



Winter
2014

Friends of BRGS

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

Centenary Year Concludes

A highlight of 2014 was our Centenary Ball with guests stepping back in time to the roaring 1920s with the main school hall transformed by decorations and lighting.



Former student Sandii Connolly and her team of committed and capable alumni, made the event such a success with entertainment provided by the brilliant Charleston Chappies. The evening raised over £8,000.

Monies raised from the Centenary Ball and from private fundraising will further enhance the Centenary Appeal for a range of funding projects around school including the upgrading of science laboratories, extending the dining room and building a learning resource centre. Fundraising plans will be shared over the next couple of years as we intend to make BRGS fit for purpose for its second century of learners!

Students and parents showed their commitment to BRGS by raising funds through a whole school sponsored walk held on the 11th July which gave us a great opportunity to explore the countryside around Clowbridge Reservoir and along with money raised through the Centenary Family Fun Day, gave us over £7,000 to go towards a much-needed school minibus.



Welcome!

In this edition we reflect back on some of the highlights of the Centenary Year and the achievements of our students both academically and in a whole host of extra-curricular activities ranging from cooking and cheerleading to skiing.

Looking forward to 2015, we eagerly anticipate the opening of our new Maths Classroom Block and continue to formulate plans for a much-needed Learning Resource Centre, additional dining space and upgrading of further science laboratories.

During the year, we intend to hold our annual London reception for south-east based alumni and will be in touch via email with confirmation of the date and venue as soon as possible.

In a bid to reduce postage costs, please do ensure that we have your up-to-date email contact details as we move increasingly towards e-copies of the magazine. As mentioned in the last edition, we are obviously keen to maintain communication with all friends of BRGS so please do get in touch with email contacts at ecg@brgs.org.uk. Thank you.

With all best wishes to you and your families for 2015,

Emma

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Maths Classroom Block

In 2015 we are looking forward to our Maths Classroom block opening.

The new classrooms replace unsuitable temporary classrooms and the building was funded as a result of a successful bid for funding to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund alongside significant contributions from alumni. The building is being constructed adjacent to the Clark Building.

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan visits BRGS



BRGS welcomed the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan to BRGS in December in a visit organised by Jake Berry MP.

It was an opportunity for all teachers from schools in Rossendale and Darwen to discuss the future educational landscape and to ask questions in an informal setting with Chris Rider from BBC Radio Lancashire chairing the 'Teacher Direct – Question and Answer Session'. Questions posed focused on teacher recruitment and retention in the Education Sector; the age at which to assess in primary schools; curriculum changes and school funding.

Holocaust Educational Trust

'Journeys' was the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2014.

Students focused on how journeys themselves were often experiences of persecution and terror for so many people who suffered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides. Life stories of journeys that brought survivors to the UK and journeys of return and rebuilding lives have been focused on. Students and staff were encouraged to write their thoughts on 'journeys' on luggage tags which were displayed in the school hall. Students wrote profound thoughts and quotes including one from Eleanor Roosevelt: "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." We were also highly privileged to welcome back Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper in a visit kindly arranged by the Holocaust Educational Trust.



As part of BRGS' continued commitment to education against intolerance, students planted a tree in the school grounds with students Carys Keeble and Lewis Wood as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz* project, organising the dedication. Sylvia Lancaster from the Sophie Lancaster Foundation came to help with the tree planting and was joined by staff and representatives from Year 9.

Share your favourite poems and books

Interested in reading? Any short book reviews would be welcome to add to our 'BRGS Reading Tree' display in our English Classroom Block. Equally, if you have any favourite poems that you may have read at school and have held dear to your hearts, or poems that you have stumbled upon subsequently, please do email in with your recollections, reviews and thoughts to Emma at ecg@brgs.org.uk.

2014 Results

BRGS has continued its tradition of sustained high achievement with another excellent set of GCSE and A level results.



