



Friends of BRGS

Summer
2003

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

Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

ISSUE
2

Welcome to the second 'Friends of BRGS' newsletter! Thank you for your positive and encouraging comments on the first edition. We have been heartened by the response and huge interest that the local community, parents and former pupils have shown in 'Friends of BRGS' with over 2,500 people wishing to keep up to date with recent developments at school and hear news of former pupils.

Many of you are keen to read more about your former classmates and we have included as many of your comments and articles as possible. Please do contact me if you have any news you would like to feature in 'Friends of BRGS'. It is your newsletter so we would like to make it as enjoyable a read as possible!

Inside this edition are further details about the school reunion on Saturday 4th October 2003. A number of former pupils and staff of all ages from Accrington to Australia have indicated that they are joining us for the reunion. We look forward to welcoming back as many people as the building will allow!

This edition also brings us news of a particularly busy Spring Term for teachers and students at BRGS with an OfSTED inspection in March, which we passed with flying colours. Sporting successes continued with our sports teams becoming Lancashire Basketball Champions, third in England for netball, and County Cricket Champions. Other extra-curricular activities included a Maths Challenge for over 100 primary school children in Rossendale and a school trip to Belgium.

As I write this we are entering the busy summer exam season, so the best of luck to all our students in their exams and their future careers.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in October, but in the meantime, I hope you all enjoy the summer months.

Best wishes,

Emma Gauntlett

Development Director 01706 234502 emma.gauntlett@brgs.org.uk

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THE 'COOLEST TEAM'!

A team of four Year 8 pupils travelled to the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology to compete in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry.

There were sixteen teams competing from all over the North West of England including Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Bury Grammar School (Boys) and Manchester Grammar School. The first practical challenge involved a forensic investigation and witness reports from the scene of a crime. The BRGS team successfully identified the culprit!

The second challenge was to produce a combination of chemicals which when mixed together cooled to exactly 10.5° in exactly 60 seconds. John Ashton, Head of Chemistry, said: "After several preliminary attempts the team was ready to be judged and got the result spot on." They were declared the "coolest team" by Professor Dick Powell at the prize-giving held at the end of the day.



Photo supplied by Rossendale Free Press
The Year 8 Team from left to right: Laura Hodgkiss,
Rachel Barlow, Helen Beck and Joe Hodgson.

Your letters

Many thanks for the first issue received yesterday on my eighty second birthday. I am very pleased to see that the old school is still going from strength to strength. I went to the golden jubilee reunion in 1963 when Mr. Copley was Head and my father was a governor. Wishing you all continued success.

Jack Duddington, Former Pupil.

Thank you for forwarding the Friends of BRGS magazine. I attended the school in the dark days of 1943-1946. The football teams in those days played in Blue and Yellow Quarter shirts and I remember my mother repairing mine with an old yellow duster which was fine until it rained when all the dye came out!

Mr. Frank Robinson, Former Pupil 1943-1946

I was pleased to receive in today's mail a copy of "Friends of BRGS". I think that it is a splendid way of keeping exiles like myself in touch with the old school. I am now approaching my 66th birthday and, although I have spent 22 years in the RAF, then returned to Rossendale for about 23 years before opting to retire near to my eldest daughter in Darlington, I still feel a strong attachment to my native Lancashire. I do hope that you are successful in making the publication a regular feature and look forward to future issues.

Edward Hall, Former Pupil.

As an old pupil of BRGS (1985-92) I just thought that I would drop you a line to thank you for the newsletter. It was really nice reading about the events that have been recently taking place at 'my old school' - it brought back my happy memories for me. It was especially nice to read about teachers that taught me.

Andrea Nuttall, Former Pupil.

TAKING UP THE MATHS CHALLENGE

By Susan Kennedy, Maths Teacher and Maths Challenge Organiser

Saturday 17th May saw a record entry for the fifth annual BRGS Primary Maths Challenge. About 20 local primary schools and 23 teams took part in this highly successful event which has been growing steadily since it began in 1999.

Primary schools from Rossendale are invited to send a team of four year six pupils to the Challenge. Themes for the Challenge have included Harry Potter, A Journey through Space, and this year, A Haunted House.

The Challenge consists of a series of puzzles and problems with varying levels of difficulty centred on a large baseboard around which each team works. There are some complex tasks involved, as well as plenty of opportunity for cutting, sticking and building models. Without actually realising it, the children work on simultaneous equations, complex number operations, sequencing and logic problems. Each team works with a student helper from BRGS against the clock to solve as many puzzles as possible. For each correct puzzle

participants receive part of the Haunted House to assemble until they complete and piece together the entire building.

This year, as always, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves – even though they spent all Saturday morning doing maths! When asked, at around 10.30 a.m. if they were ready for a break, there was a cry of "no"!

The winning team was Helmshore County Primary School, who did not drop a single mark, and the runners-up were from St. Bartholomew's Primary School.

Feedback from the event has been very positive and children have taken their challenge material back into their schools, sharing it with their class-mates. It has often been used as a basis for work within the class.

The emphasis of the Challenge is teamwork and fun. We feel that we have a good balance and have been encouraged by the response from schools. It is clear from the growth of the Challenge that primary schools enjoy, and see great value in their annual trip to BRGS.

This is, we believe, a unique event in the north-west, and one of which we are very proud.



Photo supplied by Rossendale Free Press

St. Peter's RC Primary pupils Charles Robertshaw, Colm Kennedy, Edward Holden and Faye Chapelhow with BRGS pupil Matthew Gosnell.

