



**Winter
2011**

Friends of BRGS

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

**ISSUE
25**

21st Century Classroom Building

Our brand new English Faculty building was officially opened by Leader of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Geoff Driver (former pupil) on Monday 21st November. The event was attended by Governors and specially invited guests including former English teaching staff. After Geoff cut the ribbon, selected students read pieces of their own creative work which had been written specifically for the occasion. The guests were then invited to take a tour of the new facilities.



Building work started in the summer of 2010, and the resulting new building is extremely impressive, with large classrooms, computer suite and offices, all equipped with the necessary technologies to enhance teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Geoff Driver and Trevor Elkington



Welcome!

First and foremost, we send our love and congratulations to Emma and her husband, Steve Haycocks (former Assistant Headteacher) on the birth of their second child, a baby boy, on 17th November. Both mother and baby are well, and we wish them all the very best. Emma will be on maternity leave for a while, and although she will be keeping in contact with school, please do keep in touch with us here at BRGS using my contact details as below.

As always, the Autumn Term at BRGS is extremely busy, with new Year 7 students settling in, and older students working hard towards exams taking place in January, plus a wonderful array of events and activities to make life at BRGS so fulfilling.

Sadly at the end of this term, we have to say a sorry farewell to two of our long-serving members of staff – Dr Andrew Edwards and Heather Edwards. We wish them a long and happy retirement and we shall report in the next edition on their last day here at school.

We also said goodbye to Michel Sautejeau, our Finance & Admin Manager, in September after 15 years with us and we wish him the very best.

In January, we welcome our new headmaster, Alan Porteous, (currently Headteacher at St Aidans Technology College, Poulton le Flyde). We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Trevor Elkington (Deputy Headteacher/Director of Sixth Form) who has taken charge at the helm by standing in as acting headmaster for this autumn term.

Lastly, please can you ensure that we have a correct email address for you? With our communication relying to a greater extent on email, we are finding that some of our emails are going astray. Please do advise me of any contact detail changes.

On behalf of everyone at BRGS, I wish you all the season's greetings and a happy new year!

Angela

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New staff in September

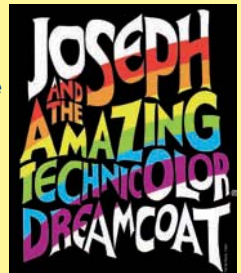
In September we welcomed a number of new members of staff to BRGS: Rachel Shipston, Peter Flynn and Andrew Skitt joined the Biology Department; David Ollier to the Food Technology Department; Arwa Mohamedbhai joined the Psychology Department; Gemma Doodson will teach English and Sara Bowdler, MFL. We also welcomed Joanna Le Put as a temporary teaching assistant, and Mike Armstrong as a Cover Supervisor.

We wish them all every success in their new roles.

Coming to BRGS....

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

At the time of going to press, the Drama, Dance and Music Departments are at fever pitch preparing for our forthcoming musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Martin Neve, our Head of Drama, has once again agreed to produce and direct the show and this year we have three musical directors: Steve Mercer (Head of Music), Andrea Price and Joanne Matthews. Our new Head of Dance, Kristy Todd has agreed to furnish the show with some additional flair and Sue Kennedy (Head of Year 7) has the unenviable task of doing every job under the sun! The show will be held at school in early December, and please do look out for the review in the next edition of *Friends of BRGS* in the spring.



Artist in Residence

Artist in residence Krista Howell has been working with the year 12 students on their recent project 'Nature of Symbolism'. Through demonstration, guidance and showing examples of her work students were able to observe professional expertise and contemporary arts practice and they found this an enriching and invaluable experience towards their art 'A' level. It is exciting to see the paintings being created and they will soon be displayed in the Sixth Form Centre.

Excellent Summer Exam Results

We are immensely proud of our Year 11 and sixth-form students for their hard work, resulting in magnificent GCSE and A level results once again.

At GCSE level: 100% of our Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE. 99.33% achieved 5 or more A* to C grades including English and Mathematics. 23% of all grades were at A* level, with 35 students achieving 5 or more A* grades. The number of A* to B grades was 89.6%. This is higher than in the last three years.

