



**Summer
2013**

Friends of **BRGS**

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

**ISSUE
30**

Cheerleading Champions

BRGS students are national cheerleading champions in the UKCA (UK Cheerleading Association) Competition in four categories, more than any other school!

Cheerleading is a relatively new sport to add to our diverse extra-curricular activities at BRGS and it demands dance, gymnastic and teamwork skills under the excellent coaching of Kristy Bamber, Head of Dance. Nearly 50 pupils from Years 7-10 took part in the National Schools' Competition and were highly placed in all of the categories in which they participated.

The dedication of the girls with regular after school practices has definitely paid off. Another major achievement was over-coming a uniform crisis as the new cheerleading outfits were due to arrive from the Far East but had been subjected to various delays. Thankfully, customs in London managed to release the outfits just in time when they arrived at the Velodrome in Manchester with minutes to spare before the start of the competition!

Our cheerleaders will be performing some of their stunts and dances at our Centenary reunion on the 5th October.



Welcome!

Finally our Centenary Celebrations are about to begin! I strongly encourage you to join us for two of the highlights in our birthday year: 100 year Firework Spectacular on the evening of Friday 20th September and our reunion on Saturday 5th October. We are looking forward to welcoming back alumni from around the world to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. For further details please do refer to the school website at www.brgs.org.uk. In the meantime, I hope that you have an enjoyable summer.

With best wishes,

Emma

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100 Year Firework Spectacular!



Tickets are available now for our spectacular and exciting firework display to be held on Friday 20th September 2013, one hundred years to the day that BRGS opened on its present site. Current students, parents, alumni and all friends of BRGS are most welcome to join us for a very special evening celebration.

Our Centenary Celebration Evening will start at 7.00 p.m. with vintage fairground attractions and stalls ranging from *Krispy Kreme* doughnuts to burgers, candy floss and, for the real ale connoisseurs, our very own BRGS Centenary Beer. Entertainment will be provided by our talented musicians, dancers and cheerleaders with the evening culminating in a firework display at 8.45 p.m. set to music. Be quick to buy a ticket for what will be a memorable evening to celebrate 100 years of BRGS in the Rossendale Valley.

Tickets are available through Suzanne Tanner Development Assistant at BRGS and are £5 for adults, £3 for students/concessions and £15 for a family ticket.

Please make cheques payable to 'BRGS Fireworks' and parents can use ParentPay. Suzanne can be contacted on 01706 234500 or sjt@brgs.org.uk.



100 Year Firework Spectacular, Friday 20th September 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

I would like the following tickets:

adults at £5

concessions and students at £3

a family ticket (two adults and two children) at £15



Please make cheques payable to 'BRGS' and send to BRGS, Suzanne Tanner, Development Assistant, Glen Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale, BB4 7BJ.

For parents, to pay using ParentPay there is a 50 pence administration charge for transactions under £10, please complete the slip above and pay through ParentPay. Many thanks.

Centenary Reunion

Central to our Centenary is the reunion weekend on the 5th and 6th October. Former students from across the globe are joining us for our once-in-a-lifetime 100 year reunion. We are expecting over a thousand former students to return, so please do not miss out. Do encourage your friends to join us and do feel free to bring partners and children.

Doors will open on Saturday 5th October at 1.00 p.m. On arrival, you will have decade rooms (e.g. 1960s, 1990s etc.) to give you space to acquaint yourselves with former students from your time at school. Our challenge to you is to try to recreate your old class photo with as many old classmates as you can encourage to attend! To remind yourself of your class photos then do go to visit the school archives at www.brgs.me

As well as spending time chatting and catching up with friends, you may wish to see how BRGS has changed over the years with a number of teachers and students showcasing work in their departments ranging from CSI in science laboratories to cheerleading in the Sports Hall. Since our last reunion in 2008 there have been a number of physical changes to the school including a new English Classroom Block, but you can be assured that one thing has not changed: the guarantee of a warm welcome.

A formal welcome and brief opening speeches will take place at 2.00 p.m. and a splendid afternoon tea will be available throughout the afternoon. This does not need to be pre-booked. From 5.00 p.m. there will be musical entertainment in the school hall before closing at 7.00 p.m. Do contact your alumni year group representative to see whether arrangements have been made for your year group to meet in the evening after the reunion. (Contact details for alumni year group representatives are on the school website.)