Some headline figures at GCSE:

- Nearly a quarter of all grades were at A* level.
- Almost 90% of all grades were at A* to B, up from 87% last year.
- Nearly two-thirds of all grades were at A*/A, up from 59% last year.
- 20% of the year group achieved all A* or A grades up from 14% in the previous year.



At A level:

- The overall achievement at A* to B was 61%.
- 40 students achieved the excellent standard of three or more passes at grade A*/A. This constitutes 20% of the year group.
- 6 students achieved 5 or more A*/A with two students, Asanish Kalyanasundaram and Alexander Porteous actually achieving 5 A*s at A2 level!
- The results mean that five students have taken up Oxbridge offers.

The results were celebrated at our Junior and Senior Speech Nights with former students Tom Hyatt and Bill Pike as our guest speakers at these respective occasions. Singer and songwriter Tom Hyatt, was described in *Louder Than War* as having “sophistication and aplomb which is incredibly rare in performers of such a relatively youthful age” and as being “one of the most intelligent, relevant singer-songwriters in the country.” After leaving BRGS, Tom studied PPE at Oxford prior to pursuing his musical career.

Post BRGS Bill Pike went on to study economics at Newcastle University and then became a chartered accountant for Ernst & Young, being made a partner at the age of 32. Subsequently he became Chief Operating Officer at a computer games company called Gameplay and then at Europe’s largest firm of Patent & Trademark Attorneys, Marks & Clerk. Since 2010 he has been running the Evelyn Trust in Cambridgeshire which funds medical research. Bill’s key messages were to “learn to give back and try to do this from an early age” and to “be brave, take your chances and enjoy your time as you make your mark on the future.”

Fantastic Fundraising

The school total raised for Children in Need this year was an amazing £1802.14! As well as Children in Need, we have raised £235 for the Poppy Appeal, over £800 for Lauren’s Place and Year 7 have raised a record-breaking £3,030 for LEPR!
Thank you to all who contributed.

Considering a career in teaching?

BRGS is part of the
Ripley St Thomas
Teaching School
Alliance.



If you are considering training to be a secondary school teacher then the Ripley PGCE could be your route forward. The highly innovative programme is designed and delivered by outstanding teachers in partner schools with a vision to develop outstanding teaching and learning which is relevant to schools today and therefore linked to enhanced employment prospects.

Recruitment for September 2015 is now taking place for the Ripley PGCE programme via UCAS Teaching Training for the following subjects: Mathematics, Modern Languages, Design Technology, Music, History and Geography. Further details can be found at www.ripleyITT.co.uk or email teachingschool@ripley.lancs.sch.uk.

Culinary Champion

Congratulations to Archie Mullaney who won the Rossendale School's Heat of the North Lancashire Masterchef competition.



Studying GCSE Food Technology, Archie's menu consisted of Smoked Haddock Chowder, Cumin Scented Chicken Curry with Aloo Gobi and a dessert of Coconut Panna-cotta with Pineapple Chilli Sauce. In the final, the chosen menu was *The 1912 Titanic Dinner Menu* with Archie choosing three Hors d'Oeuvres of Grilled Scallops wrapped in Prosciutto; a Gazpacho shot, and Red Pepper and Goats Cheese Crisps with Radicchio. His main course was a Medallion of Beefs with Morels and a Marsala and Crème Fraiche Sauce finished off with a dessert of Vanilla Ice-Cream Profiteroles with a Chocolate Orange Sauce. The final was judged by a panel of experts and was extremely close with Archie awarded second place.

Former student Sue Ashworth, author of most of the Weight Watchers books who was commissioned by the Department of Health to work on the Change for Life project, visited school in April, kindly donating her latest recipe book to each of the 40 Year 10 GCSE Food Technology students and providing an insight to our A level students of the many varied career routes available within the Food Industry.

Technology News

Congratulations to Phillip Astridge on his successful application to the Arkwright Scholarship. Phillip travelled to London to receive this prestigious national award which promotes engineering training and careers to students. Phillip is now our fourth Arkwright Scholar and he will benefit from significant funding and options for engineering mentor support and training during his two years of A-levels.