Our English Baccalaureate figure, the new government measure that shows the percentage of students achieving A* to C in English, Mathematics, Science (dual award or two single Science subjects), a humanities subject and a MFL subject, was 89%. This is an increase from 83% last year, which placed us as the second highest in Lancashire.

At A' level: 668 A Level results were at grades A* - B, a rate of 61%. This maintains an upward trend when compared with 58.4% A* - B grades in 2010, 52.8% in 2009 and 48.8% in 2008. There was a significant increase in the number of A* grades: this year, 11.5% of grades were A*, compared to 8.5% in 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS ON THESE EXCELLENT RESULTS. WELL DONE!

Grandparents' Day 2011

On Friday 14th October, Year 7 students invited their grandparents to spend the day in school with them. After a warm welcome speech from Trevor Elkington, Acting Headmaster, grandparents were met by their grandchildren in the hall. The guests then went on to experience a range of lessons with their grandchildren, including IT, English, History, PE, German, Geography, Science and Art.

Here are some quotations received from grandparents on their day in school:



"The enthusiasm shown by the students and staff was infectious and stimulating. The interaction between the students is a great sign of their future potential"

"The warm welcome. Bring re-assured that my grandson is happy in his new school. Noting the friendliness and respect shown between staff and pupils"

"I enjoyed watching the children in their classes and interaction with the teachers"

"An excellent afternoon. Really enjoyed attending the lessons. Teaching has certainly changed since I went to school"

Year 9 Geography Fieldwork in Whitwell Bottom



Young Musician of the Year 2011

After the success of last year, the Music Department once again held the autumn concert in the form of a competition to showcase the talents of 17 individual students, culminating in this final. Alongside soloists, the guests also heard performances from the Wind and Brass Bands as well as a piano performance by Ronan Pilkington.

The judges had very difficult decisions to make and the winners finally announced were:

- Lower School – **Imogen Siemens** (violin)
- Middle School – **Cerys Gregory** (flute)
- Upper School – **Rachel Haworth** (piano)

The other finalists performing during the evening concert were:

- Lower School – **Emma Booth, Sophie Milton, Joe Martin, Chris Bretherton**
- Middle School – **Hugh Spencer, Tom Bennett, Hannah Birtwell, Katy Wright, Ygraine Siemens**
- Upper School – **Matthew Beazley, Rebecca Allcock, Rees Davison, Gavin Bottacin, Chalcedony Williams.**

Congratulations to all those who performed in the competition.

Chess Star

Ben Ateuyi (Year 12) attended the UK Land Challenger Chess National Final (Terrafinal) on Saturday 20th August and Sunday 21st August at Loughborough Grammar School. The Challengers were organised into three groups with six chess games being held at this event. Ben came joint third. Congratulations to Ben on this brilliant result!

Opera North Workshop and visit to the opera.

On Thursday 17th November BRGS students welcomed three members of the Opera North company into school.

The workshop which they presented helped our students understand the different aspects of opera production, from directing to rehearsal and performance. Students acted, sang and directed each other and even managed to compose folk songs and love themes in a style similar to that of Tchaikovsky. Most importantly they helped the students understand the supernatural and thrilling plot of Tchaikovsky's opera *The Queen of Spades*. Based on a story by the great Russian novelist Pushkin, the story of Herman and Lisa and a secret which could make any gambler rich, the opera offers plenty of humour, drama and tragedy.

On Friday evening we travelled to the wonderful Lowry Theatre at Salford Quays to watch a performance of this Russian masterpiece. The cast included the renowned singer Dame Josephine Barstow and Welsh tenor Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts.

Students thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of Grand Opera thanks to the excellence of the workshops and are looking forward to their next visit to the theatre.



Junior Speech Night

On Thursday 3rd November we held our school's annual Speech Night where students received their GCSE certificates.

Alongside GCSE certificates, subject prizes were awarded, as well as special awards for hard work and dedication. Guest of honour was formal pupil and Sky News producer, Katrina Bishop.



