



Summer
2012

Friends of BRGS

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

ISSUE
27

BRGS Music Department on Tour in Germany!

During the Easter holidays students and staff from the Music Department visited The Rhineland in Germany for a music tour.

The group visited the Beethoven House in Bonn, providing an opportunity for them to learn more about one of the world's greatest composers. From the life and death masks and Beethoven's first baby bonnet, to original manuscripts and the piano at which much of his music was composed, the museum was a real highlight of the trip.



The Music Department's opening concert was played at the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, an imposing castle over-looking the Deutsches Eck, where the Rhine and Mosel rivers meet. Playing at the top of the fortress, the students entertained the crowds with a mix of upbeat wind band arrangements, including *Stevie Wonder in Concert*, *Flashdance* and *Phantom of the Opera Medley* amongst others. The concert also featured contributions from the Year 10/11 and 6th Form bands, along with a fantastic performance of *The Wizard and I*.

The following day, after having a fun-packed time at Phantasialand theme park, the students performed another full concert programme to a very appreciative audience. The final concert took place in the Kurpark Pavillon, Bad Münster, a recital room in the middle of a beautiful park – a fitting way to end a brilliant tour.



Welcome!

BRGS has been as busy as ever with an array of activities and events.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles about life here at BRGS and also reading about the two recent alumni events held in London and Newcastle University.

We have tried to include as much news as possible in this edition of 'Friends of BRGS', but please do remember to keep an eye on the school website for news and features, with a special section for alumni.

As always, we try our very best to keep address details up to date and try not to send duplicate copies or incorrectly addressed newsletters, but if there are any inaccuracies in our circulation list, then please do get in touch and let us know. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, then please get in touch so that we can amend our records accordingly.

Emma will be returning to school in September, and we wish her a warm welcome back, as we now start to plan for the school's Centenary in 2013. If you have any suggestions for celebrating the centenary, then please do get in touch. Also, don't forget the date of school's Centenary Reunion event on 5th & 6th October 2013!

Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable summer.

Angela

With best wishes
Angela

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Please remember to find us on facebook

A message from Alan Porteous, Headmaster

Dear friend

I write to you at the end of a very busy second term as Headmaster of BRGS. I have been hugely impressed during my first two terms by the huge variety of activity which makes BRGS such a vibrant community and sets it apart from other local schools. This was one of the things which attracted me to apply to the post initially and it is something that I am keen to maintain and develop as we move forward. We will be exploring ways in which we can recognise the wider achievement and development of our students in a more formal way over the coming year.

Our OFSTED inspection in January provided us with a clear priority of ensuring that the teaching our students receive on a daily basis is of the highest quality. BRGS has some extremely talented teachers but we have not been sharing their expertise as effectively as we could. In response to this, we have been providing opportunities for staff to watch each other teach this term, with a programme of 150 lessons on offer and this will continue to be our priority in the new academic year. This has been very positively received by staff, many of whom have never had this opportunity before.

We have also been looking closely at how we can maximise the use of the available space in our buildings, following our decision not to purchase Waterfoot School. The news that the temporary classrooms (T buildings) will soon have to be removed from the site helped focus our minds! We will be sharing our revised development plans in the autumn which contain some exciting new ideas.

As you may be aware the Governing Body is currently considering the possibility of BRGS converting from a Foundation School to an Academy. The governors have spent some months carrying out a very thorough due diligence process and identifying all the potential benefits and risks involved in conversion. Many other high achieving Grammar Schools across the country, including all those in Lancashire, have already taken this step over the past year, and the Governors of BRGS consider that there could be clear benefits in pursuing this option. As a former grant maintained school, and Foundation School, we already employ all of our own staff and own our own land and buildings so the changes are much less significant than they would be for a maintained school.

Academy status would have little outward effect on the school. We would retain the name, Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, and the selective admissions policy would be unchanged. In practice, students and parents would see little visible difference; BRGS would continue to offer high quality, selective education to the young people of the Rossendale Valley and the surrounding area. The school would retain its focus on high achievement and its strong ethos of developing students into well-rounded individuals who, like many of our former students reading this newsletter, go on to take a leading role in the community, both locally and nationally.

