



Spring
2011

Friends of BRGS

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

ISSUE
23

Helping Earthquake Survivors in New Zealand

Post-BRGS, Ian Nuttall (1991 – 1998) gained a degree in Environmental Geoscience at Birmingham University and then joined the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service. After gaining a diploma in Specialist Rescue he was then selected as a team member for Leicestershire's contingent of the UK International Search and Rescue Team (UK ISAR) who deploy people around the world to provide search and rescue at various disasters.



Training for search and rescue

Recently Ian flew over to Christchurch, New Zealand with the 61 strong UK ISAR after the earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit the city. Ian spent nearly a month helping with the recovery efforts. He said: "The task the UK team was given was demanding and technically difficult: we had to systematically destroy an entire office block. It took over 150 hours of round-the-clock operations to complete but we successfully removed all the victims."



In New Zealand

Ian has been awarded a prestigious 2011 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (www.wcmt.org.uk) and hopes to use this to explore disaster response in the USA. Ian said: "I will be meeting with other rescue teams, people that have been involved in hurricane disaster relief and earthquake situations. I want to see what they have learned and how I can apply this learning elsewhere."

Welcome!

This edition brings us news of BRGS students achieving academically in the school league tables and excelling in a range of extra-curricular activities. If you take a look at the Sports Reports section you will read of students performing at county and national level in netball, basketball, cross-country running and climbing.

Former students will be saddened to learn of the death of Miss Jean E Macleroy, French teacher and Senior Mistress, whose career spanned over three decades at BRGS. Her loyalty to the school was immense and many ex-students have been in touch to share their memories of 'Ma Mac'. A full obituary will follow in our summer 'Friends of BRGS'.

A date has now been confirmed for a get-together for former students working in the construction industry. Further details of the event to take place on 17th May can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

Happy reading and enjoy the forthcoming bank holidays!

Emma

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BRGS magnificent at the moot

On 20th November our sixth form moot team took time out of their weekend to participate in a mock trial at Preston Crown Court.

The team of barristers (Katie Corteen, Alex Jones, Sammy Kierans and Sarah Lees), witnesses (Adam Hathaway, Jo Brierley, Henna Jahangir, Kelly Ngan and Laura-Beth Thompson), court clerk/usher, (Jason Ngan) and jurors (Ebony Duffy, Katie Bailey, Mark Cudworth, Ayesha Iqbal, Beth Greenhalgh and Jodie Andrews) competed against local schools for a place in the finals. The cases were reported on by our resident journalist Alex Stonebanks.

The team mooted two trials, one concerning an assault and the second concerning the theft of a car. The winning team was decided by real Crown Court Judges. The team won two of their three trials and were beaten by a point to the finals by Clitheroe Grammar School. However, they performed exceptionally well given that most of the team were year 12 students who had never mooted before and had only a few weeks to prepare. Adam Hathaway did so well in his role as the defendant he was personally singled out by the judge and highly praised.



Pupils Puzzle it Out

A group of young mathematicians recently took part in the North-West Final of the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Team Challenge competition.

The competition was held in the Great Hall of the Sackville Street Building at the University of Manchester, providing a tremendous backdrop to the event and a chance for the youngsters to experience life inside a 110-year-old university building.

Competing against pupils from 27 other schools, the team comprised Georgina Chick and William Taylor (both 8G) and Elizabeth Gallagher and Flynn Pollitt (9N).

The competition was divided into four rounds of mathematical problems - a team challenge, a cross-number puzzle, a head-to-head contest and finally the exhausting team relay.

Although, BRGS didn't win the competition, the team did extremely well to finish in the top half, especially as they were up against pupils from the likes of Manchester Grammar School and Sale Grammar School, who have already taken their GCSE Maths exam.

BRGS Maths teacher Mr Wilbraham, who accompanied the team, said: "It was a challenging competition that really stretched pupils' mathematical knowledge and application.