Junior Speech Night (from left to right: Adam Hinson, Joe Wallwork, Katrina Bishop, Saurav Kataria, Nadiyah Abdullatif) (courtesy of Lancashire Evening Telegraph)

Acting Headmaster, Trevor Elkington, said:

'We share the delight of our students in the wonderful GCSE results they have achieved. The hard work of the young people and their teachers has certainly paid off and they thoroughly deserve this high level of success.'

Olympics in mind

David Law, former pupil (1961-1968), came in to school on Friday 21st October, and gave a presentation to 6th form students on his work for the Olympic Delivery Authority ahead of the Olympics being held in London next year.

Out in the Community

Working with Rawtenstall Civic Pride during November, five students - Sam Turner (year 13) and Kalil Mostert, Sithu Han, David Mills and Jake Sutcliffe (year 10) participated in a big project to plant approximately 500 trees along the by-pass.

Thanks to musicians George Salt (year 13), Jonathan Willetts (year 12) Jack Westerman (year 12), Tom Helm (year 11), Elliot Veevers (year 10), Sophie Milton (year 9), and Madeleine Teshola (year 9), who performed at the Waterfoot Remembrance Service, with Adam Hinson (year 13) reading the Roll of Honour.

Charity Fundraising

Our new Year 7 students have excelled themselves in raising £1700 for LEPRa during this term.

The Sixth Form Charities' Committee has also been busy, raising money once again for the BBC Children in Need Appeal by asking Sixth Form students to come to school on Friday 18th November in their pyjamas for the day! Over £750 has been raised so far.

At the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, staff held a cake stall at break time raising over £300.





Geography Trip to Italy

On Wednesday 19th October 2011, four staff and 44 students left for a five day geography trip to Sorrento.

On day one they visited Solfatara, which is a large area of volcanic activity just to the west of Naples. The crater itself is dormant but there are still lots of fumaroles and bubbling mud pits and the students got to experience for themselves minor volcanic features. Then it was on to visit Monte Nuovo - another dormant volcanic cone formed in the 1500s in one period of activity. It is now a vegetated nature reserve with walking trails.



Day two provided a visit to the island of Capri, a beautiful island famed for its glamorous shops and houses, and took the chairlift to the summit of Monte Solaro followed by tenpin bowling in Sorrento.

Day three consisted of a guided tour to the rim of Vesuvius and a visit to Pompeii, a UN world heritage site of an almost perfectly preserved Roman town totally overwhelmed by the AD 79 eruption. The evening was taken up by a stroll into Sorrento to see a Tarantella show.

The final day was spent on a coast drive to Amalfi and a visit to the ruins at Paestum.

Debating Matters

Following the revival of the BRGS debating society last year, this year has seen the students try to emulate and build on the successes of the school's past debating prowess.



The society entered three teams into this year's Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition first round, hosted here at BRGS. With stiff competition from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, Rossall School, Arnold School, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Skipton Girls' High School and Bolton Sixth Form College, the BRGS teams put up some valiant displays of debate. Topics were debated in British Parliamentary style, which involved four teams of two participating in the debate of one pre-released motion and one motion revealed on the day with just 15 minutes' preparation time. Team A (George Platt and Oliver Hebson) and Team C (Caitlin Heaton and Lawrence Clare) argued the motions "Should all states be allowed nuclear weapons?" and "Should sporting teams be accountable for the actions of their fans?", whilst Team B (Allan Struthers and Jordan Protano-Byrne) argued the latter motion along with "Should a 50% quota be enforced on female employment on company boards?"

After around 40 minutes of debate all our teams came away from their debates enlightened and feeling positive about the overall experience, and congratulations to Team C, who won their debate, earning themselves a place in the regional finals to be held later this year.

Lionheart Challenge

Once again, our Year 10 students took part in the Lionheart Challenge. This competition is a cross between Dragon's Den and The Apprentice. The students are the North West Champions, having won the regional competition last term. The national finals were held in November, which included a celebration banquet, where they won the trophy for the most effective team.



Congratulations to the following team members: Matthew Hoyle, Milton Ashworth, Luke Quigley, Rebecca Finley, Josh Rimmer, Megan Williams, Ridhima Malakar, Tom Helm and Danni Rivett.

