



Winter
2009

Friends of BRGS

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

ISSUE
19

Sailing on a Tall Ship

Year 12 student Joe Jackson spent the summer on the Atlantic Ocean on the final leg of the Tall Ships Race 2009 from Nova Scotia, Canada to Belfast.



Joe applied to gain a place on the ship *Europa* after becoming interested in sailing after a family sailing holiday in Greece and this interest was developed after an introduction-to-sailing course in Anglesey. Prior to his voyage he said: "I knew about the Tall Ships race having seen it on TV and thought it would be a great adventure to sail across the Atlantic."



PHOTO COURTESY OF
ROSSENDALE FREE PRESS

The crews were finalised in February 2009 and as one of the youngest crew members, his parents were questioned to see if they felt he could cope under such difficult conditions away from home. Joe was one of 48 trainees drawn from around the world and was awarded his "competent crew theory and practical" certificate after completing the 2,350 nautical miles. His ship, *Europa*, came second in its class (Class A ship with 30 sails) and third overall.

On arrival in Belfast, around 750,000 people crowded to the docks for the biggest event ever staged in Ireland.

To gain an insight into life on the ocean wave, Joe has written the following report:

It was awesome. The trip of a lifetime. I was very nervous when I first got to Canada and boarded the ship but within minutes I was part of the crew and we really gelled together. We were the most diverse crew in the race in terms of age (15 – 70) and number of nationalities (13). I made some great friends from all over the world and we experienced the full range of weather conditions as we crossed the Atlantic; from being becalmed in blazing sunshine in the early stages of the race to fighting through a storm lasting for 3 days, with force 9 winds and waves hitting us that were bigger than a house. It was really scary but exhilarating and the best part of the trip.

I saw lots of sea life - whales, hundreds of dolphins, flying fish and giant sea turtles to name but a few. I really enjoyed climbing the rigging, a bit scary at first though you soon got used to it. You needed a head for heights but one of the best bits was sitting on the yard up in the skysail at the top of the main mast when the ship was in full sail and flying across the waves.

I liked sleeping on the deck at night in the good weather. It was pitch black out in the middle of the ocean but you could count all the stars, which were crystal clear and you could see Jupiter. It wasn't all sitting on masts and stargazing though. Much of the time was spent working really hard, pulling ropes, setting sails, cleaning, cooking and taking the helm which sometimes needed two people in rough weather. We were grouped into 3 'watches'; red, blue and white - the colours of the Dutch flag. I was on 'white' watch and all the watches were very competitive with each other. We worked on a fixed rota and if you weren't on watch you were either sleeping or learning about sailing.

It wasn't luxury living. I shared a very cramped cabin with five other lads and slept in a tiny bunk with a small cupboard for all my stuff. We did eat well though and the ship's cook baked fresh bread 3 times a day and knocked up some great food but I still lost over a stone in weight in the 24 days I was at sea.

I loved every minute of it and it was hard leaving the ship in Belfast after all the festivities and adjusting back to normal life. I have kept in touch with a lot of the crew and the ship's captain, Captain Klass, a huge Dutchman with full white beard. They have told me they would take me on as a permanent crew member when a vacancy arises and it's an offer I think I'll take up at some stage in the near future!

Welcome

Welcome to our latest edition of *Friends of BRGS* published towards the end of a busy period in the school calendar. As I write we are preparing for the usual seasonal festivities and no doubt students are counting down the days until the holiday!

This edition brings us a fascinating story of life on the ocean wave for Joe Jackson, one of our Year 12 students, as well as our usual round-up of exam results and prize-winners.

With every edition of this newsletter we distribute nearly 6,000 copies. We try our best to keep address details up-to-date and try not to send duplicate copies but if there are any inaccuracies in our circulation list then please do us know. Equally, if you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email please do get in touch.

On a personal note, I should like to thank Nikki Wilby who did a sterling job as Development Assistant whilst I was on maternity leave. Thank you also to many former students for their good wishes.

On behalf of all at BRGS, we wish you health and happiness in 2010.

Emma

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Baking Bread at Warburtons

Year 10 students made a special visit to Warburtons Bakery as part of their Food Technology studies. Students enjoyed the opportunity to see the large-scale production of a well-known brand of bread. The family-owned company produces around 56 different types of bread.