A highlight of the day will be the transformation of the school with a unique light installation covering the entire frontage of our 1913 building.

On Sunday 6th October there will be a Thanksgiving Service led by The Right Reverend Jack Nicholls, former Bishop of Sheffield and ex-pupil. The service will start at 11.30 a.m. at BRGS.

If you need disabled access to school then please do contact Suzanne Tanner Development Assistant at slt@brgs.org.uk or 01706 234500 and she will arrange parking permits. On-site parking is limited and nearer the date we will put information about parking arrangements on the alumni section of the school website. Please refer to the website for further information as the reunion weekend approaches.

For accommodation over the reunion weekend then please refer to www.visitrossendale.com

Whether you are a regular reunion attender, a recent leaver or you have not been back to BRGS for 40 years or more, please do join us to share our special reunion.

For further information regarding the reunion please contact Suzanne Tanner at slt@brgs.org.uk. Although not essential, it would be helpful if you could let Suzanne know if you are intending to join us so that our catering team can plan accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you back for our 100th birthday reunion!

BRGS chemistry students excel!

Following the successes of our A level students in the Royal Society of Chemistry International Olympiad where we achieved one gold (Asanish Kalyanasundaram), three silver (Mohammed Kouta, Nathan Mattock and Alex Porteous) and seven bronze awards (Ameer Ali, Connor Hayden-Pawson, Sam Kitson-Platt, George Platt, Jack Starkie & Adam Walker), we were delighted when Asanish Kalyanasundaram reached the finals of the prestigious National Science and Engineering Competition (Big Bang, London, March 2013).

Lower down the school, four students from Year 7 and Year 8 were chosen to represent BRGS in the Salter's Festival of Chemistry at the University of Manchester in June. Katie Aldred, Joseph Coong, Thomas Nelson and Vanessa Hoyle worked well as a team and won the Salter's challenge in the morning session and came second in the afternoon session. This is a fantastic achievement by our young chemists.

At the end of June several Year 12 students entered the University of Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and provide an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their chemistry studies further. The examination paper takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university. There were a total of 6,220 entries into the 2013 competition from schools and sixth form colleges throughout the UK. A total of 48 students won roentgenium awards, 447 students won gold awards, 840 students won silver awards and 2325 students won copper awards.

BRGS students were awarded the following certificates:

ROENTGENIUM: Asanish Kalyanasundaram

GOLD: Ameer Ali

SILVER: Mohammed Kouta and Alex Porteous

COPPER: Adam Walker, Sam Kitson-Platt, Rafi Mahmood and Josh Rimmer

To recognise Asanish's outstanding achievement the University of Cambridge have invited him to a residential chemistry camp which will take place during the summer break, just before the start of the new school term. This will be a tremendous opportunity for him to meet other exceptional students and to hone his chemistry skills.

Head of Chemistry Heather Bowden, said it was a privilege to teach the high calibre A-level Chemistry students in the sixth form at BRGS, half of whom come join from other local schools and that she was delighted to have been admitted as a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC) in June this year. Deputy Head and Director of Sixth Form Trevor Elkington said: "Each of these achievements would be quite remarkable on their own. For the Chemistry Department under Heather's leadership to have achieved them all in one year is quite outstanding. We all want to say a huge "well done" to all chemistry staff and students, we are so proud of you all."

Physics at the Forefront



BRGS physics students were entered into the British Physics Olympiad AS Challenge Paper set by the University of Oxford. This year 19 BRGS Year 12 students sat the testing paper and all produced work of a very high standard with all entrants receiving a bronze or silver award with two gold winners, Asanish Kalyanasundaram and Mohammed Kouta, who will progress to the subsequent stage of the competition next year.

Year 13 physics students studying cosmology were able to visit the observatory in Bacup. Year 13 student Seamus McDonnell reported on the visit:

The trip was a huge success with students able to see many incredible sights including Jupiter, Saturn and a number of galaxies, stars and nebulae throughout the universe.

The outing involved Sixth Form students who paid a visit to the observatory late on Wednesday night along with Head of Physics Andrew Wilkinson who was more excited than anyone to examine the night sky. The darkness lent a great backdrop to the spectacular formations on show, giving everyone a great view of things above.

Students were given a talk about the centre and the equipment used by the astronomers before being guided outside to sample the tools by looking up at objects in the sky.