New Bus Layby and Car Park Construction

The new bus layby is now complete and the work on the new car park (where the tennis courts were) is almost finished. We hope that these improvements will help to reduce traffic congestion in the local area.



Thoughts from our Head Boy and Head Girl

"Being elected Head Boy and Head Girl is a huge honour and in our new roles we have come to realise that there are two aspects of our work. Firstly, we are now part of the strong traditions of BRGS, which has thus far required us to carry the wands of office (sticks) through the hall on Speech Night, and present the wreath of poppies as part of the Remembrance assembly. We have been privileged to represent the students of BRGS at various school events, such as the centenary ceremony of the laying of the BRGS foundation stones and the official opening ceremony of the new English classroom building. These experiences have allowed us to meet and engage with parents, past and current teachers and former students of the school, and also members of the wider community. The second aspect of our role is more proactive, as we also take an active role in the running of the school, providing a point of liaison between the students and the governors. These meetings are extremely interesting and we feel very lucky to be able to play such an important part in the BRGS community. We have had a brilliant first term and hope that we can work even harder for the rest of the year to really make a difference."

Adam Hinson and Lucy Maguire

EPQ project presentations

On 19th October, 11 EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) students gave presentations of their projects to an audience including other students, their supervisors, other staff and four invited guests including three governors and one retired member of staff.

Students spent one hour discussing their work with individuals, explaining their findings and answering questions stimulated by posters that the students had prepared. Following a short break, each student gave a short individual oral presentation followed by further questions from the audience. The range of topics was vast, including subjects such as quantum immortality, identifying appropriate supplements for rugby players, the autobiographical nature of *War and Peace* and factors influencing development of the pyramids.

The students' knowledge of their topics was impressive as was their overall ability to respond well to challenging questions from the audience. The visiting governors and staff all commented on how they had enjoyed the afternoon. A further group of students will be presenting their projects in a similar manner next February.

MOOT CHALLENGES

On Saturday 12th November, 15 students attended Liverpool Crown Court to take part in the Bar Mock Trial Competition. Sarah Lees and Mahsa Taliefar both undertook stunning roles of barristers. Both donned their wigs and gowns as they tried the case of R V Digweed, which involved a robbery at a building society.

They received excellent feedback from the judges for their advocacy skills and indeed they were a force to be reckoned with when they cross-examined the witnesses (Kealy Smith and Nathan Stanworth) on the stand. The six jurors (Matthew Hoyle, Charlotte Preston, Lauren Coatman, Joe Kielty, Steph Dixon and Millie Kaley) also performed well as they decided the fate of two defendants in the dock. The very

important role of Court Clerk was played by Zoe Stebbings who looked at home whilst assisting the judge on the day.

Mike Godsall and Awais Hussain were also barristers for the case of R V Sales, which involved an assault on a schoolgirl in a park. Together with the witnesses for the case (Mark Cudworth and Katie Bailey) they were able to personally meet a crown court judge who gave them a great insight to life inside a category one murder court.

Lots of fun was had by all and the students can't wait to take part in the competition again next year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

After a successful Gold Award expedition to the Cairngorms in the summer, the students completed a presentation to other participating groups and also to parents on the subject of their project for the trip, highlighting the skills learned and developed.

At BRGS, the tally of Awardees continues to grow – to date almost 400 Bronze, 165 Silver and 99 Gold Awards have been gained here– we await with mounting interest the 100th Gold Awardee!

Success at Orienteering

In September, the orienteers took part in the Peter Palmer Junior Relays, held in Beacon Barracks MOD Stafford.



24 teams of 6 runners ran a combined distance of over 30km – with the mass start for the first leg runners at 4.45am. The first two legs were run in darkness with

the orienteers using head torches to find their way round the course. By joining forces with juniors from SELOC, another local club, we had sufficient runners for two teams. By the end of the competition, the students' determination rewarded the B team with a credible 3rd place. A massive well done to all those who took part.

Invitation to the Conservative Party Conference

Two Year 12 students, Jack Noble and Abby Hennessey, were invited to attend the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester in October.