On arrival, students were advised of health and safety procedures and asked to wear white overcoats and disposable hair nets. To prevent contamination through spreading germs from a tap, students washed their hands by pressing a button with their knee. Students were then ready to go into the factory with their tour guide.



Roisin Rimmer, Year 10 student, wrote a short report about their visit and the following is an abridged version of her recollections:

"Our tour guide, Neville, took us round the factory showing us each stage of the bread making production system. At first we were shown the giant sized piece of dough that would be used to make 200 loaves. The next stage was the separation of the dough ball and smoothing the dough out so that it doesn't stick to the tin. It was then time for the bread rolls to go into the first oven for about 13 minutes and then the main oven for 30 minutes, depending on the recipe. By this time, the bread had risen to double its previous size and it was sent off to a cooler.

"Afterwards, we were taken to one of the final stages of bread production. We were able to see the loaves being sliced and bagged and the washing and drying of the crates before the loaves are packed into them. We finished the tour in the warehouse, with hundreds of crates surrounding us!

"We were told that Jonathon Warburton enjoyed receiving letters about new products that could be introduced into the Warburton collection. We were able to see just how the factories cope with producing so much bread in one day."

Making History

One of the great BRGS traditions dating back to 1963, the Annual History Model Exhibition, took place over the summer term. All Year 7 pupils participate by making a model as part of an extended homework project. These models are linked to the themes of study such as the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages. An amazing array of models was exhibited including shields, temples, mosaics, aqueducts, motte-and-bailey castles and medieval catapults. The picture shows some of the exhibitors with the models they brought to the exhibition.



Mission to Nepal

Former BRGS and Alder Grange Community and Technology School student Annie Thomasson spent six months in Kathmandu in Nepal after making a successful application to the Baptist World Mission. After completing her A levels, Annie jetted off on a life-changing trip to teach children aged two to sixteen in a mix of Christian and government-run schools.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSSENDALE FREE PRESS

Annie Thomasson (front) at Kay Street Baptist Church with friends who shared the experience: Hannah Fulcher, 22, of Stockton-on-Tees, Laura Nicholson, 19, of Belfast and Jo Fowler, 18, of Somerset.

Annie had to overcome a number of cultural challenges: living in a guesthouse and dressing in traditional Nepalese outfits to make an effort to integrate into the community. Annie said: "They only have power for a few hours a day, which took a lot of getting used to but after a while it was just the way of life. The local people were very kind and generous even though they have very little."

During her stay, Annie taught science and found dramatic differences in teaching styles overseas: "The teachers just do lessons from a text book, so we tried to get the pupils to interact more and played games and did activities with them." The highlight of her trip was a four day trek in the Himalayas to climb Poon Hill and watch the sunrise.

Since returning to the UK, Annie and the friends who accompanied her visited local schools to share their experiences.

Speech Night Successes

Guest of honour at our Junior Speech Night to award GCSE certificates and prizes was former student and Leader of Lancashire County Council, Geoff Driver. Headmaster Marc Morris referred to the School's excellent academic achievements and said: "It is abundantly clear to me that the achievements that we are so proud of are not just attributable to the long tradition of success at BRGS. I am very proud of our young adults and am delighted that we are able to recognise their achievements in a formal and positive way this evening. My overwhelming impression is of a community of students who are a source of pride for all of us associated with them – long may that tradition continue."

Best ever exam results!

At A Level, students took 1,092 exam papers of which 25.6% were grade A, 52.4% were graded A or B, and 92% were grade C or better. 1086 examinations were passed at grade E or better giving a pass rate of 99.5%.

- Deputy Head, Dr. Andrew Edwards, said: "The results demonstrate the School's and students' ability to sustain the high standards for which BRGS is noted. Their strong position reflects the partnership that the school develops between staff and students. The success is shared by students who have joined us from pre-16 feeder schools and we must recognise the excellent GCSE foundation that these students bring to BRGS, in addition to the extra curriculum contribution that they have made in the relatively short time they spend with us. It is always sad to see all our students leave, but they spread their wings and fly and we nurture the next group."