Academy status would bring with it some additional funding to support our development and we would be able to take control of our own curriculum, something which we consider to be important in the light of impending curriculum reviews at KS3 and 4.

Further information about the proposal is available on the BRGS website. We would be pleased to hear your comments which should be addressed to the Chair of Governors, David King at dsd@brgs.org.uk

It was a privilege to meet some of you at the receptions in London and Newcastle earlier in the year. I look forward to meeting many more of you at events over the coming years.

Congratulations to Year 12 art student!

Congratulations to Lucy Watkins who has been shortlisted for the Royal Academy of Arts A-Level Summer Exhibition.

Lucy's work, 'Myself and the Rabbits' has been selected and the online exhibition will run alongside their annual summer show. **Well done!**



The Queen visits Burnley

It was a red letter day for some of our students when they were invited to be a part of the welcome to Her Majesty the Queen when she visited Burnley Football Club during May at the start of her Diamond Jubilee tour of the north-west. It was a very memorable day for those involved watching a whole host of performances before the royal party emerged onto a specially constructed balcony when everyone sang the national anthem.

London Alumni Reception

The latest London reunion took place on Tuesday 13th March at The Bankside Gallery, with the reception attended by over 30 guests and everyone having a most enjoyable evening.

On the banks of the River Thames, surrounded by wonderful watercolour works of art, Peter Terry - School Governor - warmly welcomed all guests on behalf of BRGS before introducing our new Headmaster, Alan Porteous, who then spoke about events that have been happening at school, as well as outlining plans for the centenary and beyond.

Trevor Elkington, Director of Sixth Form, then spent a few moments sharing his thoughts on life at school, before Head Boy, Adam Hinson, and Head Girl, Lucy Maguire, delivered a presentation on what it is like to be studying at BRGS now.

It was a lovely evening and great to welcome guests from across the decades, from the 1940s right through to 2011, and to see their obvious affection for the school when reminiscing with other alumni.



BRGS students in Court!

Students from Years 8 and 9 travelled to Leeds Magistrates Court to compete in the regional round of the mock trial competition run by the Citizenship Foundation.

The defence council, Jacob Fielder and William Moppet, put in an impressive performance and won both the not guilty verdict they wanted and the round against Cockburn School.

This was followed by another remarkable performance by prosecution council, Sarah Taylor and Angelica Fitzpatrick, against Crompton House School. The girls also secured their guilty verdict and won the round.

Both teams were involved in a case involving the handling of stolen goods by George Low, played by Callum Lanford. Other members of the team included: Tom Gallagher and Georgina Chick as the prosecution witnesses, Jo Martin as the defence witness, Iona Cloran as the legal advisor, Abigail Swallow as the usher and James Williams, Amy Duncan and Eve Williams as the magistrates.

The teams were judged by impressive individuals such as the Lord Mayor of Leeds and the Superintendent of West Yorkshire Police.

All the students put in an excellent performance after weeks of practice and only missed out on winning the regionals by 2 points!



The drawing is by student, Sophia Flanagan.



Chess Megafinal

Qualifiers from the school tournament travelled to Hodgson Academy in Poulton near Blackpool for the Lancaster area Megafinal.

Students from all over the northwest gathered to pit their chess skills against each other. The standard was extremely high as Lancashire has a formidable reputation in chess circles at the moment. The entry for the competition has reduced by a third in comparison with just a few years ago, resulting in the combatants being the very best players in Lancashire.

The competition was brutal. Two qualifiers from BRGS were newcomers to the competition, but both Sithu Han and Matthew Kirengi managed to win games and have now gained the experience to be real contenders in the future. The more experienced players of Chris Bretherton, James Ellis and George Platt gained good points but not quite enough for the next stage, although James and George were awarded prizes for being second in their age group. Uber-experienced players Ben Atueyi and Angelica Fitzpatrick played extremely well and both qualified for the

Gigafinal, which pools winning players from the whole of the UK, except for the London area. Ben won all but one of his matches, but Angelica, a Year 8 student, is to be congratulated as she had to compete against two England team members, one a Year 10 student and the other a sixth former, and nearly beat the younger of the two!

The Gigafinal will be held in Derby this month and we anticipate similar success to last year when Ben qualified for the Terrafinal; we hope this year that Angelica will join him.