This was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn more about politics.

They both attended David Cameron's speech and could see for themselves how politics works.

Alumni Receptions 2012

*London Reception:
Tuesday 13th March at the
Bankside Gallery, London SE1*

Former students now residing in the south-east and London area will be pleased to know that we are planning to hold another alumni reception.

The event will be held at the Bankside Gallery, London SE1 (next to Tate Modern) on the evening of Tuesday 13th March 2012. If you would like to express an initial interest in attending, please do let me know at aw@brgs.org.uk. Previous venues have included The Royal Society of Medicine, Dr Johnson's House, The House of Commons and Marks & Clerk offices at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and all have been wonderful evenings.

1960s reunion

We were sorry to have to postpone the 80s reunion planned for November, but understand that there is some interest in this event. If anyone is interested in our rearranging this for sometime during 2012, then please do get in touch.

University Reception

We are also planning to hold a reception for former students who are still studying at university to reminisce about BRGS and to catch up with news and events that are currently happening. We are considering possible venues where many BRGS students have progressed, including Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield. If anyone is currently studying here and has any suggestions regarding a venue, then please do get in touch. Also, if this is of interest, please do let us have your thoughts on the format of such an evening.



Year 7 Disco

On Thursday 13th October, Year 7 enjoyed a disco, where many of the students wore fancy dress.

Music Excellence!

Congratulations to all 29 students who sat their ABRSM exams at the end of last summer, playing such a variety of musical instruments as guitar, saxophone, cello, clarinet, bassoon, oboe, cornet, horn, piano and flute, as well as voice/singing.

Sports Reports

Netball – Rossendale Schools' Tournament

Congratulations to the Year 10/11 and Year 9 teams who are the Tournament winners and to the Year 7 team, who are runners up. All the teams played at All Saints High School against all other Rossendale Secondary schools

Netball – National Schools' Netball Competition



The U14 and U16 teams played in the county round of the National Schools' competition at Stanley Park, Blackpool on Saturday 12th November. Both teams played superbly and won all the games in their sections, enabling them to then enter the semi-finals.

The U14s worked hard but found themselves behind by 2 goals at the halfway break. They went back on after half-time knowing they had to turn the ball over in order to win. Under a great amount of pressure and with a brilliant performance by centre position, Chloe Hazley, the girls won through to the next round by 10-9, beating St Wilfrids.

The U16s used their experience from previous competitions to break down the attacking play from Longridge High School. With some outstanding defending from Natasha Chetwynd and captain, Harriet Whitworth, the girls sailed through their semi-final.

Both teams lost their final match; however, they go through to the regional round of the competition as runners up, which will be held in Merseyside on 28th January.

The U19s played their county round on Wednesday 16th November in Leyland. The day started well, with them winning the first game 18-3.

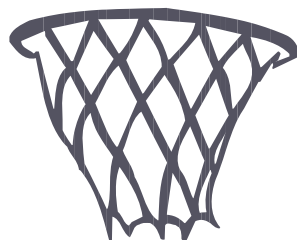
Unfortunately, the next two games were difficult, and were eventually lost with scores of 10-7 and 14-9. The girls pulled through and won their fourth game, but unexpectedly, did not get through to the next round.

Well done to all those who played:

U14 – Laura Barlow, Hedda Roberts, Holly Richards, Amy Tebbey, Chloe Hazley, Lydia Lambert, Chloe Ross-Brown, Sofia McKenzie and Jess Fogarty

U16 – Georgia Boys, Harriet Whitworth, Amy Turner, Carys Keeble, Natalie Briggs, Natasha Chetwynd, Hannah Smeed, Nicole Kelly, Sarah Holland and Ciara Holt.

U19 – Connie Briggs, Kirsten Ashely, Kirsten Foley, Sarah Dallas, Bethany Dallas, Charlotte Preston, Emily Panton, Georgina Lucas, Lindsay Ashworth and Amy Hollis



Sports Reports

Rossendale Schools' Cross Country

On 20th October, BRGS won the Rossendale Schools Cross Country Championships, with the Year 7 boys, year 7 girls and the year 10/11 girls winning their races. Congratulations also to Corinna Howorth (year 7), Rebecca Flanagan (year 10), Elliot Snape (year 7) and Connor Richardson (year 9) who were individual winners in their races. The final score was very close, with BRGS being the overall winners by 4 points. Well done to all those who took part!