Science News

Year 12 students scored particularly well in the University of Cambridge Chemistry Challenge with Ben Porteous, Elliot Fosong and Rosie Morrell winning gold awards. Silver awards were achieved by Hassaan Ahmed (1 mark from gold), Jessie Nutt, Jake Sutcliffe and Cerys Gregory with Copper gained by Adam Bowden (1 mark from silver), Alex Holland, Cameron Barrie and Sithu Han.



Meanwhile, two Year 13 students, Asanish Kalyanasundaram and Mohammed Kouta, qualified for the British Physics Olympiad Round 1 following their previous Gold Awards in the AS and A2 Challenge papers. Both performed extremely well in a very challenging three hour paper with Asanish receiving a Silver Award and Mohammed a Commendation which places them amongst the very best Physics students nationally. Representing BRGS in Round 1 next year will be Elliott Fosong and William Platt who achieved the highest scores in their year.

Eighteen of our Year 13 students visited the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva over the Easter break. While in Geneva there was also the opportunity to visit the History of Science Museum and Natural History Museum as well as the old town and shores of Lake Geneva.



Some of our younger scientists enjoyed the opportunity to visit a planetarium ...in the school hall! As part of National Astronomy Week, a mobile planetarium arrived in the school hall to learn about the life cycles of stars and constellations with all agreeing it was an 'out of this world' experience.

Dances to Discos

The Centenary Ball sparked conversation amongst alumni on BRGS School Dances.

Former student Michael James said "I have happy memories of 'treading the old boards' in the Hall back in the mid-fifties. In those days there were School Dances a couple of times or so a year which were always very popular. In addition to formal waltzes, foxtrots and quicksteps we also did quaint stuff like the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant, formation Barn Dances and so on." Eileen Lord reminisced about Christmas Parties at BRGS when the girls were obliged to pair up with a boy to walk up to the dining room and one year she had a heated debate with her mother in a request to wear "nylons" but she lost and had to wear socks! There was no Leavers' Ball or Prom but simply a dance in the hall that Eileen recalls a few members of staff dutifully turning up to. Nowadays the Year 7 Disco has taken over as the main dance event during students' career at BRGS but wouldn't it be fun to revisit some of the traditional School Dances?



Year 7 Fancy Dress Disco 2014!

German Exchange 2015

October brought us the annual visit from students in our partner school das Kaiserin-Friedrich-Gymnasium in Bad Homburg near Frankfurt.

Twenty five students welcomed German guests into their lessons and their homes. All enjoyed the traditional trips to York and our bowling evening amongst a whole host of activities within families. This year even saw a visit from the Head Teacher of the school Frau Zinke.

Very many thanks to our parents for giving their guests such a great time. Every year they leave with a genuine sense of the warmth and friendship that is part of the fabric of BRGS and this is down in no small part to your efforts.

We will, as usual, be making the return journey in February 2015.

Annual Art Exhibition

The annual sixth form art exhibition displayed the usual wonderful array of high quality work which we have come to anticipate from our talented, creative students.



The exceptionally high standard was commented upon by visitors as were the very different approaches, styles and concepts. Students from the 2014 cohort have gone on to study fine art and history, art foundation, TV & film set design, animation, fashion design and marketing, theatre set and costume design and creative events management - demonstrating a high percentage of students that take art forward into their future (recently past students have also continued on to gaming, product design, architecture, graphic design, landscape design and automotive design).

Regional Final of the UK Mathematics Trust Competition

Mark Chambers and Joseph Coong (Year 8) and Jess Sutcliffe and Katie Thompson (Year 9) were selected after producing excellent work during 2013-2014 to represent BRGS in the UK Mathematics Trust Regional Final held at Lancaster Royal Grammar School. Competing against 29 other schools from the region they finished in fifth place which was a superb achievement. Maths teacher Mark Wilbraham commented: "They worked well together as a team, which was really impressive as the Year 8s didn't know the Year 9s until we set-off from Rossendale. They found the Shuttle the toughest challenge, but scored particularly highly on the Cross Number puzzle with 59/60."