News from the Chemistry Department

44th International Chemistry Olympiad

The selection process is open to all post-16 students and involves a challenging two hour written test of chemical knowledge. The questions posted often stimulate much debate on, and enthusiasm for, chemistry – raising awareness of what the subject is all about. Gold, silver and bronze certificates are awarded to those students scoring highly.

At BRGS, the RSC Olympiad was held at the beginning of February this year. Twelve students entered the competition and the results were very impressive. Bronze certificates were awarded to Dominic Walton, Jordan Dooley and Shannon Pinnington; Silver certificates were awarded to Charlotte Bradbury, Rebecca Shutt, George Platt and Matthew Allcock. Will Sharratt was awarded the Gold certificate. Congratulations to all of them.

George Platt and Asanish Kalyanasundaram are both on the University of Cambridge's Olympiad leader board. The monthly chemistry competition is open to students from around the world and goes live at one second past midnight (BST) on the first day of the month (an advantage if you live in New Zealand!) The Chemistry Department are delighted to announce that both George and Asanish are almost in the top 100 in the world in spite of the time difference!

Music Department's Motown Evening

Just before the Easter holidays the Music Department performed to a packed school hall an evening of Motown music.

The Wind Band, String Group, Saxophone Ensemble, the Steel Pans group, the Staff Band and a host of other talented young musicians performed such hits as 'Hard it through the grapevine', 'You can't hurry love' and 'Ain't no mountain high enough'.

Weekend trips to Longsleddale

A weekend of walking, climbing and abseiling for Years 11, 12 and 13.

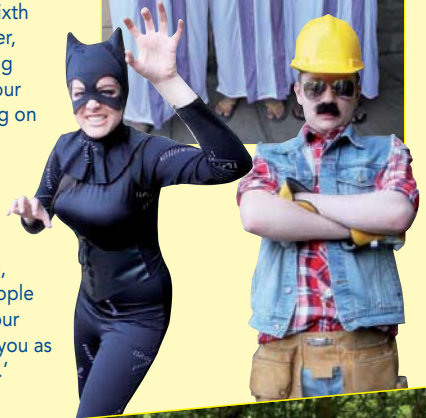


Dressing up to say goodbye

Sixth Form tutors adopted the theme of Pirates to bid farewell to 250 Year 13 Leavers in the traditional BRGS Fancy Dress Leavers' Day. A group of circus performers joined Mexicans, fairies, trolls and 1940's WRENS to make the annual event the most varied, original and colourful ever held.

The usual mix of laughter and tears filled the morning as the leavers were entertained by the Year 13 band 'Paint on the Fence' as well as by a group of Year 8 pupils who had written a leaving song especially for their departing Prefects which was entitled 'Moving on'. Director of Sixth Form, Trevor Elkington read out an email from former Headmaster, Marc Morris, now principal of Sha Tin International School in Hong Kong, in which he wrote: 'Have a lovely last day – do justice to your abilities in your examinations and remember, we adults are relying on you to change the world for the better.'

Various awards were made during the course of the morning, including Miss BRGS and Mr BRGS and after a buffet lunch, Trevor Elkington bade farewell to the students: 'Thirteen years of schooling behind you and the big wide world, with its dangers, joys and opportunities ahead of you. You are fantastic young people and the world out there desperately needs young people with your vision, energy and compassion. We are so enormously proud of you as you leave today and we will miss you more than you can imagine.'





Ypres trip

100 Year 9 students plus staff visited Ypres recently as part of their History studies. The trip began with a memorable day being shown around some of the key sites of Ypres which had been a beautiful medieval town before being utterly destroyed by fighting in the First World War. The students also visited the Menin Gate and attended the Last Post ceremony, where a wreath was laid to the old boys of BRGS who died in the war.

During their time in Belgium, the students also visited the German cemetery at Langemark, Essex Farm, and the site of the Battle of the Somme, as well as Thiepval Wood, and the Lochnagar Crater. Poignant visits were also made to the Accrington Pals' Memorial and Tyne Cot, the largest British military cemetery in the world, to lay wreaths.