The Astronomy Centre situated between Bacup and Todmorden is an organisation run entirely on donations by members and visitors throughout the year. They have various pieces of equipment including one huge dome capable of opening up and turning 360 degrees to view almost anything in the sky. There are also several other smaller telescopes capable of being turned and used to view objects light years from Earth with the help of clever computer programmes.

All in all, the entire trip turned out really well with everyone learning new things as well as having a brilliant time. A great reason to study Physics at BRGS!

Enriching Valley Life

Sixth form students Suzanne Barratt, Helen Wilson, Callum Dott and James Ray have been planting wild flowers and shrubs by the roundabout in Rawtenstall as part of their sixth form enrichment programme. The work has been in liaison with Chris Blomerley organiser of Rawtenstall Civic Pride and materials for the projects have been funded through a Lancashire County Council Green Partnerships Award.



PHILANTHROPIC PRESENTATIONS

Year 10 students engaged in a ten week competition have been awarded £3,000 from the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) to go to their chosen charity. The YPI is an organisation which engages young people in giving back to their communities and empowers students to participate in social change.

Students worked in teams to select and research their chosen charities and then create presentations to pitch for the winning grant. The eight winning teams won through to a grand final at which they delivered their presentation to all the 150 peers in their year group along with a panel of judges consisting of the Mayor of Rossendale, Councillor Amanda Robertson, a representative of the YPI along with representatives from the governing body.

After a hotly-fought contest, with a number of emotional presentations as students have come to understand more about their chosen charities and appreciate to a greater degree the work they undertake, a tough decision had to be made. Judges chose the winning Year 10 team of Georgina Chick, Lucy Clay, Laura Dunleavy and Sarah Taylor who represented the charity WHAG (Women's Housing Action Group).

WHAG aims to support men and women suffering from domestic abuse. It was established in 1981 in Rochdale with the aim to help people aged 16-65 who were homeless or unable to return home as a result of domestic abuse. Since then the charity has expanded to incorporate Bury and is truly a local charity helping local people with the mission statement of "empowerment through support".

Managing Director of WHAG Kirsty Rhodes was thrilled with the £3,000 donation and said that she hopes that initiatives such as these raise the public and media profile of grassroots charities. She encouraged students to continue volunteering and fundraising for the many worthy charities represented during the course of the competition.



Movie Memories

'Movie Memories' was the theme for our annual dance show at the end of March.

The dedicated group of pupils studied a variety of dance styles including street, jive, ballet, jazz and contemporary under the direction of Kristy Bamber, Head of Dance. Many pupils involved in the show had not attended any formal training outside of school which required significant additional commitment to learning the different dance styles so that they could master many complex techniques.

Students performed routines inspired by many different movies including Avatar, Hunger Games, Slumdog Millionaire, Kung Fu Panda and Shrek. Dances for the show were choreographed by a number of Year 8 – 13 students:

- Year 8: Robyn Westerman and Olivia White
- Year 9: Jessica Fogarty, Ella Beardsworth, Emma Ogden and Kennedy Duffy
- Year 10: Alice Jane Evans, Caitlin Shackleton, Charlotte Duncan, Eve Williams, Gemma Nuttall, Lauren Jenkins, Lewis Robinson, Lily Pearson, Ruth Lester, Saffron Neal, Sophie Duncan, Amy Duncan and Ellen Horbaczewskj.
- Year 11: Lucie Connolly and Olivia Walker
- Year 13: Lisa Darrer

The show was performed over two nights, and was a great success for all involved.



Arctic Star Award Winner

A former BRGS teacher has been awarded a prestigious Arctic Star award. Eric Ward who taught at BRGS for 34 years became one of 200 people who have survived to be awarded the retrospective medal given to former servicemen for any length of service above the Arctic Circle.



The gruelling route described by Winston Churchill as “the worst journey in the world” was experienced by Eric whilst a member of the Arctic Convoy Team. Thousands of Allied seamen lost their lives during the Arctic convoys from 1941 to 1945 and under the constant threat of German U-boats and fighter plane attacks they made the treacherous journey to supply food, ammunition, fuel, tanks and planes to the Soviet Union.

Eric, 93 years old, has vivid memories of his hands sticking to the sides of the ship and his balaclava freezing to his face in inhospitable weather conditions. Severe storms, fog and ice added to the danger and Eric remembers a particular time when HMS Empire Archer was frozen in for four days at Murmansk meaning that they were a sitting target for enemy forces. Eric participated in 53 convoys.