"I was very proud of the way our team applied themselves to every aspect of the competition and feel they got a lot out of the day.

"The pupils all said they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and although it was disappointing not to have won, it was a good experience and one which I hope we can repeat in future years."

The puzzles and problems used in the competition will shortly be on the website of the UKMT (<http://www.mathcomp.leeds.ac.uk/team-challenges/team-challenge/>), but as a taster, here is one of the questions from the day.

Using only the digits 1, 3, 5 and 5, with any of the four mathematical operators (+, -, × and ÷) and brackets, if necessary, can you make a value of 16?



ZIGI'S MESSAGE

As part of Holocaust Memorial Week Year 9 students were moved by a presentation by Holocaust Survivor Zygmunt (Zigi) Shipper. Zigi's message was clear: *"The more we understand each other – the less hatred there is about."*

Zigi has never known what happened to his father who fled his native Poland as it was becoming overrun by the German army. At the age of twelve Zigi escaped from a Nazi truck after being hurled onto it by a German soldier. At fourteen he was sent to Auschwitz. Zigi was classed as fit to work by the Nazis so survived the gas chambers. On 3rd May 1945, almost dying from typhus and malnutrition, he was freed from the labour camps.

Zigi now lives in Hertfordshire with his French wife of 56 years, Jeanette, and has two daughters and six grandchildren.



Zigi said: *"We, the survivors, are dying out. There are so few left these days. It is always asked whether I hate the Germans. But I have no animosity against Germans. People can't understand when I say no. Those people that did it I can't forgive, but hate the German people? No. Who would suffer if that was the case? Me. Those who hate the Germans have never been in a camp."*

History teacher Margaret Stanley said: *"The students have heard of Schindler but not other stories so the focus this year has been on untold stories. The students have gained a great deal from Holocaust Memorial Week and were incredibly moved by Zigi's visit."*

Students wrote to Zigi after his visit to express their thanks and some of their messages are shared below:

George Scrivens: *"...you have knitted a place in our hearts, and will never be forgotten."*

Bradley Kett Harrison: *"I shall never forget you or your story and I shall pass it down to the people I love and care for"*

Olivia Wallwork: *"You are a beacon of hope for people everywhere, you make us want to keep on going and fight for our goals."*

Millie Carpenter and Georgia Smith: *"We will never forget your story, your past is our future, you made us realise that hate is a very strong word and that it is not my job to do so."*

Patrick Barlow: *"I will make sure that you and all of the victims are remembered for evermore. You are the most inspirational person I will ever meet."*

Young Volunteer of the Year

Jared Brown in Year 11 was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year at the Pride in Rossendale 2011 Awards. Jared volunteers with VISION in Rawtenstall and he helps to run a weekly get-together for younger teenagers as well as a youth café on the Hall Carr estate. More than 130 guests packed The Riverside at Whitworth to pay tribute to people who go the extra mile to help others in the Rossendale Valley. Naming him Young Volunteer of the Year, judges paid tribute to how he was a 'conscientious and an excellent role model' for other young people.

The Mayor of Rossendale, Councillor Trevor Unsworth, presented the awards and a spokesman from the council said: "The awards recognise the outstanding performance and dedication shown by individuals and groups living and working in the local community."



Jared Brown

Photo courtesy of the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

Debate Matters

In September 2010 the Debating Society at BRGS was reawakened after a 33 year gap since its last meeting.

At the last debate in October 1977 the motion to be discussed was: "This House believes that the Government's policy towards comprehensive education is misguided." Other debates during the 1970s included: punk rock is the symptom of a corrupt society; a Lancashire Lass has no need of Women's Lib; and all sensible Britons should vote "no" in the referendum and take us out of the European Economic Community.

The Debating Society also staged balloon debates and on the 20th May 1977 Elvis Presley won the debate with Spike Milligan, Jimmy Carter and Margaret Thatcher all being thrown out of the balloon!

Since it was reformed by a number of eager sixth form students some of the debates have included:

"This House believes that the best war on terror is in fact the war on poverty."

