat which will be held in the summer.



# BRGS recognised by Specialist Schools' Trust

BRGS has been celebrating the decision of the Specialist Schools' Trust to award the school Maths and Computing Specialist Status with immediate effect.

BRGS was one of the first schools to seek Specialist Status in the early 1990s when the school became a Technology College. After over 15 years as a successful Technology College, we have been re-designated as a Maths and Computing College. This fulfils a long-standing aspiration for the school to build on its excellent maths, computing and ICT results. The decision by the Specialist Schools' Trust will have a significant impact on the whole school and wider community. Headteacher, Marc Morris said:

"We are thrilled for the whole school community. We will receive financial support for maths, computing and ICT which will enable us to have a mathematically rich curriculum that will embrace all aspects of school life. We aim to become a centre of excellence in these subjects and strengthen teaching and learning across the school curriculum. We will also have further capacity to offer a wide range of activities to the local community."

Assistant Headteacher, Gill Spokes, will be leading the new specialism. "This is an exciting time in the history of BRGS. We will work to improve standards in mathematics, ICT and computing, and then share the good practice across the whole school. Students will see the impact of the specialism through enhanced technology, a broader choice of maths and ICT based subjects, and a host of enrichment events and activities to develop their understanding of maths and computing in the wider world."

Last term BRGS hosted a STEP (Sixth Term Entrance Paper) conference for over 60 A level students across the north-west to consider strategies for tackling questions on the exam paper required by universities such as Oxford and Warwick. The conference was led by Peter Mitchell, a STEP examiner and Chair of Mathematics in Education and Industry, an A level examining board. Students enjoyed the opportunity to focus on innovative ways to solve demanding mathematical problems.

This term we have hosted the Lionheart Enterprise Challenge for Year 10 and a mini conference for 45 Year 11 students called 'Your Future in Maths and Computing' (in association with Manchester Metropolitan University). Many more events and clubs are planned and KS3 students can join the Computing Programming Club or face the dragons in our very own BRGS Dragons' Den.

One of the many activities open to the local community is free adult learning classes. Classes are currently available on how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint as well as lessons focusing on how to be a successful shopper and seller on e-Bay, and how to use the internet safely and securely for banking and shopping.

BRGS was invited to apply for a second specialism after receiving notification of being a high performing specialist school. The school's bid to become a Training School was accepted and the funding provided will allow the school to develop the skills of its entire workforce. The school hopes to work in partnership with other secondary schools to learn from and disseminate good practice.



Photo supplied by the Rossendale Free Press.

# Magnificent Les Misérables

A review by Steven Haycocks, Assistant Head

Last term the barricades went up on the streets of Paris for four nights – not French farmers protesting against changes to EU agricultural subsidies, but by students of Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School in the cast of *Les Misérables*. For four nights audiences laughed and wept as they journeyed through the highs and lows of Victor Hugo's epic novel.

Former acting professional and Head of Drama at BRGS, Martin Neve, who directed the play, said: "Les Misérables is a tremendous challenge for any performer or director, but I knew that the talent and maturity of the cast would make it possible." The cast were supported by a gifted backstage team and wonderful musicianship under the direction of Joanne Matthews and Steven Mercer, music teachers.

The huge cast was made up of students from throughout the 11 to 19 school and they managed the feat that is so hard for any cast – they allowed the audience to completely immerse themselves in the narrative by being so utterly focused on the performance of the character they were playing, no matter how minor.

In a play that is so well-known and loved there is always the danger that a school production becomes a poor imitation of the professional production. Not so. The directorial eye of Martin Neve, brought something entirely new to the production. Everything from the use of colour (the symbolism of the French Flag and the black and red of ages past and the blood of the new revolution) to the management of space and props was truly professional and allowed the audience total immersion in the performance.

In a production with so many strong performances it is difficult to pick out individuals. However, Scott Bellas, playing Valjean delivered a performance with a maturity and understanding of the emotions he was portraying that was enthralling to experience. Coupled with the vocal dexterity of his incredible voice it was a remarkable performance.

When it comes to vocal dexterity though, Hannah Potts, in the role of Fantine, could be believed to be the finished product – it is almost impossible to believe that in year 10 anyone could be capable of bringing the pain, anguish and despair to the role that she did. It was during her performance of *I Dreamed a Dream* that this reviewer shed his first tears.