Football debut for former student



Former student Sam Minihan (2005-2010) made his first team debut for Rochdale Football Club on Saturday 14th April in their League One fixture at home to Exeter City.

Wearing squad number 19, Sam played at right-back as Rochdale came from 2-0 down to win the game 3-2.

To cap a perfect day, Sam was also voted Man of the Match by the match sponsors.

Sam is believed to be only the second ex-BRGS pupil to play in the Football League, the first being former Crystal Palace and Manchester City goalkeeper Carlo Nash. Further back in time, 1970s Football League referee Gordon Hill was also a BRGS old boy.



BRGS Charity News

- One Friday morning in May, four Year 9 pupils, Laura Dunleavy, Georgina Chick, Sarah Taylor and Iona Cloran walked from Bury to school in fancy dress to raise over £1000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.
- Congratulations to Russell Clarke, Assistant Headteacher, who ran the London Marathon in 3 hours and 36 minutes raising over £1800 for Pendleside Hospice.
- Congratulations also to Amanda Hughes, Headmaster's PA, who completed the Manchester Marathon in 3 hours and 56 minutes.
- A team of nine Year 11 and Year 12 students took part in a sponsored 24 hour row to raise money for their charity expedition to Borneo later in the year. Throughout the time, the students were supported by several other students and teachers putting in some minutes for them. The team kept up the rowing throughout the night and completed the row with a grand total of 290km.



FORMER BRGS STUDENT AT THE OLYMPIC STADIUM

The first official event at the Olympic Stadium recently took place in London and former BRGS student Jonathan Cain got to be there – although we didn't quite recognise him at first!

Jonathan was at the stadium representing the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital charity as part of the official Gold Challenge parade and races. When Jonathan volunteered to help, his father a BRGS Governor and Director of the Charity organised his taking part in the parade as the charity's mascot – Humphrey, before taking on national charity mascots in a 100m race. As Humphrey had won the national vote to be there, he got to lead the mascots out and was placed in lane one (the most difficult!). At the starting gun Humphrey made his way down the track and ran really well, running in the heaviest costume and with limited vision Jonathan crossed the line in fourth place.

Sport Relief

On Friday 23rd March, the whole school participated in Sport Relief 2012.

In exchange for £1, students and staff could dress up in sports clothing or as a sporting hero of their choice. The money raised from lower school was split between Sport Relief and Borneo charities and Sixth Form monies were donated to Pendleside Hospice.



Newcastle University Reception

As part of our Centenary celebrations, a series of university reunions will be held at some of the most popular university destinations for former BRGS students, the first of these being in April at Newcastle University.

Current sixth-form students attended the reception with Headmaster, Alan Porteous, and Director of Sixth Form, Trevor Elkington, warmly welcoming over 20 former students.

At the Students' Union guests were welcomed to the reception by Michael Barrass, the Student Recruitment Manager at the university. Both Trevor and Alan spoke

about life at BRGS and the future vision of the school.

The guests were then able to spend some time

reminiscing with other alumni and our thanks must go to Ken and Dorothy Slater who spoke about their time at school and how BRGS had shaped their careers.

The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Other university receptions are being considered, so watch this space for further information!



Battle of the Bands!

The event was held in the school hall at lunchtime in aid of the World Challenge expedition to Ladakh in July/August.



Year 8 Maths Anglesey Trip

Year 8 students enjoyed a successful three day residential on Anglesey at the Conway Centre.

Teams competed in a variety of activities such as a maths relay, problem solving and team building activities out in the woods, followed by an auction to buy bits to build a raft, blind fold walk and polyhedral and puzzle challenges, as well as the thrilling High Ropes challenge with a 60ft power fan drop.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PALACE



Since the last edition of Friends of BRGS there have been several visitors to St James's Palace to meet HRH Prince Philip, including Ainsley Kerr and Rachel Leyland (top right) and Bethan Gregory, Charlotte Jackson and Edward Marston (top left). Ainsley, Rachel and Bethan travelled to the Trossachs to complete their Assessment Expedition whereas Charlotte travelled a little further north to the Cairngorms last year. As I recall, Eddie trekked all over the Lake District carrying TWO rucksacks to help out a group member in difficulty - what a guy!