Eric was awarded his medal by the Mayor of Rossendale on the 30th June at Haslingden Lodge where he lives with his wife Margaret. His collection of medals includes a Russian Convoy medal and the Arctic Emblem.

At the presentation ceremony was a large number of Eric’s family, friends and residents as well as BRGS alumni. Former student Gerald Hems writes: “several of the original members of Eric’s BRGS bird watching group and former pupils attended, meeting up again after 60 years to honour what must be one of BRGS’s oldest

surviving teachers, a hero and a gentleman in his own right. The BRGS contingent consisted of Donald Green, Gerald Hems, Elizabeth Mathews née Pickup with her husband along with Neville and Anne Crane née Barratt. Messages of congratulation were also received from other ex-pupils and passed on by the Mayor.”

Eric has penned a poem called

Arctic Nights:

*The convoy’s sailed, its task assigned
To fight and steam, to steam and fight
‘til sun’s bright rays are far behind
Defeated by the Arctic night*

*The lonely friendly cold Pole Star
The brilliant, burning, Northern Lights
Look down upon us from afar
Companions of the Arctic nights*

*The stinging, freezing salt sea spray
Has flaked our iron hulls with white
And a ghostly convoy threads its way
Amid the Arctic night.*

Fond Farewells

As we approach our Centenary Year we say farewell to four dedicated members of staff who between them have loyally served BRGS for over 100 years! After 16 years at BRGS Anne King our Network Manager retired. Anne joined BRGS at a time when we had limited ICT infrastructure and has overseen and directed transformational developments in our computing provision. The three teachers who are retiring at the end of our summer term are Jane Young (Geography) who started at BRGS in 1977, David Archer (Former Head of Science and Physics teacher) who started in 1981 and Shirley Sellens (English) who joined BRGS in 1994.

Former students have been keen to send in retirement messages with one former student mentioning how his combination of four A levels in the early 1980s would not comply with the sixth form timetable so **“Mrs Young tutored me at lunchtimes. I remember the surprise shock of getting an ‘A’ grade, which I certainly was not expecting. I think I showed my appreciation with a box of chocolates or something at the time, very embarrassing for an 18 year old, and not really befitting all the effort she had put into my personal tuition.”**

Another student said: **“little did I know back in 1977 as a nervous first year pupil that it was also Mrs. Young’s (or Miss Smallwood as she was then!) first taste of school life. I remember her very well – very enjoyable, well structured lessons.”**

One ex-student said **“I’d go so far to say that Mr. Archer was probably the best teacher I’ve ever had. A man with a subtle enthusiasm for his subject that for me, has been unmatched before or since. His style of imparting knowledge on a variety of subjects, from Duke of Edinburgh navigation techniques to Particle Physics were always delivered with a dry humour.”**

A fan of Mrs. Sellens stated: **“I loved English because of you. I hope you have a wonderful retirement.”**

We wish all leaving very happy and long retirements and thank you for your commitment and dedication to countless students at BRGS. Thank you.

Students enjoyed a geography field trip to Ingleborough exploring White Scar caves and the limestone features of the area.



BRGS geography students visited Sorrento in Italy with trips to Vesuvius and Pompeii.



Art Exhibition

The annual art exhibition of students' AS and A2 level work was held on the 12th June with some exceptional pieces of work on display.



Oxbridge Alumni Reception

Year 10 and Year 12 students had a taste of Oxford life with a visit to Hertford College, Oxford. BRGS students sampled the tutorial system with challenging and inspiring sessions with Oxford fellows. They enjoyed lunch in the Grand Hall and a tour of Hertford College before attending an alumni reception in the evening.

The alumni reception attracted former BRGS students currently studying at Oxbridge as well as ex-Oxbridge students alongside past students based in the locality.

Regional Maths Challenge

Four pupils from Years 8 & 9 represented BRGS at a Regional Final of the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Team Challenge competition at Lawnswood School, Leeds, on Wednesday 20th March.

The pupils – Zain Ahmad, Jack Midgley (both Year 8), Bethanne Jones and Tara Williams (Year 9) were chosen by their Maths teachers after producing excellent work throughout this year.

They continued this in the competition where they were up against 24 other schools from the Yorkshire region.