Rugby

In a recent match, the year 11 team beat Alder Grange High School by 21-19 points.

Lancashire Schools' Football Cup

Congratulations to the year 7 team who have won their group competition by beating Fisher More College 3-0, drawing 0-0 against Park High School and beating Pendle Vale High School 6-0.

English Schools' Football Association Cup

The year 10 team have now played three rounds in this cup competition, having won against Canon Slade, Siddal Moor College and West Hill, and their next match is against Sandbach School. We wish them the best of luck in the forthcoming matches.

Sixth-formers' Football Competitions

Well done to our sixth form footballers, who narrowly missed out in the National Cup competition. Although they won 7-0 against Haslingden High School and 3-2 against St Wilfrids High School, they lost 5-1 to Cardinal Langley High School. In the Lancashire Cup though, they beat QEGS 6-0.



Mountain Biking Club

During the spring term, Colin Williamson (Assistant Headteacher/Head of History) completed the Mountain Bike Instructors' Award Scheme (MIAS) Level 2 which has enabled the launch of the BRGS Mountain Biking Club.

A dedicated number of year 11 students (along with some members of staff), meet every Thursday evening to ride in the facilities of Lee Quarry and Cragg Quarry. Both venues are of a national standard, and both have red and black grade trails, with many professional riders practising there as well. Many local cycling organisations in the valley are developing and our group of dedicated riders is establishing contact with these to help develop their skills. A record of all the rides is being held in a log book so that details of the rides can be provided, as well as assessing the improving standards of all the riders who take part.



Who? What? Where? When?

Our thanks to all the following former students who were able to help identify the students in the photo: Doug Bridle, Dr Alan Crowther, Peter Butler, Margaret Tyler, Barbara Norton, Keith Slater, Ian Phillips, Dr Frank Kemble, Stanley Hoyle, Ann Everett (née Hill), Roy Sumner.



With their help, we believe those featured on the photo are Sixth Form Prefects of 1953/54.

*(from left to right) Back row: Frank Kemble, Geoffrey Bradshaw, Malcolm Greenhalgh, Keith Scott, Gordon Maden, Norman Ward, Peter Lord, James Milward, Trevor Nuttall, Ian Phillips
Front row: Kathleen Taylor, Freda Lord, Verna Barrett, Joan Rothwell/Howarth, Dorothy Dixon, Muriel Crabtree, Jean Barrow, Mary Crawshaw, Muriel Haworth, Pamela Pickup*

Here is a further photo from the school's archive. If you recognise anyone, then please do get in touch.



Obituaries

We are saddened to learn of the following:

Harry Wakelin, former pupil from 1931 until 1935, sadly died on 8th April 2011 aged 90 years. Harry, formerly of Schofield Road, Rawtenstall, lived with his family in Northern Ireland for the last 56 years.

We are sorry to hear of the death of **Neil Taylor**, a pupil of the school from 1942 until 1948, and also **Marion Padget (née Lord)** former student who left in 1954.

Peter Auty sadly died on 15th February 2011 aged 77 years. Peter was a student here from 1944 until 1951, and after completing National Service, he went on to Alsager College where he studied PE with Mathematics. He taught at Whitewell Bottom School for three years before going back to Alsager for another year to complete Advanced Mathematics. Peter then moved to Lichfield, Staffordshire, to take up the post of Head of Mathematics at King Edward VI School. He later became Head of Lower School. He was always interested in sport and played football and competed in athletics during his time at BRGS. He leaves his wife Carol, three daughters, one stepson and nine grandchildren. His wife Carol wrote that he had happy memories of BRGS and often told her of 'Ma Mac', who passed away a month after Peter.