If you know *Les Misérables* you will know that this is

not a simple tale with good guys and bad guys, but that the relationships between the characters are very complex. The tension that exists for the audience in their feelings for Cosette and Eponine as the two women competing for the love of Marius were played out brilliantly by Claudia Yelland and Nicola Bracewell. Claudia's perfect soprano voice helped her to deliver a faultless vocal performance. However, it's Eponine whose loyalty and devotion in the pain of unrequited love who leaves the audience equally heartbroken.

Marius was played by Ben Langridge in a sensitive and understated manner: wonderfully naïve in his interaction with Eponine, yet hopelessly infatuated with Cosette. Equally skilled performance came from Jed Hull who revealed a fantastic tenor voice in a dual role as both bishop and the leader of the revolution. Both actors delivered a performance that was given depth through the maturity of their interpretations of the roles.

It's not all sadness though. Joe Hodgson and Maggie Frazer as Monsieur and Madame Thenardier, the innkeepers, proved to be real scene stealers as they leapt and cavorted about the stage grabbing money, possessions and laughs on the way. Other actors had to be hated though – Wes Pauline's portrayal of Javert was remarkable and in a difficult task, he succeeded in making the audience genuinely detest his character.

For one audience member, this was at least the 22nd time that she had seen *Les Misérables* and wiping the tears from her eye at the end of the performance simply said "I want to come again tomorrow." All good things come to an end, and great things seem to end even more quickly. What is true, is that the memory of this production of *Les Mis* will last for a long time to come in the memories of all who saw it, and forever in the memories of those who were a part of it. Congratulations.

Building on the success of the *Les Mis*, Martin Neve, Head of Drama, has established a Junior Drama Club which meets every Wednesday evening and is absolutely packed with budding actors and actresses. We are very much looking forward to seeing their talent on the stage in the next BRGS drama production.

# Musical success

Congratulations to the 27 students in our recent session of Associated Board Grade Music Exams who passed with excellent marks. A further 54 students will be taking music grade exams over the next couple of months.

Trumpet:

Josh Brown, Year 13, Grade 8  
Luke Dempsey, Year 8, Grade 5  
Beth Ormerod, Year 8, Grade 1

Clarinet:

Rebecca Dawson, Year 8, Grade 1  
Saira Ali, Year 8, Grade 1  
Danielle Leach, Year 8, Grade 1  
Rebecca Egan, Year 8, Grade 1  
Lucy Horrocks, Year 8, Grade 1  
Demi Hartley, Year 8, Grade 1  
Seamus McDonnell, Year 8, Grade 1  
Lawrence Clare, Year 9, Grade 4  
Greg Howorth, Year 9, Grade 4  
Charlotte Snape, Year 9, Grade 4  
Lydia Bruton-Jones, Year 9, Grade 4



Cornet:

Jack Westerman, Year 8, Grade 3  
Hazel Ramsell, Year 8, Grade 1  
Rebecca Allcock, Year 8, Grade 1  
Amber Wilson, Year 8, Grade 1  
Polly Sikora, Year 7, Grade 1  
Charlotte Bradbury, Year 9, Grade 1

Euphonium:

Tim Goddard, Year 8, Grade 3

Oboe:

Bethan Gregory, Year 10, Grade 5

Singing:

Kirsten Foley, Year 9, Grade 3  
Kirsty Baines, Year 8, Grade 3  
Natalie Baines, Year 12, Grade 3  
Charlotte Bradbury, Year 9, Grade 3

Tenor Horn:

Eve White, Year 8, Grade 1

Violin:

Bethan Gregory, Year 10, Grade 5



# THE WORLD OF WORK

Year 10 students travelled across the globe for their work experience placements with students travelling as far as America and Pakistan.

Nishka Goorah spent a fortnight at her aunt's dental surgery in Washington DC where she was responsible for welcoming patients, working with the practitioners and carrying out some office work. She said: "I enjoyed my time there and it was a great experience. Washington was really nice too."

Irha Yaqoob flew east to Pakistan where she honed her journalistic skills at a national magazine and at CNN South East Asia. She said: "I wrote two articles which were published. One was about the political situation in an area of the country and the other focused on social networking sites such as Facebook."

Like Irha, Alex Peace furthered his ambition to become a journalist but his placement was slightly

nearer to home at The Bolton News. Alex followed various court proceedings and had various articles published including a sports review of a football match between Newcastle United and Bolton Wanderers.