After four rounds of solving challenging Maths puzzles and problems covering a variety of topics, the pupils finished in sixth place out of 25 teams, which was a superb achievement.

Leeds Grammar School won the event, with Tadcaster Grammar and Horbury Academy joint runners-up.

Maths teacher Mark Wilbraham, who accompanied the team, said: "I was really proud of the performance of the pupils throughout the day. The team found the Mini Relay the toughest challenge, but performed particularly well on the other rounds, especially the Cross Number puzzle on which they scored 56/60. We all enjoyed the day out and will hopefully repeat it next year with four other pupils from Years 8 and 9."

The team is pictured outside Lawnswood School.



Class of 2013

Year 11 enjoyed the traditional shirt-signing ceremony in the school hall and Year 13 dressed up in a range of fancy dress costumes for their leavers' day with outfits ranging from the Smurfs to the Jamaican bobsled team. All paraded in the hall for the traditional farewell with old favourites *Auld Lang Syne*, *New York, New York* and our own unique BRGS version of *The Conga*.

A new addition to the day was initiated by Year 13 prefects who placed a post-it note on the locker of every lower school student with inspiring personalised messages ranging from "reach for the stars" to "strive to be the best" or "be happy". A thoughtful and lovely gesture! We wish the class of 2013 every success in the future.



For further Year 13 photographs then please go to the school website at <http://www.brgs.org.uk/year-13-leavers/3217.html> and you will be able to access a number of excellent photographs taken by Director of Sixth Form Trevor Elkington.



Sporting Champions

In a previous edition we asked ex pupils to get in touch if they ever held a sports record at BRGS. Below are some of the replies we have received to date (information sometimes provided by proud family members!) – can you add to any of these?

- Clive Martin was the first ever student to receive an Instructor Royal Lifesaving Award in 1949/1950. As an interesting aside, his mother was called Doris Grafton and was one of our first students at BRGS, moving from the Newchurch Grammar School to our present site in Waterfoot in 1913. Doris lived at Hayte Barn House in Britannia where the filming of *The Railway Children* took place.
- Brian Hereward (1946-1951) became the first ever winner of the Junior Cross Country and at 14 was the youngest ever recipient of a Sports Blue.
- John Graham (1973 – 1980) held the boys' high jump record for a number of years in the 70s and possibly 80s until a break in high jumping on health and safety grounds!

- Lesley Pilkington née Hoyle was the junior athletic victrix loudorum in 1964/1965 with Denise Lynch for the middle school and Barbara Knight in the senior school. All three girls were in Glen House and Lesley believes that this may have been a record to have three female winners from the same house. Lesley became the first woman to qualify as a pole vault coach under the British athletics system and believes that her love of athletics was nurtured whilst at BRGS.

Further sports records will be displayed in our archive display at our Centenary Reunion and we will also be sharing the feedback we have received on which family has the most connections to BRGS!

Sports Reports

National Schools Regatta Champion



Sixth form student Jess Leyden continues to add to her rowing titles representing BRGS at the National Schools Regatta held in Nottingham in May where she took a comfortable gold in the Scullery Cup event for Championships Singles.

May was a successful month with Jess also scooping two gold medals at the Munich Junior International Regatta where she raced in the single scull representing Great Britain against a field of 24 athletes. Jess, who trains at Hollingworth Lake, became the first ever British girl to win this single scull event. In Munich she won her 2,000 metres heat by six seconds to qualify for the A final subsequently putting clear water between her boat and those chasing her in a very fast race to cross the finishing line an impressive 12 seconds in front of the pack with a personal best time of 7:55.4. Jess was then placed in the fastest heat for the time trial and despite a strong headwind and tough early competition, she once again powered clear to win by 12 seconds in 8:46.04.

Jess is in her final year as a junior and hopes to get selected to row for Great Britain at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Lithuania in August after which she aims to progress to the under-23 squad. Ian John, Captain of Hollingworth Lake Rowing Club said: "Jess's achievements for someone of her age have been remarkable."

Skydiving Success

Sam Bemment (1997-2004) remembers being the recipient of a joke award in the sixth form as to who would be the least likely person to appear on the international honours merit board for sport in the school hall for representing Great Britain. However, scroll forward nine years and he has been representing Great Britain in Formation Skydiving in various international competitions for the past five years both at European and World level!