"This House believes that there should be complete freedom of speech in the arts."

"This House believes that it is right for students who benefit from a university education to pay for this privilege."

Two balloon debates have also been held. The first consisted of God, the Queen, Freddie Mercury, Nick Griffin and a Chilean miner, with God, seemingly representing all faiths, winning the debate. The second had a Christmas theme with Rudolph, Jesus, an elf, the Grinch and St. Nick all fighting for survival but with the hard-working elf winning the day!

In the last Friends of BRGS we reported on Year 13 students Chrissy McMahon and Catriona Watson reaching the regional finals of the Cambridge University Schools' Debating Competition. The regional finals were held at the Grammar School at Leeds on 26th January and Catriona and Chrissy competed against teams from Silverdale School, Newcastle Royal Grammar School and Bradford Grammar School. They had 15 minutes to prepare for the first debate on whether prisoners should have the vote and then a further 15 minutes before their second debate on whether sports teams should be punished for the behaviour of their fans. Catriona and Chrissy put forward some passionate and well-argued points, performing against veteran debaters, and just missed the top spot with Silverdale School winning and progressing to the national finals in Cambridge.

On 5th February the following teams entered an intensive day-long competition run by Manchester University's Debating Society: Toby Craddock and Emily Tanner (Year 13); Camille Cittanova (Year 13) and Jordan Protano-Byrne (Year 12) and Catriona Watson and Laura-Beth Thompson (Year 13). Each team had four unprepared debates against competitors who were obviously seasoned professionals and knew each other on the debating circuit. Forty-eight schools participated (192 students) and the winning team was St. Paul's A team which accumulated 622 speaker points.

Our students performed exceptionally well with all our teams gaining between 549 – 567 speaker points. Since the competition they have been enthusiastically encouraging lower school students to join Debating Society to help to embed a culture of debating throughout the school.

MRS. TAYLOR'S LAST DAY

Friday 17th December marked the end of an era in BRGS history as Lynda Taylor, Deputy Head, stepped down from her post after a career spanning 24 years at BRGS.

Our end of term assembly provided the perfect opportunity for Marc Morris to pay tribute to the enormous contribution which Lynda has made to thousands of students at BRGS. As the Pastoral Deputy Head she has supported innumerable young people through their 'ups and downs' and has always gone the extra mile to ensure that young people are happy and well-supported at BRGS. Marc Morris spoke of our last Ofsted inspection in which the school was graded 'outstanding' in relation to the personal development and well-being of students which the Head attributed to Lynda's tireless work. A tradition at BRGS is for long-serving members of staff to choose a reading or a piece of music which they would like in their 'final assembly'. Lynda chose Tennyson's 'Ulysses' which brought a tear to the eye when read by English teacher Ben Ventress. A couple of surprise pieces of music were also included: Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and by way of a complete contrast, Meatloaf's 'Bat Out of Hell' - two of Lynda's favourites but for very different reasons!

Over lunch staff past and present, governors and friends gathered for formal speeches to recognise Lynda's dedication to BRGS. One of Lynda's many responsibilities was organising school assemblies and the school's ethos and values were cleverly encapsulated and embedded in all of Lynda's assemblies. However, in order to look over the lectern when delivering assemblies, she always stood on a very thick dictionary. Much to Lynda's bemusement this dictionary disappeared a couple of days before her retirement only for Trevor Elkington, Deputy Head, to present it to her as a gift during her leaving speeches!

Marc made a further speech to staff and concluded that 'over twenty eight years in education there has been no one who better exemplifies the concept of 'finding one's vocation' than Lynda.'

A number of former students and staff contributed to a surprise book of 'good luck messages' presented to Lynda. Some of the messages are included below to illustrate the high regard in which she is held:

"What superb commitment, enthusiasm and love you have given to BRGS and its pupils. You have been a key figure in its success through your nurturing approach and high expectations."