Year 10 student David Adams is interested in military jets so he particularly enjoyed his time at the BAE Systems factory, home to the new Eurofighter. Alex Jones furthered his interest in the police force with the opportunity to work with four different branches of the Greater Manchester police. During his work experience his duties ranged from pretending to exhibit anti-social behaviour in the staging of a 'mock riot' to grooming the police horses!

There was a vast range of placements and Siobhan Robinson, Pastoral Manager who helped to organise the work experience scheme, said: "They all did really well and I would say 90% of the students managed to find their own placements with no help at all. All the employers I have spoken to have given us glowing reports. They have all done fantastically well and done the school proud."



Photo supplied by the Rossendale Free Press.

## Year 9 SATs Success

Most Rossendale schools beat the county and country averages for key stage 3 results (SAT exams at the end of Year 9) and BRGS was delighted to receive an average point score of 44.8 which was up 0.4 of a point on the previous year. Marc Morris said: "Once again the school is very proud of the outstanding achievement of all students in last year's National Curriculum tests. This recognition is a result of the hard work and partnership between students, parents and teachers – congratulations to all concerned."

School	Value added KS2 – 3	English	Maths	Science	Average point score
Alder Grange	99.9	81	76	76	35.1
All Saints	100	72	78	71	35.6
BRGS	100.2	99	98	99	44.8
England average	-	74	76	73	34.9
Fearns	98.9	49	72	64	32.5
Haslingden High	99.7	78	80	76	35.2
Lancashire average	99.8	76	77	75	35.2
Whitworth	101	79	74	82	35.1
Woodhey	99.4	89	87	89	37.5

## CSI training for Year 8

Year 8 spent only three hours as crime scene investigators (CSI) as they used techniques used by forensic science teams to identify the 'murderer' out of a range of candidates in a pretend crime scene.

The students witnessed a reconstruction of a murder and used chromatography; DNA analysis; finger print identification; blood typing; microscopic fibre analysis; and pH soil testing to narrow down the suspects and to build a case for the prosecution. Once the pupils had collected their evidence, they questioned the suspects and made their accusations.



Year 8 student examines the evidence

# Holocaust Survivors' Emotional Account

*In January, after a week of cross-curricular activities focusing on the Holocaust, Year 9 students were privileged to listen to Holocaust survivors, Ibi and Waldimir (Val) Ginsburg.*

The visit by Ibi and Val was organised by history teacher, Margaret Stanley, and Year 9 found listening to their experiences incredibly moving.

Val explained to the year group how he was an architecture student in Lithuania when the Second World War began. Lithuania was trapped between Stalin and Hitler and Val's family met to discuss whether to flee to Communist Russia or stay in Lithuania when the Nazis invaded. They decided to stay in Lithuania. The family became victims of the Nazi persecution and were moved into the ghetto of Kovno. After spending the war in various ghettos and concentration camps, working as a slave labourer, Val ended up in Dachau concentration camp, near Munich. He was liberated from Dachau when the war ended. Val was the only one of his family of 14 to survive.



Ibi was born in Hungary, the eldest of four sisters, and when the Nazis invaded in 1944 she was transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was here that Ibi was separated from her mother and two youngest sisters, all of whom perished in the gas chambers shortly after their arrival. Ibi was transported from Auschwitz to a number of other camps in Germany and eventually arrived in Dachau, where she was liberated by the Americans.



Continued...

Ibi and Val met when Ibi was acting as a nurse and Val was recovering in the hospital at Dachau. They fell in love and married in Munich in 1946. They moved to England in 1948 and settled in Elland, West Yorkshire, finding work in a textile factory owned by a cousin.

Like many other survivors, Val and Ibi found it too painful to talk about their experiences during the Holocaust. However, when their children were old enough to ask questions about why they did not have grandparents, aunts and uncles like other children, Val and Ibi decided that they would have to share their experiences. They talk regularly to school groups and Val has written his testimony in a book, *And Kovno Wept*.

Mrs. Stanley said: "As well as studying the Holocaust historically, the students have also been examining more recent acts of genocide and looking at the modern day relevance of the Holocaust in terms of prejudice and anti bullying."

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is dedicated to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. It was first held on the 27th January 2001, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp by the Soviet Union in 1945 and has been held on the same day every year since.