Natalie Baines and Ben Hinson won places at Cambridge University. Natalie is reading Education with English and Drama at Homerton College and Ben is reading Ancient History at Magdalene College.

Outstanding results came from the following; the numbers show how many A grades the students achieved:

- Bronwyn Dawson 6A (+1AS), Ben Hinson 6A, James Mitchell 6A, Eleanor Silkstone 5A (+1AS), Liam Taylor 5A (+1AS), Hannah Wilkinson 5A (+1AS), Edward Ainsworth 5A, Chris Boon 5A, Reanne Crane 5A, Claire Dunne 5A, Joseph Lythgoe 5A, Katie Meacher 5A, Chris Pearson 5A, Natalie Baines 4A (+1AS), Luke Dabbs 4A (+1AS), Haley Nixon 4A (+1AS), Anna Payne 4A (+1AS), Sarah Cahill 4A, Tobias Cockayne 4A, Emma Collinge 4A, Alistair Higson 4A, Stephen Hill 4A, Alex Willis 4A

At GCSE Level, Dr. Edwards said: "This is the best ever GCSE summer for BRGS. 24.4% of all grades were A* and 61.5% were grade A or A*. 88% were grade B or better. 148 students passed 1782 exams with 97.5% being grade C or better. Students took an average of 12.5 GCSE subjects with an average point score of 624 compared to 570 last year.

"These results are significantly better than the record breaking ones last year with students averaging 12 A*-C GCSE grades each. We are delighted with the overall success for the students which reflects their hard work and the commitment of our staff."

In *The Independent* newspaper these results put us in the top 50 grammar schools at number twelve!

- The top 20 achieving students this year were: Simon Allan 806 points, Lucie Shaw 788 points, Victoria Donahoe 782 points, Rachel Leyland 764 points, Joe Jackson 759 points, Jacques Dark 758 points, Rebecca Hardman 754 points, James Greenwood 750 points, Bethan Gregory 748 points, Sophie Horrocks 742 points, Anna Shahid 742 points, Ainsley Kerr 738 points, Catriona Watson 735 points, John Duckworth 730 points, Emilia Hartwell 730 points, Rachel Meacher 730 points, Kieron Moore 730 points, Elspeth Petrycki-Aitchison 730 points, Andrew Allcock 726 points, Victoria Morrison 722 points.