Multi-faith
group
organises
Diwali
Celebration



East Coast Tour



Bolivian adventure



Grandparents
Experience a
Day at BRGS



Everyone had
a Ball!
Good luck to
our Class
of 2014!



Greetings and Goodbyes

A warm welcome to our new colleagues who joined BRGS in September: Lynnette Cassidy (Deputy Head & Geography), Charlotte Coulston (Psychology), Lauren Entwistle (Media Studies), Rebecca Gore (Food Technology), Gemma Greenhalgh (Deputy Head & English), Tom Heaton (Chemistry), Christel Meredith (Head of English), Rebecca Palmer (Second in Geography), Lindsay Parkinson (P.E.), Kate Porteous (Biology), Will Seddon (Assistant Head & Head of Maths), Tim Webber (Music) and Celina Yasuda (Learning Support Manager). We also welcomed former student Ian Cameron as our Site Manager.

Michelle Baron has returned from maternity leave after the arrival of Brendan Isaac on the 9th May and our congratulations also go to Collette Walsh on her baby boy, Finlay.

Three colleagues have been married since the last edition, and we wish Ryan Stringer, Gemma King (née Doodson) and Emma Appleton-Why (née Appleton) every happiness for long futures together.

Fond farewells were said to a number of colleagues at the end of the summer and autumn terms for reasons of promotion or retirement.

Trevor Elkington joined BRGS in 1990 as Director of Sixth Form. In the 25 years since then he has built up BRGS Sixth Form into the highly successful institution it is today. He has had a profound impact on the many generations of students who have passed through our Sixth Form. His calm, positive approach has been hugely influential and he is very highly regarded by both staff and students. Many of his former students still write to him to let him know how their time at BRGS Sixth Form, and his support,

provided them with the foundations for a successful future. During the Autumn term of 2011, Trevor also briefly served as Headmaster of BRGS following the departure of Marc Morris. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Trevor writes: "It has been a wonderful privilege to serve the pupils and students of BRGS for the past 25 years as Director of Sixth Form and Deputy Head and the time has come to step down. Over the past few weeks I have been inundated with messages of good wishes from colleagues and students, past and present. I write to thank you all for your expressions of support and to answer the question, "What next?"

After 36 years of teaching history, and one of teaching photography, I would now like to use some of my free time to open my own photography studio with the aim of using this to raise money for a local young people's charity – currently Rossendale RAYS, the swimming club which supports disabled young people at Marl Pits. Over the last few years I have undertaken a number of birthday photo shoots, each of which has been done free of charge but with a voluntary donation to charity invited from a happy client! I am keen to develop this fundraising venture still further and am also looking for an available room (perhaps in business premises?) where I can keep my studio semi-permanently set up. If anyone would like to see some of my work with a view to arranging a family or birthday photo shoot or can help with a suitable location to house a small studio set then please do contact me via my school email te@brgs.org.uk and I will be in touch.

For now I reach the end of my time

at BRGS still in love with the school and everything it represents. It has been my extended family for the past two and a half decades and many of my first sixth formers are now back with children of their own – definitely time to move on! Do keep supporting BRGS in any way that you can and help to play a part in taking it into its second century as I shall also seek to do from the safety of the Development Committee!"

Ben Ventress arrived at BRGS in September 2001, to join the busy English Department. From the outset it was obvious that his forte was literature and he has enthused students throughout the school with his passion for the written word. Ben has an evocative speaking voice and sensitive delivery that makes texts come alive. He is the English Department's expert in all matters literary: there is very little he does not know.

He has the ability to connect with students, seems to know every pupil in the school and takes the time to chat. He is the kind of teacher that students will always remember, with his classy dress, hat and umbrella, entertaining conversation, kindness and honesty. Ben Ventress has achieved legendary status in BRGS and we wish him well in his new career at QEGS.