Competitions he has participated in include:

- European Skydiving League Finals, Texel, the Netherlands, September 2008
- European Skydiving League Finals, Texel, the Netherlands, September 2010
- 3rd Dubai International Parachuting Championships and Gulf Cup, Nov/Dec 2011
- European Skydiving League Finals, Moorseele, Belgium September 2012

This season he is due to compete in the World Cup of Formation Skydiving in Bosnia in August as well as the European Skydiving League Finals in Belgium in September. No doubt Sam's interest in the sport was sparked through his degree in aeronautical engineering at Loughborough University where he is now based as a Research Associate.

We wish Sam every success and look forward to hearing subsequent achievements in a future newsletter.



SAM BEMMENT'S SKYDIVING TEAM AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. SAM IS PICTURED SECOND FROM THE RIGHT.

Sports Reports

Football, Athletics and Rugby Rossendale Champions

The Year 10 football team won the Rossendale Cup for the second year coming back from 2-0 down, with 15 minutes left but fighting back to draw 2-2 and then win 9-8 on penalties.

Our Years 8 and 9 girls and boys won the Rossendale Indoor Athletics Championships (coming 5th and 7th respectively in the Lancashire event) and our Year 8 rugby team won the Rossendale tournament for the second year running. Captain Harvey Crookes-Bowers and Mark Rutherford-Shaw were the stars of the team with Harvey currently playing for Preston Grasshoppers. Congratulations to all!

Haslingden Girls' Football

Haslingden Under 12s girls' football club were invited to play in the Brandlesholme Warriors Challenge Cup.

The team consists of a number of BRGS students with Rebecca Prestage Year 7 scoring the opening goal. The game ended 2-2 and went to penalties which Haslingden won 4-2, lifting the Challenge Cup, their second trophy of the season. Manager Stephen Felinski said "I could not be more proud of the way the girls have performed throughout the season, well done." For a full match report then see www.haslingdenjuniorgirlsfc.com

Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships

Our Year 7 teams represented Rossendale in the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships with the girls finishing 3rd (Emily Morgan, Alice Hopkinson and Charlotte Mort) and the boys coming 2nd (Max Broughton, George Wilson, Ben Green and Kian Grenfell)!

Orienteering News

BRGS Orienteers performed wonderfully at the four day Jan Kjellstrom International Festival of Orienteering near Reading with Hannah Goldswain and George Tanner coming first in their respective age classes. George has been selected for the North West Junior Squad joining fellow BRGS student Jamie Hoyle.



Who? What? Where? When?



Do you recognise any of the Hockey players?

A mystery face in the previous edition of Friends of BRGS (bottom left photo) (3rd row, left to right, 4th person along) was former domestic science teacher at BRGS Joyce Brown. Both Joan Maden and Joyce's cousin kindly got in touch to let us know. Liz Matthews née Pickup added further names to the mix and spotted English teacher Mr. Blainey as the gentleman wearing glasses behind Mrs. Culley. Liz said that the rumour at the time was that Mr. Blainey had taught in Egypt at Cairo University. Jean Ashworth née Stansfield also spotted Mr. Blainey. John Graham (1973 – 1980) spotted his Dad Tom Graham who was on the back row second from the right who sadly died aged 60, 32 years ago.

Trailtrekking for Oxfam

A team of ex-BRGS students participated in the 100km Oxfam Trailtrekker Challenge on the 1st June. The team of Joe Wallwork, Lawrence Clare and Sam Turner completed the challenging circular course from Skipton up to the Lake District and back again in 27 hours 49 minutes. Many congratulations!



Obituaries

- We were sorry to learn of the death of former student **Edna Ball née Stansfield** who died on the 20th May.
- **Barbara Bennett née Bennington** studied at BRGS during the war years and sadly died after a relatively short illness last year.
- We send our deepest condolences to the family of former Head of Art at BRGS **Jack Cawthorne** who died on the 16th June 2013. In the last newsletter we reported on the death of his daughter, Jane who died after a short illness in February.
- **Wesley Clutterbuck** (2006-2011) tragically died on the 1st July 2013 aged only 19 years old following an incident in Rochdale. Wesley had just started a promising career with the elite Royal Marines. Kevin Grehan was Wesley's Head of Year for four years from when Wesley was in year 8 until the end of his GCSEs. He has written the following tribute to Wesley:



"Wesley was a lovely and generous hearted young man with a great future ahead of him He was a real character with a thirst for life and a bit of a lovable rogue who kept us on our toes, but always did so with a broad smile on his face. He was extremely polite, a real gentleman and was extremely popular in his year group – they all loved him and he them and his loss will be felt very deeply by all who knew him. He was very close to his family and often spoke about his desire to make them proud of him. He always wanted to have a career in the armed forces and he fulfilled his dream when he joined the marines. He loved his sport and excelled in the school football team, forming an incredibly close bond with his team-mates and wearing his shirt with pride."