SUBJECT PRIZES AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Richard Karoo Fellowship for Academic Excellence	James Mitchell	The Rebecca Follows Prize for Achievement in Biology	Bronwyn Dawson
The George Allen Memorial Trophy for Music	Chalcedony Williams	The Rebecca Follows Prize for Achievement in Chemistry	Katie Meacher
The Music Cup	Oliver Sikora	The Zoe Shadlock Junior Science Prize	Bronwyn Dawson
The Dr. P. Lord and O.M. Holt Memorial Prize for Music	Bethan Gregory	The Geoffrey Wood Prize for Medicine	Bobby Thompson
	Hannah Potts	The Rev. Jack Cawthorne Art Prize	Claire Dunne
	Thomas Sutcliffe	The Robin Coulston Trophy for Art	Simon Allan
The Music Department Higher Education Award	Jack Westerman		Rebecca Shutt
The Junior Music Shield	Laura Longworth		Rima Khanom
The Upper Sixth English Prize (Mr. R.G. Phillips)	Christian Schofield	The Mary Tomlinson Memorial Cup for Junior Art	Bobby Thompson
The Speak without Fear Prize for Theatre Studies	Reanne Crane	The Senior Art Prize (Mrs J. Ormerod)	Charlotte Dew
The Neil McRobert Prize for English Literature		The Kerry Hollick Art Prize	Olivia Castree
The Upper Sixth Drama & Theatre Studies Prize (Mr. R.G. Phillips)	Jessica McGuinness	The Ashley Tyson Cup for Sports' Personality	Victoria Donahoe
The Media Studies Prize	Liam Healey		Stephen Fletcher
The Freda Ebden Memorial Prize for English	Sam Bowers	The John Metcalfe Prize for Sport (Outstanding Achievement)	Randy Roby
The Jack E. Barnes Cup for English (GCSE)	Rachel Bond	The Junior P.E. Prizes	Leo Bowнас
The Jane Biran Prize for English Linguistics (A' level)	Hayley Nixon		Bobby Thompson
The Linda & Tony Fuller Award for Maths and Science	Michael Worrall		Ross Collin
The Dorothy Moore Mathematics Prize	Christopher Pearson	The Jack Dunham Junior Cricket Prize	Freddie Priestley
The Year 10 Mathematics Prize (Mrs B.J. White)	Rima Khanom		Philippa Cowles
The Michael Churnside Mathematics Prize for Endeavour	Emma Finnerty	The Maria Bracken Prize for Psychology	Andrew Shaw
The F. Harding Geography Prize	Sally Dearden	The Felldancer Classic Cup for Orienteering	Phoebe Jesson
	Michael Scott	The Felldancer Quaiach for Orienteering	Amy Pilling
	Simon Allan	The Harry Gibson Cup	
	Bethan Gregory	The Prize for Service to the School and Community (David Johnson)	Hamzah Hamid
The Madison Filter Ltd. Prize for Economics	Toby Cockayd	The Carol Brown Memorial Prize for Service to the Community	Claire Dunne
	Sean Kinsella		Stephen Hill
	Stephen Hill	The Mary Dodds Prize (Head Boy)	Jessica Regan
	Charlotte Livesey	The Mary Dodds Prize (Head Girl)	Samuel Buchanan
The NatWest Bank Prize for Economics	James Curtis	The Mayor of Rossendale's Progress Prize	Hannah Taylor
	Edward Ainsworth		Iffath Javeed
	Benjamin Hinson		Calan Cappelli
			Holly Watson
The Howard Jackson Trophy for Business Studies	Christopher Boon	The Hugh Owen Memorial Prize (Girls)	Liam Healey
The Kingfisher Partnership Prize for Business Studies	Ryan Bury	The Hugh Owen Memorial Prize (Boys)	Hannah Wilkinson
The William Copley French Prize	Rebecca Hardman	The Fred Wild Prize	Alexandra Davis
The D.A. Parkinson & D.T. Ward Abenteuerlicher Simplicitissimus Preis for Germanistick	Benjamin Hinson	The A.D. Neville Prize for Effort	
The J.E. Macleroy Modern Languages Prize	Anna Shahid		
The E.A. Whittaker Memorial Prize for German	Lucie Shaw		
The Dorothy Chadwick Sixth Form History Prize	Georgina Lucas		
The Year 11 History Prize (Margaret Moore)	David Mulhern		
	Umar Iqbal		
	Bobby Thompson		
	Adam Griffin		
	Billie Chadwick		
The GTI Information Technology Award	Bethan Gregory		
The Astech Consultants Award for ICT (A' level)	Rebecca Hardman		
The Astech Consultants Award for Computing (A' level)	Rebecca Hardman		
The Astech Consultants Award for ICT (GCSE)	Christopher Pearson		
The R.L. Hutchinson Memorial Prize for Technology (A' level)	Samuel Quinn		
The R.L. Hutchinson Memorial Prize for Technology (GCSE)	James Mitchell		
The Jill Hughes Prize for Food Technology	Stephen Hill		
	Samuel Quinn		
The James E. Horrocks Biology Prize			
The Philip and Cynthia Clark Prize for Science			
The Glovers Project Services Prize for Effort in Physics			
The E.H. Holden Memorial Prize for Science			
The Lynzee McShea Biology Prize			
The Martyn Morris Prize for Chemistry			



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSSENDALE FREE PRESS
 Head Boy, Declan Hollows, and Head Girl, Alexandra Davis, with Lancashire County Council Leader, Geoff Driver, Headmaster, Marc Morris, and Chairman of Governors, David King.

Leavers' Balls

Year 11 and Year 13 enjoyed their annual leavers' balls and instead of arriving in a limousine, one student, Olivia Birtles, made a fairytale entrance by riding her horse, Jessie.

We wish all Year 13 every success as they pursue their studies, careers and ambitions post-BRGS. Please do keep in touch with all your news!



Year 11



Leavers' Balls



Year 13

Technology Student of 2009

During the summer term, Year 9 technology students were asked to produce a research sheet on materials and processes that could be employed in the school workshop, including our CAD/CAM provision. In their school exam, they were then asked to develop their ideas to create a final design for a trophy to be called "Technology Student of 2009".