The English and Media Faculty bid farewell to **Steve Adams** who has taught English and Media at BRGS since 2002. Steve set up the Media and Film Studies course at BRGS in 2003 with consistently good to outstanding results. He continued to research developments in the media industry and in the software available to ensure both teaching and learning are as relevant as possible in this fast changing area. He also took part in the enrichment

programme offering film studies to AS students. All at BRGS wish Steve every success in his new job.

Andrea Price joined us at BRGS in 2009 as a trainee teacher and since then has made a huge impact on the Music department. She has been an incredible teacher, dazzling her students with her musical knowledge and her wicked sense of humour. Highlights of Andrea's time at BRGS include leading the music tours to the Rhineland and Barcelona, setting up the staff grade-one-a-thon, and taking part in the department's busy concert schedule. We wish her the best of luck as she departs to become Head of Music at Bolton School Girls' Division and hope she comes back and visits us soon with one of her famous rainbow cakes!

Ryan Searle has taught woodwind at BRGS for the last 7 years. He has led students through numerous successful exam sessions and set up the popular saxophone group. We wish him every success for his PGCE course.

Claire McClellan has made an enormous contribution to the Geography Department at BRGS since she arrived in 2008. She is a passionate geographer who uses her enthusiasm and boundless energy to create and deliver engaging and varied lessons. She is particularly popular with our sixth form students due to the depth of her knowledge and wealth of experience – having travelled extensively across the globe spending Summer 2014 with BRGS students in Bolivia. She has been a consummate professional who has shown relentless drive and commitment both in and out of the classroom. As Second in Department, the Geography Team will miss Claire's incredible efficiency and easy going and supportive nature. As well as being an Assistant Head of Year within the Sixth Form Pastoral Team she also

supported the Duke of Edinburgh Award on numerous expeditions and has inspired a generation of adventurous female students to follow in her boot prints. We wish her every happiness in her new and exciting chapter in her life.

Andy Skitt left the Biology Department after 3 years to travel and work abroad. He will be enormously missed by staff and students and during his time has been involved in several trips and activities, notably Duke of Edinburgh and Year 7 Paris trips.

Russ Clarke joined BRGS in 2010 as Assistant Head with responsibility for Key Stage 4. Over his four years at BRGS he has had a huge impact: through his passion for sport and outstanding PE teaching and also through his unfailing belief in the potential of every individual, and commitment to ensuring that they are successful as possible. We wish him every success in his role as Deputy Head at Haslingden High School.

We also bid farewell to **Dr Sara Savarin** who worked in the Chemistry Department several years ago known as Dr Stuart. After travelling and lecturing in America she returned to BRGS in 2012 but is now moving on to teach FE Chemistry at Blackpool at Fylde College.

Another colleague leaving at the end of the summer term was **Sally Murphy** who has been a true "rock" for the Design and Technology Department, applying her vision and creativity of product design to Key Stage 3 teaching. Sally will be missed for a number of reasons notwithstanding her contributions to the staff room cake club every Friday lunch! We wish her well.

Richard Halliwell joined BRGS in 2008 and has been a valuable, lively member of the Maths Department ever since and is sure to take his

enthusiasm to his new post at Todmorden High School. Richard has made a major contribution to extra-curricular activities including the Year 7 Activity Day, Year 8 Anglesey Maths Residentials, Year 9 Camp as well as introducing a large number of students to the sport of wakeboarding.

He has made a big contribution to the department's development and excellent results and is sure to take his enthusiasm and positive nature to his new school.

Suzanne Wheeler's contribution to the smooth running of the Centenary Year was invaluable. She is greatly missed and we wish her every success in her role as Alumni Officer for Bolton Lads' and Girls' Club.

Hannah Martin has made an enormous contribution to the school since she joined us in September 2010 as a teacher of Sociology and PSHE. Her passion and enthusiasm for her subject, high expectations, drive and energy have made a huge impact on her students. As Head of Year 10, she has also made her mark, supporting and challenging students through the past two years. She has participated in a number of extra-curricular activities, in particular our international visit programme, including the recent visit to Bolivia. We wish her well as she leaves for a new adventure travelling the world over the next two years.