"Mrs. Taylor was a bundle of fun and her lessons were a joy. She is an excellent teacher and what a good sport!"

"Your legacy amongst other things will be staff and students that were well supported and looked after."

"I will always remember that you cared for the pupils whoever they were and whatever they had done. BRGS would not be where it is today without you. It will miss you."

Never one to rest on her laurels, since retiring Lynda has taken up a new role working for Manchester University with their initial teacher trainees and is still teaching her sixth form students at BRGS until May. She has even managed to squeeze in a fantastic and well-deserved trip to see the northern lights and is planning to spend more time visiting her son, Richard, in Cambridge and holidaying in the Philippines to see her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. We wish her every happiness and our loss does not feel too unbearable as we know that she will keep in touch with all her friends at BRGS.

Auf Wiedersehen Mr. Ward

Derek Ward retired at the end of the Christmas term but was sadly unable to join us for an official presentation. Derek has made a sterling contribution to BRGS over 33 years and comments from former students sum up the impact which he has had on thousands of former students:

"My favourite teacher of all time retiring! You were a true inspiration to me taking me through to my German A' Level and a couple of language prizes on the way."

"I have very happy memories of German and Russian classes at BRGS with Herr Ward!"

"You ignited a passion in me, not just for the German language, but for all languages...their history, usage and idiosyncrasies. I am eternally grateful."

"Thank you for being such an inspirational teacher and for giving me my love of German. I am also a German teacher now in Leeds. I remember those fantastic trips to Solingen – how brave you were to take us to Germany and sorry for soaking you on the log flume in Phantasialand!"

Thank you, Derek, for your huge contribution to BRGS and viel glück for your retirement!

BRGS staff in 1985. Derek Ward is fourth from the right on the back row.



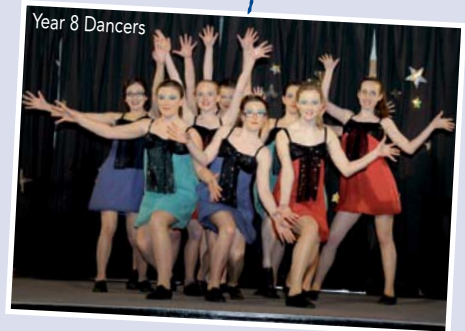
The Time Warp-Da

Over the past seven months, Year 7 – 13 students have attended dance practices at lunchtime and after-school in preparation for the school dance show *The Time Warp*. The dedicated group of pupils studied a variety of dance styles including street, jive, disco, jazz and contemporary under the direction of Kristy Todd, Head of Dance.

Many pupils involved in the show had not attended any formal training outside of school so had to stay focused to ensure that they mastered different styles of dance and many complex techniques.

The students took us on a trip through the years starting with Elvis in the 50s and continuing through into 2010. Dance Captains Alice-Jane Evans, Lauren Jenkins, Madeleine Lewis, Sophie Marsden, Mary Green and Gabriella Wilson choreographed dances for the show in addition to leading and assisting at lower school practices. The show was performed over two nights on 23rd and 24th March and was a great success for all involved.

A series of new dances will start being taught in September and additional members are always welcome. Dance Club provides an opportunity for pupils to express themselves creatively whilst keeping fit and having fun!



Dance Production 2011

Head of Dance, Kristy Todd at the Dance Show Finale



Chloe Hetherington



Top Class Brass!

In February five BRGS students and one ex-student competed in the regional brass band championships in Blackpool with Whitworth Band. The band came second and will now represent the north-west in the national finals in the autumn! Congratulations to the following: Sophie Milton, Luke Dempsey, Jonny Willetts, Georgia Davies, George Salt and Aaron Wolfe.

LEAGUE TABLE SUCCESS

BRGS has featured high on the school league tables which were published in February.

In terms of our A' level results we were ranked 33rd in the country according to average point score achieved per student when compared to all independent and state schools. We were 19th in the country when comparing against state schools only.