After careful deliberation by the Head of Technology, Jonathan Fitton, a winning design was selected and this was manufactured in School. The photograph shows the designer Danielle Leach being presented with her creation.



Maths Around the World Challenge

Along with 85 other Lancashire Schools, BRGS participated in an annual maths challenge organised by Lancashire County Council and sponsored by their economic development department. BRGS won the district final in the competition which had a theme of 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Students on the winning team were Callum Belfield, William Platt, Iffath Javaid and William Cropper.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSSENDALE FREE PRESS

Paul Reeves, Head of Maths at BRGS, said: "Our students have had a fantastic time and area delighted to have won this. It certainly rewards all the hard work they have put into it."

Proposed Building Developments

On the 16th December (after this edition of the newsletter will have gone to press), Lancashire County Council's Development Control Committee will decide whether to approve a proposed building consisting of six classrooms to be located at the top of Mount Avenue next to the School's Sports Hall.

The classroom block is to meet the curricular needs of our existing students and does not involve an increase in school numbers. If approved, the building will enable the School to remove all its temporary classroom stock and to improve the teaching and learning environment at BRGS.

THE BUSINESS AT HAND

Former student, Natasha Litwienko (1989-1996), was casually enjoying her breakfast in the staff canteen at work when TV bosses recruited her for the latest advertising campaign for the supermarket chain, Iceland. Natasha is a full-time hair, make-up and wardrobe stylist and is adding to her extensive career by becoming a hand model.

Natasha believes that she was selected because her hands are quite small and you will be able to spot her hand picking up food items in the up and coming adverts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSSENDALE FREE PRESS

Natasha's current interest is improving her boxing which is not the perfect sport for keeping her hands in tip top condition! She said "I try to train three to four times a week but it can be difficult fitting it around hand modelling. I just hope I don't have to make a decision between the two one day."

Cakes for Charity

Breast Cancer Care benefited from a cheque for £177 after a baking competition and cake sale organised by Year 8 students, Savannah Haworth and Bethany Jones. The pink cake designs were judged by the Headmaster and the winning cakes were created by Amy Fenton and Lucie Connolly with their sparkly fairy cakes.

The cake sale lasted just 10 minutes!



Grandparents' Day

On Friday October 16th 2009, members of Year 7 once again invited their grandparents to spend a day in school with them. Nearly 130 guests joined us for the day and experienced a range of lessons including Art, German, Science, Maths, English and Music.



The day continues to be a popular event in our calendar and the evaluation forms are always a pleasure to read with some lovely comments. Most grandparents commented that they enjoyed the opportunity to understand how the education system has changed over the years and how it is useful to experience their grandchild's daily routine.

A number of grandparents said that they enjoyed "seeing happy children being well-taught."



'Lancashire Day'

The inaugural 'Lancashire Day' in Waterfoot on Saturday 12th September was a roaring success, with fantastic weather and a large crowd of people who gathered to enjoy the day's festivities.

Steel Panic, the School's steel pan band, performed a range of classic hits including *Surfin' USA*, *Red*

Red Wine and *I'm a Believer*. Harriet Nolan in Year 9 also

performed four songs - three of which she wrote herself. All of the musicians thoroughly enjoyed the day and are looking forward to the next 'Lancashire Day'.



A Legacy of Hope

On the 27th January 2010, Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) will mark the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. On this day, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is challenging everyone across the UK to become part of a Legacy of Hope. They have commissioned an artist to work with six schools in the UK to produce pieces of arts with a positive message for HMD.

BRGS was invited to participate because of the innovative cross-curricular approach used by staff when teaching the Holocaust. Form 9B worked with performance artist Phillip Davenport to produce images which will be distributed to schools nationally for the 2010 commemorations. Both Phillip and the HMD education manager, Catherine Bowens, were delighted with the work produced by Year 9 and remarked on the wonderful reception they had been given at BRGS.



China Across the Curriculum

Lion-dancing, origami, watching fireworks, making spring rolls and constructing kites were just some of the activities which students participated in during China Week in October 2009. Year 8 students enjoyed a cross-curricular week of projects with a Chinese theme which culminated in an activity day to consolidate their learning.