Doug Fleming joined the History department in November 2009. He is known as a passionate History teacher whose extensive knowledge always ensured that pupils are given snippets of extra information about the topic that they are studying. He always wants his pupils to enjoy the subject, and works hard to make his lessons as interesting as possible. We wish him every success for a happy retirement.

Students' Sporting Successes

Orienteering

Six members of the BRGS Orienteering club participated in a six day orienteering trip to South Wales over the Easter weekend to take part in the annual Jan Kjellstrom International Festival of Orienteering (JK).



Year 12 Girls' Team

The JK is Britain's premier annual multi-day competition and regularly attracts competitors from around the world. The competition comprised of a sprint race around Swansea University campus, two-days of individual

traditional long orienteering events (this year on the Brecon Beacons) and a three-person relay. We stayed in self-catering accommodation at Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre where another ex BRGS pupil Rebecca Willis works as an instructor.

The orienteering was particularly difficult in the Brecon Beacons due to the very difficult terrain which consisted of

depressions and sink holes and not much else to navigate from. Also the running through the tussocks on the hillsides was very hard work for everyone except the very fit. So it was of no surprise to the coaches that Corinna Howorth Year 9 did so well coming top of her class in the two day competition. Her fitness (from all the running she does with the Rossendale Harriers) and her ability to read the map whilst running (a skill she has really worked on and developed over the last two years) all came together on what the rest of us found difficult terrain. Corinna ended up with an impressive lead of fifteen minutes over the second placed girl over the two days. Hannah Goldswain also did well against tough competition from Scandinavia as well as many of top the W16s in the country coming 29th out of a class of seventy. Thanks go to Debra Hoyle a parent and coach and Kate Willis.

On the 16th November the BRGS Orienteering Team took part in the British Schools' Orienteering Championships. The Year 12 team of Hannah Goldswain, Anjuli Clough (who only started orienteering two months previously) and Corinna Howorth, came second. Year 10 girls as well as Year 12 Jamie Hoyle just missed podium places. The previous day was the selection races for the World Schools Championships and Hannah Goldswain was selected to represent Great Britain in Turkey in April. We wish her every success!

National Cheerleading Competition 2014

In June 2014, it was the UK Cheerleading Association's National Schools Championships with BRGS placed as follows:

- Transitional Street Cheer, KS4 Level 1 – BRGS Street Sapphires 2nd place
- Pom Dance, KS4 Level 1 Large - BRGS Sapphires Black, 3rd place
- Pom Dance, KS4 Level 2 - BRGS Sapphires Silver, 2nd place
- Cheerleading, KS4 Level 2 - BRGS Sapphires Blue, 5th place
- Cheerleading, KS4 Level 3 - BRGS Sapphires Silver, 1st Place
- The Development Cup was awarded to former BRGS teacher Kristy Bamber and the BRGS team for developing the sport of Cheerleading!



Skiing Champion

In September 2014, 15 year old BRGS student Richard Holt came 16th out of 23rd in the European Moguls championships and 14th in the British competition, competing against all ages. An amazing achievement!



Students' Sporting Successes

Under 15 Lancashire Basketball Champions

Congratulations to our U15 team who competed in the final against opponents, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, who they had lost to earlier in the season. In spite of starting the game as underdogs, it was an incredibly close match. The last two minutes were unbearable with Safian Ali managing to score a free throw to give BRGS a four point lead. Clitheroe then reduced the gap to two points, 58-56. Both teams gave the ball away multiple times as they strove for victory. It really was a case of holding on to the slenderest of leads.

In the last 10 seconds, BRGS's George Crabtree was fouled and awarded two free throws, scoring one and taking most of the tension away. With only three seconds remaining the victory was finally seized as George scored another free throw!

Well played boys!