At GCSE level we also performed exceptionally well. 83% of our students obtained the new English Baccalaureate qualification (a measure of how many pupils achieve grades A-C* in core subjects – maths, English, two science qualifications, a foreign language and either history or geography) against a national average of 15.6% and a Local Education Authority average of 14%.

Not only were we thrilled with the exam results we were also delighted by an article in the Sunday Times newspaper on 6th February 2001 in which we were listed as one of the five top selective schools providing 'value for money' along with Colyton Grammar in Devon, St Ambrose College in Cheshire, Westcliff High School for Boys in Essex and Altrincham Boys' Grammar in Cheshire.



Featured in the photograph are Alex Marlow, Olivia Birtles and Corey Beardsmore who performed in Year 13 student Chrissy McMahon's labour of love 'Chips With Change' which she wrote and produced. The play was directed by Head of Drama, Martin Neve.

Speech Night Guest Speakers

For Junior Speech Night we were delighted to welcome back former student Dr. Stephen Clark, rail programme director for the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive. Professor David Whittaker, forensic dentist and academic, was our guest speaker at the Senior Speech Night in December. It was a pleasure to welcome back both former students who shared memories of their time at BRGS and congratulated students on their exam achievements.



Find us on Facebook

BRGS now has its own official Facebook page for former students to stay in touch with the school. We shall continue to post information about forthcoming events and news on the school website but we shall also keep our Facebook page up-to-date. To find us on Facebook please click on the Facebook logo on the school's website home page at www.brgs.org.uk

Dreaming Spires of Oxford

Three Year 12 BRGS students attended an Oxford University Faculty of English Language and Literature open day on 5th February.

Students received an introductory talk by Dr Helen Moore concerning English at Oxford University. They were then treated to an inspiring lecture by Dr Simon Palfrey entitled 'Shakespeare: Words, Bodies, Action!' which encouraged them to challenge some of their preconceptions about Shakespeare and the creation/interpretation of meaning in his texts.



After lunch, students attended a session with Dr Sos Eltis concerning the admissions process, receiving many valuable tips and viewing a simulated interview. Students were then able to question existing students before being taken on a tour of the Oxford colleges. A great day was had by all despite the 5 a.m. start!

Year 12 student Rebecca Shutt said: "It was excellent. You could really tell the lecturers were really enthused by their subject areas. It was helpful to be talked through the lengthy admissions process, and made me feel calmer about applying. It's a beautiful city, and wonderful place; the atmosphere and the special sort of culture the university seems to have just makes you want to be a part of it. We were taken around Mansfield College and Magdalen - which had actual deer! The libraries were definitely the best part though, so old-looking and filled to the ceilings with books! It was like heaven. I wish I could have stayed!"



Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards

Recent guests at St. James's Palace included Alistair Higson and Sam Wardle who were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award certificates. Radio and TV broadcaster Jeremy Vine was one of the celebrity guests on hand to assist Prince Philip with presenting certificates. Also spotted at the ceremony were Simone Kelly, Vicci Rishton, Alison Stonebanks and Katie Bickford so if you have any photos then do send them in and we will include them in the next edition!



Sports Reports

Since December 2010 BRGS students have been enjoying a new all-weather pitch. The top playing field with its poor drainage and unfortunate slope (which could be used to our advantage in inter-school competitions!) was converted by Lancashire County Council to be a shared resource for BRGS and Waterfoot Primary School. Students from both the primary school and BRGS used the facility for the first time before Christmas in a football competition where St. Saviour's Primary School and Waterfoot Primary School finished the game with a draw and BRGS Year 7 students won their first match on the surface. Marc Morris, Headmaster, said: "The new artificial pitch is a much needed and outstanding additional sporting facility at BRGS – students are already benefiting from this new facility during PE lessons, practices and matches."