## Netting the funds on Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day, teachers Mel Heywood and Margaret Stanley organised a staff netball competition which raised nearly £300. Mixed teams of male and female members of staff made for interesting interpretations of the netball rule book with some of the men reverting to basketball and football rules and seeming incapable of understanding the concept of a non-contact sport! Unsurprisingly, the team with Sue Smith, Head of PE, and the headmaster, took the glory.



Martin Pigott and Mel Heywood advertise Valentines Netball

The money raised was split between UNICEF and the SOPHIE fund (Stamp out prejudice, hatred and intolerance everywhere) in memory of Sophie Lancaster. Students also supported the SOPHIE fund through a non-uniform day which raised nearly £800. Students wore special black wristbands and were encouraged to dress in black. Posters were placed around school which featured messages of condolence written in response to Sophie's death.

## See Gallery exhibits students' art

After starting their A level Art course, the Year 12 students had a couple of months to focus on their drawing and acrylic painting skills and studied intensively the work of portrait artists such as Hockney, Freud and Saville. The students then had a brilliant opportunity to work with a talented practising artist, Lucy Burscough, who is based in Manchester. Lucy came in to school for three afternoon sessions in November to work with students to produce their own large scale acrylic portraits.



*Photo supplied by the Rossendale Free Press.*

The results were fantastic and to round the whole project off, a new gallery in Crawshawbooth called See Gallery worked in partnership with the art team to exhibit all 35 of the portraits in the gallery for public viewing. Diane Bamford, Head of Art, said: "I would just like to say how successful it has been. Over the four days there were well over a hundred visitors of pupils, family,

friends and even people who had been informed by word of mouth on the street. Everyone was impressed by the professionalism of the exhibition, the standard of the pupils' work and equally amazed at what a little gem the See Gallery is." Diane is particularly grateful to the owners of the gallery, Julian and Jackie, and the school hopes to work further with them "in terms of connections with exhibiting artists and regular exhibitions of pupils' work."



*Manchester artist, Lucy Burscough with sixth form art students*

## Sports Centre and Sixth Form Centre named

In December 2007 our Sports Centre was named the David Heap Sports Centre in memory of our former Chairman of Governors who sadly died in April 2007. The governing body felt it was a fitting tribute given David's tireless commitment to realising BRGS's vision for a Sports Centre. David's sons, Joel and Richard, were invited as special guests at our annual Senior Speech Night to see the building named after their father.

The Sixth Form Centre also has a new name as the Martyn Morris Sixth Form Centre. Martyn Morris, former BRGS headmaster, was both surprised and delighted by the honour. Martyn unveiled the sign to the sixth form prior to Senior Speech Night at which he was the guest speaker.



# A lifetime of learning

A series of adult learning classes was launched at the end of January with a free six week course to celebrate BRGS being awarded Maths and Computing Specialist Status. Over 60 people of all ages attended the classes and feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

Comments included:

"nervous pupils were put at ease"; "everything was explained patiently and clearly step by step as the class had different levels of knowledge"; "the courses were fun and enjoyable." These comments encourage us to run further evening classes which will be advertised through school publications and in the local press. If you are interested in future classes please contact Emma Gauntlett on 01706 234502 or email at [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk).

## Eco-School News

Under the guidance of David Archer, Head of Science, BRGS continues to enjoy working closely with the local community group Waterfoot Forward and last year they helped to tidy up Trickett's Memorial Ground in Waterfoot and helped to organise a Remembrance Service on the 11th November. Before Christmas the group planted over a thousand daffodil bulbs.

Around school, sixth formers and year 10 students have been organising our paper recycling scheme whilst another group is exploring energy saving ideas. Outside the buildings the vegetable plot has a short but impressive dry stone wall and beetroot, leeks and parsnips have been harvested.

Much of the School Travel Grant has been spent on a new cycle shelter and we are allowed to use the remaining money to plant trees with the idea that these can be offset against some of the carbon dioxide emissions caused during our journeys to and from school. Several hundred trees will be planted by the Glen playing fields this spring.

*Student tidy  
Trickett's  
Memorial  
Ground*



# Following in Agyness's Footsteps?

The annual sixth form fashion show raised funds for Burnley Hospital Radio and the Rossendale Hospice. Could any of the models be following in former student, supermodel Agyness Deyn's footsteps?