Sporting Round-Up

Congratulations to the BRGS Badminton teams. We won all four of the district round of the Centre Parcs National Badminton Competition. The teams were as follows:

U14 Girls:

Cara King, Nicola Turner, Eva Quigley, Zainab Hammad

U14 Boys:

Mark Howorth, James Buckley, Ryan Boott, Robert Moffat

U16 Girls:

Molly Barton, Mairead Morony, Isabelle Sharpouse, Olivia Holden

U16 Boys:

Amit Kapila, Joel Wood, Harry Fallon, Jonathan Thorp

The U13 Girls Football Team won through to the Northern Area finals by beating Hollins High 1-0 at the Accrington Stanley v Cambridge match. They play the Northern Finals on Wednesday 14th January at Blackburn Rovers.

BRGS won the Rossendale Schools' Cross Country for the 4th year running.

The following won their race and are Rossendale Schools' Cross Country Champions: Year 7 Luke Harrison; Year 7 Maisy Vasic and Year 10/11 Corinna Howorth

Year 7 student Alex James took part in the Lancashire Schools' Under 15 Golf Competition. Alex was five under par and finished tied fourth out of a field of eighty players – fantastic news!

Lancashire Schools' Athletics Championships

Corinna Howorth came third in the Junior Girls' 800 metres, Morgan Phillips was second in the Senior Boys' 400 metres and Sarah Longshaw was County Champion in the 800 metres!



Congratulations also to Max Broughton (800 metres), Louis Holding (high jump), Sarah Goldswain (200 metres) and Connor Richardson (800 metres).

Who? What? Where? When?

Former student Jean Carter was able to throw a little light on the photo of 'The Idea' in our last edition. The two figures wearing the crowns are Ann Ashworth and Ian Phillips and to the left of Ian is Kathleen Ashworth. The pupil between Ann and Ian may be Duncan Wales. The leading part was shared between Ann and Jean. Jean recalls wearing a bright orange velvet dress trimmed with vivid emerald green designed by the needlework teacher, Miss Dawn.



Please do get in touch at ecg@brgs.org.uk if you spot anyone you recognise in this edition's photo.

Obituaries

Former student **Keith Bell** sadly died in January 2014 in East Lancashire Hospice after a long illness.

On the 18th April 2014, **Shirley Hamilton Bladon née Taylor** (1945 – 1949) died after a long illness. Shirley was born in Whitworth and initially trained as a shorthand typist before working as a secretary for many companies in Rossendale. She then worked at the Cooperative Headquarters, the Equal Opportunities Commission and Greater Manchester Corporation, where she was the last secretary to leave the Residuary Body. She leaves a husband, a son and daughter, four grandchildren and a sister.

Ralph Collinson passed away in November 2013, aged 91. He joined BRGS as a Geography teacher at the same time as Eveline Firth (d. 2002), the new Music teacher, whom he subsequently married. Ralph later introduced Economics at BRGS, concurrently taking an extra-mural degree in the subject at Manchester University. Eventually, he became Head of Careers as well as Head of Geography & Economics. He was a highly effective teacher, aiding his students to become independent learners and to achieve good grades in public examinations. He read widely to keep abreast of the latest developments in his subjects as well as having a passion for reading more broadly, devouring novels. His sense of responsibility for his charges extended to banning them from a field trip if they turned up with unsuitable footwear for the terrain (despite clear forewarnings of what to wear!) He took a far-sighted approach to Careers, always aiming to enable his students to make informed choices about the world of paid employment. Ralph often

helped Eveline to put on musical productions at the school: on one occasion, the two of them carried scenery over to BRGS all the way from Waterbarn Chapel for the forthcoming musical!

In 1970, the family moved to Cheltenham, where Ralph occupied similar posts at Whitefriars School to those he had held at BRGS. He then cared for his father-in-law, as well as coping with a full professional workload and a large garden. This eventually took its toll on him and he retired slightly early from teaching. He subsequently worked for some years as a Careers Consultant for the Vocational Guidance Association, before retiring completely. He later moved to Hertfordshire and enjoyed attending events at his old Cambridge College, St. Catharine's, alongside reunions at BRGS, while his health permitted.