English Schools' Basketball

Our under-16 English Schools' basketball team has been performing exceptionally well and played Archbishop Temple in the Lancashire semi-final. Martin Pigott, P.E. teacher, wrote: "Danny Mosley defended their best player out of the game. Ben Chicken, Ben Geraghty, and Connor Porter were unstoppable in attack scoring 28, 14 and 44 points respectively and were ably-assisted by Saxon Rogers, Ashley Greenwood, David Burns, Macaulay Leivers and Adil Siddiki." The final score was 94-78. In the last 32 teams, BRGS was then due to play Archbishop Temple again but given their recent defeat they forfeited the match and BRGS is now in the last 16 of the national competition!



National Netball Finals



Our under-16 netball team played in the National Finals in Southampton on 19th March. Over 700 teams enter the competition and 18 teams progressed to the National Finals. The girls trained hard over the year and played some excellent netball. They failed to qualify for the semi-finals by just one goal but finished 5th in the country – a fantastic achievement! The squad consisted of Charlotte Preston (Captain), Mollie Campbell, Emily Panton, Georgina Lucas, Lindsay Ashworth, Naomi Watson, Harriet Whitworth, Natasha Chetwynd, Carys Keeble, Natalie Briggs, Hannah Smees and Amy Turner. Georgia Boys was the reserve.

Lancashire Schools' Junior Girls' Cross Country Champion

Rebecca Flanagan, Year 9, ran through rain and mud to win the Lancashire Schools' Junior Girls' cross country title. Rebecca had an epic battle against Alisha Johnson from the Wyre over the last 600 metres of the race. She proved to be the strongest runner after slowly moving up the ranks during the first lap and then timing her downhill run to perfection before the long run to the finish. Other successful BRGS runners were Leah Williamson who was the best placed Rossendale athlete in the Inter Girls' race (12th place), Sophie Murphy came 17th in her Year 7 race, Joe Moores finished in 11th place in the Senior Boys' race and Dominic Walton came 8th. Congratulations to other BRGS students participating in the race: Anna Shepherd, Hannah Goldswain, Connor Richardson, Daniel Taylor and Amy MacFarlane.

Rock Climbing and Bouldering Club

Over the last 12 months a dedicated group of sixth form students under the leadership of Marc Morris, Headmaster, have established a rock climbing and bouldering club. Indoor climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK and the North West is particularly well-served with accessible venues.

The group meet twice a week with a Tuesday evening bouldering session at Boulder UK, Blackburn and a climbing and bouldering session at Awesome Walls, Stockport, on Friday. There have been additional forays to other venues – Rock Over Climbing in Manchester, Birchen Edge in Derbyshire and The Climbing Hangar in Liverpool.

It has been really enjoyable to see the impressive development and technical improvement during the course of the last year. Bouldering routes are graded in ascending order from V0 to V8 and beyond – many members are now able to complete routes at an impressive V5 and V6.

Roped climbing begins with top roped routes for safety and to teach technique. Many members have progressed from top roped climbing to lead climbing and completed a five week 'learning to lead' course at the Manchester Climbing Centre. Similarly impressive results have been achieved with members leading routes of up to 7a in difficulty. Roped grades begin at 4a, and rise in 3 ascending levels through 5 a,b,c, 6 a,b,c, 7 a,b,c and so on.

The members who completed the 'learning to lead' course are now in a position to be assessed for the NICAS (National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme) level 4 & 5 award.

It is certainly the case that some students have got the climbing bug! They have independently taken part in national competitions in Manchester and Sheffield.

The climbing and bouldering group is open to any sixth form students. It offers a series of benefits and challenges: problem solving, strength, flexibility, body awareness and physical development – all in a safe, supportive and fun environment.



Who? What? Where? When?