Bring a Teddy Day!

Students and staff of all ages were invited to make a donation and bring their favourite teddy bear to school for one day for Children in Need. Teddy

bears of all shapes and sizes arrived in assembly for a photo call. The proviso was that students had to carry their teddy bear around with them all day so some of the larger bears became rather heavy as the day drew on!



Investing in BRGS

Our latest Annual Fund Appeal for 2009-2010 was launched to parents in November. Our first Annual Fund was established three years ago and since then we have raised over £90,000 which has been generously donated by parents and friends of the School to fund projects which have an immediate impact on students' day-to-day learning at BRGS.

Many people support the School with a regular monthly gift which varies in size from £1 per month to over £40 per month. We believe that our Annual

Fund is about participation and not the level of gift. We hope to create a 'community of giving' and we recognise that everyone has different demands on their money and every gift really does count.

To discover more about what we hope to achieve with your support during 2009-2010, please contact Emma Gauntlett on 01706 234502 for an Annual Fund leaflet or download a leaflet from the school website at www.brgs.org.uk

The annual trip to the Moselle Valley in Germany took place just before half term with a group of forty Year 8 students visiting the Roman City of Trier, Castle Eltz, one of the most photographed castles in Germany, and Phantasialand, a theme park near Cologne.



Going for Gold

BRGS has more students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award than any other school in the north-west. The tally of Awardees continues to grow with over 300 bronze, 120 silver and 60 gold awards being gained at BRGS.

Over the summer, Tom Gray, BRGS teacher and Duke of Edinburgh Award co-ordinator, organised a special ceremony with the Mayor of Rossendale during which seven gold awards and two silver awards were presented.

More recently, Stephen Horrocks and Bethan Walton were invited to St James's Palace in London to receive their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from Prince Philip. For their main expedition the pair walked 20 kilometres a day for four days in the Cairngorms in Scotland. They wild-camped for three nights, had to create their own route to walk and produce

a piece of work on glacial features. Bethan is now studying geography at Sheffield University and she said: "You make some great friends. It is also very good to put on your CV as employers tend to value you over others." Only three per cent of their peers have the same award.



Sports Reports

We congratulate George Barnes, Year 13, who has competed in the United Nations Ju-Jitsu International Competition.

Sophie Horrocks continues with her Orienteering achievements, catching the eye of the selectors to be chosen to represent the north-west junior squad at the inter-regional championships. Over the summer holidays, Sophie also gained her Young Sports Leader Award so she is now coaching our Year 7 recruits in the school orienteering team and will hopefully be sharing her success with them!

Sophia's Version

Sophia's Version is a book written by Jane Biran, former BRGS student who was known as Della Dillon whilst at school. Jane visited BRGS in early autumn to meet sixth form English students who were treated to an informal talk and a Question and Answer session about the process of writing.

Jane was evacuated to Rossendale from London during the Second World War. Of her time at BRGS, Jane said: "I received a sound education there for which I will always be grateful and guidance from teachers I have never forgotten."

Now living in Jerusalem, Jane was in the UK to promote *Sophia's Version* which uses the Rossendale Valley as a backdrop and draws on Jane's time at BRGS. The novel focuses on the memories of five siblings when they attend the funeral of their mother and explores their family history and hidden truths.

Jane is an adviser to an international charity supporting projects for children at risk, music and medical research in the UK, Israel, China, and in the former Soviet Union. She has worked in public relations, journalism and fund-raising and has written many published articles and reports.

Grammar School Girls

Following in the successful footsteps of the Grammar School Boys book which was the brainchild of Alan Torevell and told the stories of six boys who started school at BRGS in 1947, Gill Nolan née Ashworth (left 1976) has cajoled a number of successful former students into writing an equivalent book for the girls!

Contributors include Betty Jackson, Natalie Casey, Anna-Jane Casey, Margaret Everett née Hill, Elsey Harney née Hargreaves, Janet Barrie, Joan Lazaroff née Farrow, Jane Biran (known as Della Dillon), Lauren Gosnell and Fiona Buddell née Burnside.