The news of his tragic death has shocked everyone at BRGS – it is a very close-knit school which prides itself on its family atmosphere and we have lost a member of that family. We grieve as a teaching body and as a school community for his family as well as for his many, many friends who I know will be devastated at this time. We will always have very fond memories of Wesley, but it is a life cut short far, far too early."

BRGS students held a one minute silence and a charity football match in Wesley's name.

- Congratulations to three teachers who have welcomed new additions to their families. English teacher Siobhan Carney welcomed baby Arthur, Maths teacher Pam Sawle had a baby son, Brody Luke and Maths teacher Jane Chapman, gave birth to Mary Elizabeth.
- Former student Daniel Vipham (1993 – 2000) married Philippa Neville in Cheshire in March and will continue to live in Rossendale with their son Isaac. We wish them all the very best for the future.
- Reverend Tricia Anslow née Foster (1966 – 1969) was priested in York Minster on the 3rd June by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu. Tricia is continuing to serve her title as curate in the Parish of Lower Wharfe in the Diocese of York.
- Many congratulations to Joanna Pritchard (1996 – 2003) on her marriage to Jonathan. Joanna is now a conservation architect in Cheltenham. The wedding reception was full of ex-BRGS students including Loretta Parkinson; Tom Disney; Rachel and Sarah Whittaker; Luke Roberts who conducted part of the wedding service; Abigail Bowker, Amy and Jonathan Williams and John Whittaker. We wish them a long and happy marriage.
- Year 13 drama student Mariella Giomarelli has won a prestigious place to Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) after competing against thousands of applicants for one of thirty places at LIPA. Well done to Mariella, staff and students at BRGS are very proud of you.
- Former pupil Dr Katherine Dyson (BDS Hons) (2001-2008) has completed her dentistry training at University of Liverpool. She has passed with Honours and distinctions in all three areas and is now taking up a post at Bebington.
- Congratulations to former student Claire Jackson (2000 – 2007) who has qualified as a doctor at Newcastle University.
- Shannon Chamley (1999-2006) is now MBBS in medicine graduating from University College London. This is further to her BSc first with honours in Medical Sciences with Human Genetics, also from UCL. We wish Shannon well as she starts as a junior house officer at St Thomas's Hospital in London. Her sister Rebecca (1997-2003) will be working nearby as a doctor in acute medicine at The Brompton Hospital and as a flight lieutenant in the RAF.
- Harry Proctor (2003-2010) has graduated from Edge Hill University with a 2.1 in P.E. and School Sports and will progress to a PGCE course at the University of Cumbria to train to be a primary school teacher.
- Former pupil Jessica McGuinness (2007-2009) has graduated from the University of Lancaster with a 1st class Honours Degree in Psychology in Education. Jessica was presented with the departmental prize for outstanding achievement.
- Hannah Jones (left 2010) has graduated from the University of Liverpool with a 1st class Honours Degree in Law. She has secured a training place at one of the top law firms in the country, DLA Piper – congratulations.
- The BRGS Running Team congratulate BRGS physics teacher David Archer on a special birthday which he celebrated by completing 60 lengths swimming, a 60km bike ride followed by a 600 metre hill climb run!
- Congratulations to former students Miles Thomson and Kayleigh Nicholls who left BRGS in 2011 and are now engaged.
- Well done to geography teacher Claire McClellan on achieving her Mountain Leadership qualification.
- Former student and acclaimed musician Ernest Tomlinson has been awarded an MBE. Ernest attended BRGS Sixth Form after Manchester Cathedral Choir School disbanded during the war. At the time there was no music teacher at BRGS so Ernest informed the Headmaster that he would teach himself! Ernest started an orchestra and played piano duets in assembly with his brother.
- In the world of drama, former student Graham Butler's career is going from strength to strength currently starring as Henry VI in Shakespeare's Globe Theatre's 2013 touring production.



Photo courtesy of The York Press



Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School

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