Elizabeth Matthews née Pickup, Hazel Pretty, Jane Biran née Margradel (Della) Dillon, Janice Lee née Airey, Betty Edwards née Rayner, Christine and Mike Gastall and Judith May née Horrocks all wrote regarding the 5A form photo from 1952/3 in the last newsletter. Boys L to R – Keith Ashworth, Ian Watts, Brian Schofield, Neville Pollard, Francis Fishwick, Peter Haigh, Raymond Blackledge, John Lord, Vernon Moyers, Roger Lord, Kenneth Brierley, Michael Gastall. Girls L to R, middle row – Hazel Pretty, Vivien Rothwell, Marion Barnes, Betty Walmsley, Zoe Harrison, Sheila Hutchinson, Gillian Horstead, Dorothy Hargreaves. Front row L to R – Elizabeth Pickup, Margaret Eddy, Joan Bainbridge, Kathleen Heys, Miss Dorothy Moore (Big D), Irene Dawson, Pat Smith, Dorothy Ashworth and Judith Horrocks.

Here is a further photo from our BRGS archive. If you recognise anyone then please do get in touch.



1953 Bird-watching Society

Obituaries

We were saddened to learn of the following:



Jean Macleroy

A BRGS stalwart, **Jean E Macleroy** fondly known as Ma Mac, sadly died at the age of 92 years on Saturday 19th March. Miss Mac was a French teacher at BRGS from 1945-1978

and Senior Mistress from 1965-1978. She dedicated her life to her 'beloved BRGS'. The news of her death came as this newsletter went to print so a full obituary will appear in our next edition. If anyone has any memories of Miss Mac they would like to share then please do contact Angela Wardle at aw@brgs.org.uk.

The BRGS community was shocked and saddened to learn the tragic news that **Tom Elmer** died in an industrial accident in Liverpool on 7th December 2010. Tom was 27 years old and was a former student of Waterfoot Primary School and BRGS. Tom attended the 38th Rossendale Scouts and Cubs and when he was seven he joined the Rossendale Rugby Club becoming a popular member of the club and playing for the Lancashire Youth Rugby Team. He was well-respected and much-loved in the Rossendale community raising money for Christmas parties held in Cowpe for senior citizens and for children. He enjoyed dog training and trained the two family sheepdogs and he also liked motorcycling with his friends. Many members of staff and former pupils attended the funeral service on 23rd December at St. Nicholas Church, Newchurch in memory of Tom and in support of his family.

Professor John Douglas Mitchell (left 1968) died in February after a short illness with cancer. A highly respected hospital consultant, Douglas died at the age of 59. He had always been supportive of BRGS, helping to organise whole school reunions and even contributing to one of the evening concerts, sharing his exceptional talent as a pianist. His wife, Christine, said: "As well as being incredibly bright and intelligent, he had a great sense of humour and was very entertaining." Douglas was associated Medical Director at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals as well as Director of Research and was the Director of the Preston Motor Neurone Disease Care and Research Centre which was one of the first services of its kind in the UK. Sean Hughes, Medical Director at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Professor Mitchell was eminent in many areas, such as motor neurone disease, and he was instrumental in developing our research programme. His extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for learning meant he was a great role model for junior doctors. We often received positive feedback from patients and relatives about the care and treatment provided by Professor Mitchell, and his death will be a sad loss for many of them."

'Tuck Shop' owner **Evelyn Snowden** died peacefully on 13th March at Royal Blackburn Hospital. Evelyn bought the Tuck Shop on Booth Road in 1950 along with her husband, Edgar and the shop was her home and livelihood for over 37 years keeping her busy serving generations of pupils. At noon every school day until 1.30 p.m. the shop was packed selling the speciality penny cocktail lollies with their own recipe plus 'cob and crisps'. After Edgar sadly died in 1971 Evelyn maintained the family business until she retired at 72 in

1987 when Harry Gibson, Acting Headmaster at the time, wrote a letter stating: "As you have been an extended school institution for so long I did not want the occasion to pass without writing, on behalf of the school, to wish you a long and happy retirement." Former Head Girl at the time Anita Harwood also wrote to Evelyn: "I wanted to express my thanks on behalf of the pupils, past and present, for putting up with us for so many years. I realise it can't have been easy, and I'm sure there were times when you dreaded the flood of blue uniforms into your shop at about five to twelve every day without fail. Yet, you always came out smiling, putting up with the fifth-form leaving days, eggs and flours, and even signed a few shirts (mine included)!" After retiring Evelyn volunteered at The Red Cross Shop in Waterfoot.