If you would like a copy of the book at a cost of £10, please send a cheque for £12 (to include postage and packing) made payable to BRGS to Emma Gauntlett, BRGS, Glen Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 7BJ. Alternatively, you can buy a book bundle of both the Grammar School Boys book and the Grammar School Girls book for the bargain price of £15 (plus £2 for postage and packing).

Obituaries

We were saddened to learn of the following:

Jessica Heap née Ingham (1959 – 1966) sadly died on 6th October at the Royal Blackburn Hospital, aged 61. Jessica had a long association with BRGS as a student and also through her husband, David Heap, who died in April 2007. David was Chairman of Governors at BRGS for nearly 20 years, assuming the role in 1988.

Jessica had taught in many of the Valley primary schools through her 35 year career and throughout her life she was an active member of St Mary's Church: Jessica was christened and married at the church; she was a member of the church choir and the Mothers' Union and she was a Brownie Leader.

She leaves her son Richard and his wife Hilary and daughter Matilda, and son Joel and his fiancée Emma. She also leaves her elder sister Patsy and her brother, Andrew.

We send our love to Jessica's family.

Many former students will have fond memories of **Dr. Milton Ormerod** who died on 4th November 2009, aged 87. Dr. Ormerod was a pupil at BRGS from 1933 – 1939 and taught

chemistry at BRGS from 1945 – 1967, becoming in turn Senior Chemistry master and then Senior Science master. He then moved to Brunel University as Lecturer in Education, becoming Senior Lecturer there. In addition to his BSc in 1942, he held the Diploma in Advanced Studies in Education (Manchester) 1966, was awarded a PhD by Brunel University, and had the Certificate in Chemistry (CChem) and Fellowship (FRSC) from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Dr. Ormerod published over 50 papers in learned journals, devised kits of chemistry models and published 'The Architecture and Properties of Matter'.

Dr. Ormerod's students remember him for his broad Lancashire accent, his fine teaching and his mischievous sense of fun.

He leaves his wife Dorothy, sons Peter, Richard and George and their wives, four grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Our condolences go to the family of **Mary Donald** née Grimshaw (1930 – 1936) who died three days short of her 90th birthday on Islay Island where she had been a resident for some fifty years. Mary had attended a number of BRGS reunions over the years.

Who? What? Where? When?



It seems like the past two photographs in recent editions of our newsletter have proved too tricky for anyone to identify any of the students featured.

If you do happen to recognise anyone in this photograph please do get in touch with Emma at ecg@brgs.org.uk or on 01706 234500.

Message Board

- Our congratulations go to Gill Spokes, Assistant Head and Mark Smith, Technology Technician, on the birth of their second daughter, Scarlett, and to Jo Matthews, Head of Music and her husband, Gav, on the arrival of Luke weighing over 10lb! We wish Emma Oswell from the General Office an enjoyable maternity leave and also, Gemma Grehan, Assistant Head of Year 13, a happy maternity leave before baby Grehan is due to arrive in January 2010. We congratulate Kevin and Gemma on their marriage and Hannah Strickland, English teacher, to Andrew King, former biology teacher and student at BRGS.
- Adam Taylor (1998 – 2005) completed his M.Eng at Oxford this summer and is taking time out to travel the length of South America. His brother, Ross, is now studying Architecture at Bath University.
- Jon Benn (1978 – 1985) is due to cycle in summer 2010 from Lands End to John O’Groats to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. If you are able to contribute to his fundraising efforts, please find out more information and donate online via the “Just Giving” website at www.justgiving.com/JABcyclinglandsendtojohnogroats.
- At the beginning of the new term we welcomed Joe Jones, ICT teacher, Jenny Magill, MFL teacher, Suzanne McGroarty and Natasha Richardson as Cover Supervisors, Andrea Price and Sandra Callaghan to the Music Department, Kristy Todd as a PE/Dance teacher and Pamela Walsh as an Accounting / Maths teacher. We wish them a happy and successful time at BRGS.



Staying in a converted barn in Longsleddale in eastern Cumbria, members of Year 9 enjoyed walks on the beautiful fells and played team games.

Dates for your diary

4th February

School Dance Production

25th – 27th March

Drama Production of ‘Betrayal’

31st March

Spring Music Concert

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



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