Earlier in the year it was the turn of Robert and Jennifer Pilling pictured here with proud Mum and Dad. Robert's height advantage proved useful in Northern Ireland's Mourne Mountains where he guided his group safely through a sea of giant ferns on the first day of his expedition. The group created an excellent documentary video of the whole trip and set the benchmark for future expedition presentations. Robert's sister Jenny travelled to the Cairngorms, our first venture into this challenging terrain, to complete her expedition amongst the finest of heather clad hills and glens of Scotland.

If any other participants have a photograph of their Palace visit that they would like to share, please forward it to tmg@brgs.org.uk

For further information on the D of E, check out the school website at www.brgs.org.uk

TM Gray Award Coordinator

Sixth Form Students set sights on Oxbridge



Year 12 students attended a series of presentations about the opportunities on offer at Oxford and Cambridge Universities at Haydock Park Conference Centre.

The seminars were designed to provide useful information about how to make applications competitive and other relevant information to help students and teachers through the application process.

At the end of the day students reflected extremely positively on their experiences, commenting on what they had learnt about a range of issues such as what to include on their personal statements, which subjects they should consider applying for alongside learning about how much was on offer at both universities in addition to academic study.

The students reported that the day was very useful and in some cases had confirmed their intention to apply.

BRGS has a very strong record of Oxbridge success, with students gaining places every year since 1990. Two students took up places in October last year and six students are currently holding conditional offers.

Maths Challenge

A team of pupils from Years 8 and 9 recently represented the school at a regional final of the UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge held at Bradford Grammar School.

Not only flying the flag for the school but also for Lancashire, the team performed to an extremely high standard against other schools from Yorkshire, including the eventual winners Heckmondwike Grammar.

BRGS finished in fifth place out of 22 schools, which was a wonderful achievement.

Maths teacher Mr Wilbraham said: "I am very proud of the performance of our students. They attempted each round of the competition with a high degree of ability and diligence and were determined not to give up on any of the problems.

"They worked with a teacher from Titus Salt School in Saltaire for most of the day and he was most impressed with their teamwork, perseverance and mathematical aptitude."



BRGS awarded Cultural Diversity Standard Gold Award

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) Gold Award for the Cultural Diversity Quality Standard.

All six of the following standards were achieved: School Ethos; Achievement; Curriculum; Parental/Carer Involvement and the Community Role; Staff & Governors; and the Specific Project.

The assessor spoke very highly of the warm and welcoming ethos that was evident at school and the exemplary work that is being done in celebrating cultural diversity and promoting community cohesion.

The SSAT were impressed by a couple of points from the assessor's report:

'The way in which the ethos of the school is supporting an awareness and celebration of cultural diversity accessible to all students' and 'The opportunities afforded to students to broaden their appreciation of diverse cultures through travel using the vehicle of 'World Challenge' and the way in which extra-curricular groups are used to help break down barriers between students from different backgrounds.'

Headmaster, Alan Porteous said *'It paints a really positive picture of our community here in school and our commitment to being as inclusive as possible.'*

Sports Reports

Year 10 Football Final

The Year 10 football team won the Rossendale football final against Whitworth in March for the fourth year in a row.

In the first half BRGS played some excellent football but could not make the breakthrough against a resilient Whitworth defence. However, just before half time the ball fell to Alex Jeffrey following a goalmouth scramble including two excellent saves from the opposing goalkeeper, but in the end Alex proved too much for him and scored. The second half was equally well matched, with BRGS spurning several chances to make the game safe but BRGS's composed defence held on despite some late Whitworth pressure. They now can look forward to facing the winners of the Pendle district competition.

The team was: George Bury, Matt Aspinall, Josh Manton, Ben Snaith, Alex Jeffrey, Anthony Cox, Connor Rooke, Morgan Phillips, Jack McNevin-Duff, Marcus Kay, Oliver Burnham, Jack Haigh.



Year 9 Football Final

The Year 9 football team also won the Rossendale football final against Whitworth.

BRGS played against the wind and slope in the first half and battled hard to come 0-0 at half-time. In the second half BRGS started to create some chances and goals from Charles Appleby and Tom Brierley won the cup for BRGS.