*Photos supplied by the Rossendale Free Press.*

# Focus on football

A group of Year 8 pupils visited Anfield to the new educational centre, Reduc@te at Liverpool FC. Reduc@te aims to use football, sport and contemporary issues to motivate learning and great emphasis is placed on rewarding achievement. Liverpool FC is working with the British Council and has developed learning packages focusing on Spanish language skills and it was this area of the curriculum which the Year 8 visit concentrated on. Aside from the studying, the group enjoyed a tour of Anfield and some of them were extremely excited to be able to get their hands on the European Cup!

Continuing with the football theme, sixth form business studies and economics students have visited Blackburn Rovers FC on a study day to examine the business world of football.



*Year 8 with the European Cup!*



*Photo supplied by the Rossendale Free Press.*

## Navigating to Norway

A quartet of four talented BRGS orienteers has been selected for specialist training with the North West junior squad. Liam Taylor, Alex Willis, Stephen Horrocks and Sophie Horrocks are due to travel to Norway in August for a 10 day training programme and need to raise £550 to fund the trip. Each member of the team competes individually most weekends in their age classes at national and regional orienteering events and they have also organised and run a training day for their club, Pendle Forest Orienteers. The Norwegian training will continue to help develop their orienteering skills to ensure that they continue to be top in their field.

# Obituaries

*We were sorry to learn of the following:*

**Elaine Boys née Barratt** (1952 – 1956) sadly died aged 66 in January 2008 after an 18 month battle against cancer. Whilst at BRGS, Elaine represented the school at netball and hockey and after leaving BRGS, she became a telephone operator for the GPO before founding B&E Boys Limited with her husband, Brian. She was a Director and Company Secretary at B&E Boys until a few years ago.

Many of you will know **Cynthia Clark**, the wife of Philip Clark, former BRGS headmaster. Cynthia died suddenly, aged 82, at home in January. Cynthia taught classics at Accrington Girls' High School, Accrington College and Bury Grammar School for Girls. She was a former president of Rossendale Business and Professional Women's Association. Cynthia made a major contribution to saving BRGS when the school was under threat in the 1980s by gathering thousands of signatures for petitions to be submitted to the then Department of Education.

We are sorry to report the unexpected and sad death of **Luke Dickinson** (left 2002). We send our deepest condolences to Luke's family.

**Christopher J. Heap** (1967 – 1973) died in December 2007.

Retired hospital administrator, **Daniel F. Ellis** (1938 – 1945) died in January 2008. He was the son of Fred and Florence Ellis, Master and Matron of Moorland's Workhouse (now Rossendale General) and he lived in Rawtenstall all his life. After leaving school he travelled to the Middle East and Africa whilst carrying out his National Service before starting work in his uncle's hardware shop in Haslingden. He then embarked on a career in the NHS, progressing to be the administrator at Crumpsall Hospital and then Ancoats Hospital where he retired. Upon returning he became a keen walker and a volunteer worker on the Ffestiniog railway in North Wales.

**Robert Hetherington Hardman** died on the 19th July 2007 aged 94. He won the Whittaker Scholarship to attend BRGS and spent his career as a tax inspector. He was a member of the Beverley Lions in East Yorkshire for 47 years and had also spent 25 years in amateur dramatics, including some time with Rossendale Players where he was stage manager and his wife, Dora, acted.

**Elizabeth Wilkinson née Collins** (1972 – 1979) sadly died on the 10th March at Fairfield Hospital. After leaving BRGS, Elizabeth studied at Birmingham University and worked at Lloyds TSB since leaving university in 1982. Her husband, Stephen, is a former student and our thoughts and sympathy go to Elizabeth's family.

# SPORTS REPORTS

## Rossendale Shotokan Karate visit

In February, Year 7 girls were treated to a different kind of PE lesson with a special visit from the Rossendale Shotokan Karate Club. The club provided a demonstration of the karate that their club offers and Year 11 student, Rachael Ormston, was involved in the demonstration. Rachel said: "It was really good to see the Year 7 girls enjoying themselves. I do karate for many reasons; it's good fun, it improves my fitness and it is a really good stress reliever."

Year 7 girls were given the opportunity to ask questions about the background of karate and its usefulness in everyday life. Pavithra from 7G said: "I really enjoyed it because I have never done any karate before" and Vanessa from 7G said: "I really learnt a lot. Before I thought it was just about kicking and punching but there is a lot more to it than that."