Ralph and Eveline were both pictured in the *Who? What? Where? When?* feature of *Friends of BRGS*, Issues 28 and 29. They leave a daughter, Evelyn.

A respected author, psychologist and lecturer, **Jack Dunham** died in February 2014 aged 87. Born in Bacup, he had a distinguished career playing for Bacup Cricket Club alongside cricketing legend Everton Weekes. He joined the ATC in 1941 and remained devoted to the RAF until his death, becoming a membership secretary to the RAF Historical Society in the 1990s.

Jack became a special needs teacher before moving to Bristol in 1960 to work at the Child Guidance Clinic. He became a founder member of Bath University and lectured there in social psychology for 19 years. In his retirement, he published *Stress in Teaching*, *Developing Effective School Management* and *Stress in the Workplace*.

Jack leaves behind his wife, Vivien, two sons, five grandchildren and brother Dick, who still lives in Bacup.

Dr Linda Cottier, née Hutchinson (1950s) sadly died on the 26th December 2014 in the Isle of Man Hospice after a two year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Former BRGS Groundsman **John Henry**, died on the 11th January 2015. John started work at BRGS in 1970, retiring in 1989. Whilst at BRGS John made a significant contribution to sporting activities and would spend his leisure time supporting the hockey players. He leaves his son Grahame, a former BRGS student, who played hockey for the School.

Maxine Lindsay née Smith (1956–1961) died suddenly on the 9th June 2014 aged 70 years. Her husband, Ken Lindsay was also a former student and she is survived by her brother Paul (1958–1966).

Harold Pickup (1928–1936) died in 2014. After BRGS he studied at St. Peter's College, Oxford and then proceeded to gain a MA in Theology at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Harold served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) from 1939–1946 before becoming the Curate of Middleton and then Vicar of St. Mary's in Gravesend, Kent. In 1957 he emigrated to Tasmania with his wife, Gwen and three children, John, Richard and Elizabeth to become Rector of Stanley. In 1961 he became Chaplain of Launceston Church Grammar School in Tasmania where he taught English and RE before his final move to teach English at Queechy High School, Launceston, from 1970 until his retirement.

Mary Wharton née Kilgallen (1940 – 1944) sadly died on the 8th May 2014 in Kiama, Australia. Mary was a lively member of the Lower Third up to V(I) and the Lower Sixth Arts until November 1944.

Message Board

- Congratulations to Sam McGrail who has been awarded his Master of Engineering with Second Class Honours in Aeronautical Engineering at Bristol University.
- Well done to Sam Boaden on becoming a *Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries*.
- Former student Rosemary Berkon has won a competitive place at The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) in London. We wish her every success.
- Alex Marlow received a well-deserved first class degree from Lancaster University.
- Nathan Mattock has been awarded a College Prize from Somerville College, Oxford for achieving a Distinction in his first year Chemistry exams.
- Helen White has graduated from the University of Bradford with a first class honours degree in Archaeology. Helen intends to continue her academic career whilst working as field archaeologist.
- Take a look at creative former student Hannah Mosley's insightful and entertaining TED talk at <http://bit.ly/110yFD1>
- Susan Whittaker née Cunliffe (1966 – 1972) has earned a PhD from the University of the West of England, where she works as a Senior Lecturer and Programme Manager in Accounting and Finance. Susan's thesis concerned teaching auditing to undergraduate students. She has also launched a virtual reality simulation of a financial audit via Second Life, which was the subject of a Higher Education Academy workshop.
- We congratulate one of our former students, Harry Taylor, who has recently won Best Drama at acclaimed Campus Movie Fest with the film 'Silent T'.
- Congratulations to Amelia Payton who has received a first class degree in Management Accounting and Finance and is now working for Grant Thornton as an Associate within the Public Sector Assurance Department.
- We wish Christopher Edwards and his wife, Hannah, every happiness after their marriage in September. Former student Daniel Hesford fulfilled the role of Best Man on the day.



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To the next 100 years...



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