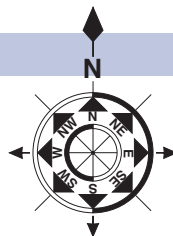
The team was: Alfie Taylor, Lewis Birtwistle, Joe Mills, Tom Harding, David Hattan, Charles Appleby, Jack Fallon, Tom Brierley, Elliot Hunter, Connor Richardson, Ben Clegg, Harry Tonge, Billy Mason.



Orienteering – Jan Kjellström Trophy

This year's JK was held in central Scotland. The first event over the four days was the Urban Sprint in Livingston, an event which none of the juniors had entered before, but Jamie Hoyle was awarded the Silver standard and Hannah Goldswain the Bronze standard.

The event on day two was in the forest at Dunalastair, a combination of forest and open fell, with Matthias Fielder, Lydia Lambert and Hannah all being awarded the Bronze standard. The third day at Craig a Barns was the best, with Charlotte Jackson getting a Gold standard, Idrees Nazir, Matthias, Lydia and Hannah all getting Silver standards and Jamie getting Bronze. In the relays on the final day, the only PFO team to finish was a mixed junior team of Lydia Lambert, Robert Perry and Matthias Fielder. Well done to everyone who took part.



Sports Reports

Year 7 Rugby Champions

The Year 7 rugby team were winners at the Rossendale Schools' Rugby Tournament with a 100% unbeaten record. The round robin tournament involved matches against Fearn, Whitworth, Haslingden and Alder Grange High Schools.

The squad, including experienced players and total newcomers, was: Harvey Crooks-Bowers (captain), Isaac Cornwall, Isaac Mason, Tom George, Brad Harris, Mark Rutherford-Shaw, Idrees Nazir, Harvey Watson, Charlie Bithell, Charlie Coward, Jamie Rogers, Michael Brierley, Keir McDonald, James Humphreys and Callum Rafer.



Special congratulations to Mark Rutherford-Shaw who finished as top try scorer but all players deserve plaudits for their determination, commitment and effort. It all went down to the final game of the competition and the team turned round a 2-1 deficit to beat Alder Grange 8-2 to win the trophy. Congratulations!

Jessica Leyden – World Class Rower

Year 12 student, Jess Leyden, has a fantastic future ahead of her.

Jess already holds the J14, J15 National Champions single sculls titles, as well as the J15, J16 and J17 National Schools' titles. In the J17 last year, she represented BRGS to win in record time. She has also competed in the J15 and J16 single sculls inter-regional regattas and last summer, competed in the GB-v-France J16 competition.

Coming up this summer is the Junior World competition in Bulgaria, where she hopes to compete and improve on the 7th position she gained last year in the women's quad event. Jess will also be trialling for the Youth Olympics to be held in January next year in Australia.

We wish her all the very best of luck, and will be reporting on her progress.



Olympic Torch Relay

On Saturday 23rd June the Olympic Flame came through Rossendale and six BRGS students who went to watch the flame arrive in Rawtenstall then ran our own torch from Rawtenstall to school. The flame was then presented at an assembly on Monday morning which was the start of the BRGS Olympic week. Each form represented a country and brought their respective flags to decorate the balcony in the school hall and then played all the other forms at football, handball and hockey.

Dancing Around the World

BRGS held its annual dance show entitled 'Dancing Around the World'.

The dedicated group of pupils performed a variety of dance styles including street, jive, ballet, jazz and contemporary under the direction of Kristy Todd (Head of Dance).

The pupils took us on a trip around the world, starting in Europe, through Asia, Antarctica, Australasia, Africa and ending in the Americas.



Obituaries

We are saddened to learn of the following:

Edward Hartley (1954-1967), former biology teacher known as Teddy Hartley, sadly died on 22nd May 2012.

We are sorry to hear of the deaths of **Robert Beecroft** (1944-1951), **Bill Taylor** (left 1943) and **Justin Feber**.

Alice Syers, née Yarwood, (1930s) sadly died on 12th April. After leaving BRGS, Alice trained as a teacher at St Katherine's College, Liverpool and taught in local schools until her retirement, ending her career as Deputy Headteacher at Britannia CP School. Alice

was related to Matthias Stephenson, Headmaster at the former Newchurch Grammar School and she was followed to BRGS by her sons and grandchildren, so her association with the school has lasted many years.