Harry Gibson, former Deputy Headmaster from 1973-1988, sadly died on 25th October 2011. Harry retired from school in 1988 following 14 years as deputy headteacher and a short spell as acting head. He then volunteered for over two decades as a booking clerk on the East Lancashire Railway, based at Bury Station, where he worked until his final year. Born in Adlington, Harry was educated at Bolton School and St John's College, Oxford, where he read modern languages. A keen sportsman, he served on the organising committee for the Northern Schools' Cross Country Championships. In later years, he loved to go walking on the hills of Rossendale and Holcombe, where he lived with his family for more

than 40 years. When Harry joined BRGS, he was appointed to take pastoral charge over four school years, and was an active member of the PTA and served as chairman for a period. One of his most important contributions to the school was in his role as chairman of an action group established in 1982 to fight local education reorganisation plans. In a joint tribute penned upon his retirement, former BRGS colleagues Fred Wild and Dorothy Skeels said 'His tremendous efforts in this respect probably went unnoticed by all except those who worked closely with him, but the survival of the school to this day owes much to his guidance at that time. In every way he showed himself to have a deep love of teaching and a concern for those he taught.'

Peter Benson Lonsdale sadly died in June 2011 aged 72 years. After leaving BRGS in 1956, Peter read Municipal Engineering at what is now UMIST, graduating in 1959. In that year he began work for the City of Birmingham Water Department, first in Ludlow and then in Birmingham. Ludlow had given him a taste for working in a rural environment so in January 1963, he moved to Newtown, Montgomeryshire as Senior Assistant Engineer to the Montgomeryshire Water Board. He married in February 1965 and in July of that year moved to Norfolk where he worked for East Suffolk and Norfolk Rivers Authority mainly on flood defence schemes. During this time, he completed the requirements to become a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and also the Institution of Water Engineers. In 1977, he moved to Dorset and in his final years became a senior international consultant for Wessex Water which involved working in a variety of countries including Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Malta, Vietnam, and Australia, with a year working in St Lucia. Peter retired in 1994, but undertook private consultancy work and published a book with Dr D Obradavic titled *Public Water Supply, Models, Data and Operational Management*.

Kenneth Jones who was a pupil here from 1938 until 1943 sadly died on 31st October 2011, at the age of 84 years. Ken was a founder member and the first treasurer of the PTA from 1970 until 1977 when the last of his three children left BRGS.

- Congratulations to former pupils Jessica McGuinness (2007-2009) and Michael Aspin (2005-2007) on the news of their engagement in November. Congratulations again to Michael on his graduation from Ravensbourne College with a 2:1 in Broadcasting – Production.
- Celebrated in the New Year Honours List of 2003 for military service was Ian Swift (1976-1982), who was awarded the MBE.
- Our congratulations to Joseph Jackson (2004-2011) on being awarded the QUEST scholarship from the Institute of Civil Engineers in partnership with the UK's largest privately owned civil engineering company, Laing O'Rourke. Joe is currently studying Civil Engineering at Sheffield University.
- Well done also to Simon Warren (left 2007) who has graduated from Manchester University with a First in Computer Science M.Eng, now working in Wigan as a web designer.
- We were also pleased to hear about Steven Moseley (left 2008) who has been awarded First-year Apprentice of the Year by his employers, engineering firm Fort Vale and Training 2000.
- Congratulations to Mollie Campbell (left 2011) who has netted a £1300 funding boost from Asda Rawtenstall which will help with her training with the national Basketball England squad.
- Congratulations also to Denise Duffy (née Lynch) (1961-1968) on being awarded an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours for Services as a Senior Executive Officer to the Department of Work and Pensions.
- It was lovely to hear also that Matthew Atherton (1996-1998) is now captain for easyJet, flying the A319 Airbus from Liverpool to destinations all over Europe.
- Congratulations to Mark Hayman (1981-1986) who has just been awarded Art Director of the year for 'Fabulous' (News International) by the British Society of Magazine Editors.
- Congratulations to Rebecca Slinger (left 2011) who was nominated in the Rossendale Sports' Awards 2011 in the category of Young Volunteer of the Year, and also to Ken Masser (left 2002) who was nominated in the category of Adult Volunteer.



Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School

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