Jack Keyes sadly died on 14th January aged 82 years. His wife said that "he spent five very happy years at BRGS after being evacuated from Salford in 1939. He never forgot his time at BRGS or the friends he made there."

Ted Rayner (1932-1936) died on 1st January 2011. Ted served in the R.A.F. during the war years. Enlisting in 1939 he trained to be a pilot and flew with Coastal Command operating from bases in Iceland and Greenland. His book "Coastal Command Pilot" received much acclaim and is still widely available. Ted became a teacher and later a Head of a Secondary Modern School in Cranbrook. He later produced several paintings of Rye in East Sussex.

Former Latin and English teacher at BRGS **Dr. Anthony Finlay** (1956 – 1960) has died. His wife, Margaret wrote that "he had such fond memories of his time at BRGS."

- Former student Jennifer Pilling (left 2009) is raising money for the charity Comrades of Children Overseas (COCO) which helps with healthcare and educational initiatives for children living in poverty. Jennifer needs to raise £3,200 to travel to Tanzania to volunteer in a village in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro which she will climb in the summer as part of her expedition. To sponsor Jennifer please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Jennifer-Pilling>
- Congratulations to the following students who successfully graduated from Newcastle University in July 2010: Ashley Scott, Environmental Science BSc Honours, Kim Buckland, Business Accounting and Finance BA Honours, Matthew Gosnell, Mathematics and Psychology BSc Honours, Katie Greenwood, Geography BSc Honours, Ben Hill, History BA Honours, Gemma Torkington, Politics BA Honours and Laura Whittaker, Architectural Studies, BA Honours.
- Celebrating further degree success, our congratulations go to former student Don Hartley who at the age of 80 has collected his second degree – this time receiving first class honours in history.
- Our congratulations go to Kenneth Waterson (1936 – 1941) and Renée Waterson née Ruston (1940 – 1944) who were married on 20th January 1951 and celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year which they marked with a holiday in Madeira.

Date for your diary: Alumni Networking Reception – Tuesday 17th May

Former students with careers in the construction industry and current BRGS sixth form students interested in pursuing a career in the sector are invited to a networking reception from 4.30 – 6.30 p.m. at Glovers Project Services Ltd. in Accrington. The event is being kindly hosted by former student Mary Cross. Gary Seed, Architect from Strzala Bright Seed Architects in Manchester will be talking about the new Eco Station in Accrington and John Boys, Director of B&E Boys will also be making a short presentation. For additional details and to confirm your attendance please contact Angela Wardle at aw@brgs.org.uk

Alumni Year Group Representatives

As BRGS approaches its Centenary in 2013 we hope to involve as many former students as possible so that alumni are aware of any celebratory events and are encouraged to get involved! To help us to keep in touch with you we have a group of former students who have kindly agreed to be alumni year group representatives. The following people are your year group representatives:

Name	Year Left	Email address*
Mr Peter Meeks	1948	
Mr Clive Martin	1950	
Mr Colin Everett	1953	lion.crevette@uwclub.net
Mr and Mrs Alan and Barbara Torevell	1954	ATorevell@dewhurst-torevell.co.uk
Dr Linda Cottier née Hutchinson	1958	lmcottier@manx.net
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Miss Alexandra Davis	2010	

*To contact former students without email addresses any correspondence can be forwarded by Angela at aw@brgs.org.uk

We would ask that you continue to communicate via Emma and Angela in the Development Office as your main contacts but your representative is an additional person for you to correspond with if you would like to raise anything specific to your year. As you can see from the list, we are still in the early stages of developing this programme so if your year group does not yet have a representative and you would like to fill that gap then please do get in touch with Angela at aw@brgs.org.uk.



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