Jack Duddington a pupil at BRGS from 1932-1937 recently passed away, and **John Lund** (1959-1966) sadly died on 16th May.

Ian Cormack sadly died on 5th January 2012. Shirley, his wife of 42 years, said Ian is remembered by many as a past pupil as he was quite a character in his time and also as the owner of 'Cormacks Deli' in Waterfoot.

We are sorry to learn of the deaths of **Dorothy Hocken** (1939-1943) in December 2010 and also of **Colin Durkin** who died on 2nd June 2012.

Who? What? Where? When?

Thank you to Gary Duffy, Chris Ashworth and Simon Bradshaw for naming the photo titled '1979-1980 Hockey Team', although they believe that the date should be 1981/82.

*Back row: Chris Ashworth, Carl Taylor, Andrew Lees, Stephen/Simon Draper, Mark Drive, Simon Payne
Front row: Andrew/Adam Herd, Gary Duffy, David Woodworth, John Spencer (who went on to play at National level for England), John Forbes.*



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

A fond farewell to Ruth Shepherd

Trevor Elkington, Director of Sixth Form, gave a presentation to mark the occasion of Ruth's retirement. Ruth joined BRGS as Finance & Admin Assistant in December 1999 and has given over 12 years of dedicated and selfless service. Trevor spoke of her work and compassion for the needs of staff and the trust felt by staff when needing to confide in her. He also spoke of her loyalty and the admiration off staff for her and also her ability to step up to the mark when needed.

David King, Chair of Governors, and Peter Terry, Governor & Chair of Finance Committee, also expressed their thanks for Ruth's dedicated work.



Ruth has an exciting time ahead, off to Egypt and then to Israel. We wish Ruth a safe, happy and exciting time during the next stage of life's journey. We shall miss Ruth enormously, with that wicked sense of humour and the care with which she has surrounded her work.

Message Board

- Congratulations to Robert Pilling on graduating from Durham University with a 2:1 (Hons) in Computer Science. He is now working for Scott Logic in Newcastle as a graduate developer.
- Congratulations to Emily Lester (2008) in gaining a place on the British Airways Future Pilot Programme. Based in Hamilton, New Zealand for a year whilst completing her training, Emily is one of only 90 successful applicants from over 10,000 applications.
- It was lovely to hear that Jake Harrison (2011) was a guest at Turf Moor when the Queen visited the football stadium. Jake was a guest in his capacity as president of the Students' Union.
- Congratulations to Bob Dewhurst (1966) on being awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (QDJM). As Charters' Planning Manager, Bob, who has been planning the Royal Train for the past 11 years, had his services recognised by the Queen. The medal is being issued mainly to all serving members of the armed forces and emergency services. As part of the extensive Diamond Jubilee Tour, the Queen is making good use of the Royal Train to travel throughout the country and so, as a thank you, the Queen directed that personnel who either plan or travel on the Royal Train should also be awarded the medal. On 2nd May, Bob and three Network Rail signalling inspectors travelled aboard the Royal Train from Slough to Milton Keynes (a journey planned by Bob) during which they enjoyed a buffet lunch and were presented with their medals by Commander Patrick Lacy, Head of Royal Travel at Buckingham Palace.
- Barbara Horne, née Ratcliffe, (1966-1973) and David Ratcliffe (1958-1964) have both been nominated to be part of the Olympic Torch Relay. Both were nominated by David's daughter, Elizabeth Nelson, née Ratcliffe, (1984-1991) for their voluntary and charity work.
- Elizabeth Heath, née Sanderson, (1983-1989) has kindly agreed to be an alumni year group representative for 1989.
- Congratulations to Laura Marie Proctor (2000-2007) who has graduated from the University of Edinburgh and is now a qualified veterinary surgeon.
- Congratulations also to Laura on her marriage in August to Bobby Kirby (who has also just qualified as a veterinary surgeon).
- Congratulations to Steven Mercer, Head of Music Department, on winning the title of Best Musical Director at the Manchester Musical Awards for the production of *Little Shop of Horrors* with the Whitefield Amateur and Operatic Society.



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