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Achievers

We congratulate the following recipients of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards:

### **Bronze Awards:**

Christopher Hannam, Hannah Dawson, Emily Sawicz, Sarah Flook, Sarah Stopforth, Alison Stonebanks, Victoria Rishton, Lauren Cook and Claire Smallwood.

### **Silver Awards:**

Catherine Gallagher, Katie Meacher, Stephen Hill and Stephen Horrocks.

### **Gold Awards:**

Rebecca Bower, John Holland, Thomas Fallows and Luke Bramwell.

## Swimming success

Congratulations to our newly formed Junior and Intermediate Swimming Teams which competed against Turton High School and narrowly won in their first competition by 107 points to 100.

## Who? What? Where?

Unfortunately the photograph which appeared in the last edition appeared to be too tricky to identify faces of former students but our thanks go to Craig Wilkinson (left 1975), Jacqueline Collier née Hamer, Glen Mills (1966 – 1972), Andrew Sellers (left 1971) and Sue Tuff née Thorpe (left 1970) for continuing to help us to complete the missing names in the badminton photo which appeared in edition 12.

Opposite is another photo for which we would welcome some help in identifying former students:



## Dates for your diary

### 12th June

Alumni Reception, Manchester  
We will be holding a reception in Manchester for ex BRGS students who are working in the areas of Accountancy, Banking, Finance and Law from 5.30 p.m. onwards on the evening of Thursday 12th June. The reception will be at the offices of Dewhurst Torevell, 5 Oxford Court, Manchester M2 3WQ, whose Chairman, Alan Torevell, will be hosting the event. If you are interested in joining us for an informal evening reception then please contact Emma at [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk).

### 25th June

Lower School Music Concert

### 11th – 12th October

School Reunion

If you would like to find out more about how you could invest in the future of pupils at BRGS and enable us to continue to provide high quality education, please contact Emma Gauntlett, Development Director, on 01706 234500 or on [ecg@brgs.org.uk](mailto:ecg@brgs.org.uk)

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

*Printed on paper sourced from sustainable forestry programmes using vegetable based inks.*

## Message Board

- Former students Marc Vipham and Helen Warchalowski were married on the 22nd December 2007 at the White Hall Hotel, Darwen. Marc attended BRGS between 1991– 1998 and Helen attended the sixth form between 1998– 2000. We wish them all the very best for the future.
- Former student, Lynne Wallace (left 1988) wrote the highly successful FreeToDo Travel Guide UK with her husband, Ronald. Spurred on by its success, they plan to release FreeToDo France and FreeToDo Italy during 2008. Lynne studied for her degree at Edinburgh University and "the idea started in 2002 as a one-page website on Edinburgh's free admission attractions. Over the next couple of years the website grew to cover the whole of the UK, due to contributions from councils, tourist boards and the general public."
- Our congratulations to 21 year old Katy Rothwell who studied A-levels at BRGS and who starred as a dancer in The Lowry Theatre's annual pantomime. She shared that stage with Darren Day, Chesney Hawkes and ex-Emmerdale actor, Frazer Hines. Katy hopes to further her dancing career and finishes her third year at Phil Winston's Theatre Works drama school at the end of August.
- Emily Hibbs-Woodings and Hannah Roupee (left 2007) are raising money to travel to South Africa to volunteer for the African Impact organisation at an AIDS project working with AIDS orphans on an education programme, delivering home-based care and helping to renovate schools. The girls hope to set off for Johannesburg on the 27th April and are raising funds to support their voluntary work through sponsored events. If you would like to help to sponsor the girls, email Emily on [emily\\_hibbs\\_woodings@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emily_hibbs_woodings@hotmail.co.uk).
- On a different kind of adventure, former student, Harry Manley, aged 20, is hoping to hitchhike 3,600 miles on a round journey to Tallinn in Estonia on the 28th March. Harry studies town and regional planning at Sheffield University and he is allowed £15 to spend on his journey with three friends from Sheffield University to raise money for number of charities including Sheffield Volunteering, SOS Children's Villages, STOP, People and Planet, and Sue Ryder Care. A similar trip raised £62,000 last year.
- If any former students are interested in funding a Speech Night prize then please contact Lynda Taylor, Deputy Head at [lt@brgs.org.uk](mailto:lt@brgs.org.uk). We have a number of subjects relatively new to the curriculum at BRGS for which we have no prizes: law, accounting, media, sociology, psychology and Spanish.



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