Prize Memories By Reverend Stanley Hall, Former Pupil (1937-1942)

The Newsletter of Spring 2003 gives the list of prize winners to whom congratulations are offered. For those of us whose memories go back sixty or more years, the names of some of the prizes are of great nostalgic interest.

• EH Holden was Headmaster in the thirties and during the war. The picture of 'Ted' walking up and down the hall with a teacher or student in tow will still be vivid for many of us. In the war, our summer holiday was curtailed to a couple of weeks. One Tuesday, there was to be a celebrity cricket match at Burnley. I picked the short straw to ask permission for us to go to the match. Mr. Holden granted permission but then the day came and with it persistent rain! I failed to get permission to go on the slim chance that the weather would change!

• Hugh Owen was the initial impact on entry to the school as he took Form 1 English. He was a character and a half, and he must have suffered as he tried to provoke interest in "The Odyssey". Maybe I should read it now and see what I missed in those far off days.

• The two Miss Moores were near permanent institutions. I can still remember from the history notes which little Miss Moore churned out year by year: "The causes of the French Revolution were as deep-seated and longstanding as the outbreak itself was sudden." My sister had the notes two years before I did! Nevertheless, I have always been grateful for the insight she gave.

• There can have been few, if any, better Maths teachers than the big Miss Moore as we called her. We were fortunate to have her no nonsense approach. I visited her in her nineties and was fascinated by her vivid

memories.

• If we were privileged to have the Maths Miss Moore, it is equally true of Mrs. Hebden and English. She was Miss Jones in our day. She loved her literature and sixty years later when I enjoy a poem or a classic novel, I still have the feeling, "Miss Jones would be glad at this".

• Three prizes are named after fellow students remembered with pleasure. John Metcalfe played a little for Bacup at cricket before going to study medicine. We played together in wartime matches and he was later a key figure in cricket at or near Otley in Yorkshire. At school Rowland Rawlinson was a senior figure we looked up to and his sister, Patricia Rawlinson, was lovely. We finish on a sad note. Pat was a stewardess on one of the first Comets that crashed.

A FOND FAREWELL

Our year 13 pupils celebrated their leaving day in traditional BRGS style by coming to school in fancy dress. Outfits were as imaginative as ever, ranging from the Incredible Hulk to a cuddly bear, a traffic cone and a bunch of grapes!

There was no escape for their form tutors who also entered into the spirit of the day dressing up as doctors and nurses!

The day started with year 13 gathering in the hall to sing the usual school leaving anthem, 'New York, New York' led by Tony Edwards (Technology Teacher), then to the cheers of the rest of the school they paraded their costumes around the hall.

We wish the class of 2003 all the best of success in their exams and for their future beyond BRGS.



Year 13 pupils in fancy dress

BRGS Old School Ties

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School invites all past students and staff to a reunion on Saturday 4th October at the school. 2003 is a special year for BRGS as it is a dual celebration: the 90th anniversary since the school was built at our present site in Waterfoot, as well as the 300th anniversary of the school being founded, our origins going back to Newchurch Grammar School in 1703.

The last reunion for all former pupils was in 1998 and attracted over 1000 people back to their roots at the school. The 2003 reunion is set to be even more popular with guests returning to Rossendale to renew friendships from as far afield as America, Australia and China.

This year, with the advent of the Friends Reunited website, we have been able to get in contact with many more former pupils who we had lost touch with. We are expecting a wide range of pupils to attend the reunion from present pupils who will be performing in the concert, to those who left over 70 years ago!

It would help us plan for the reunion if you could please complete the enclosed form indicating whether you are hoping to join us on Saturday 4th October and letting us know if you require a buffet tea. Please return requests and payment for buffet teas to Trevor Elkington at BRGS by the 15th September. For guests who have requested further information on hotel accommodation copies of the Rossendale Visitors' Guide from the Tourist Office are available from school.

Trevor Elkington, Director of Sixth Form and Chair of the Reunion Committee responsible for organising the weekend's activities said "We are looking forward to another successful reunion and are expecting a very large turnout for our special 90th and 300th year anniversaries."

For further details about the reunion please contact Emma Gauntlett at BRGS on 01706 234502 or at emma.gauntlett@brgs.org.uk

The programme for Saturday 4th October is:

11.30 a.m. **BRGS opens.** (Please note that there will be no provision for lunch time meals but refreshments will be available throughout the day.)

2.00 p.m. **Formal start** in the main hall with the present Headmaster, Martyn Morris O.B.E.

4.00 – 6.00 p.m. **Buffet Tea** in the dining room

6.30 p.m. **Evening concert** in the hall featuring Katie Fell, Lynne Altham (née Johnson), Gina Lees (née Cole) singing; Chris Storey and Ben Goffee on brass; and Hilary Fielding on the 'cello.

8.00 p.m. Philip Clark, former Headmaster (1969-1987) to **close proceedings.** This will be followed by light refreshments, courtesy of the PTA.

Guests are very welcome at any time during the day and on Sunday 5th October there will be a morning service in the main school hall at 11.30 a.m. conducted by the Reverend John Maden.

BRGS Reunion Saturday 4th October 2003

Name Year Left BRGS

Address

Telephone Number Email address

Yes, I/We hope to attend the BRGS reunion.

Yes, I/We wish to order _____ buffet teas and enclose a cheque or postal order made payable to **Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School** for _____ at £10 each. Please also enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that we can send you your ticket/s for the buffet tea/s. All requests for buffet teas need to be received by Monday 15th September.

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements

Please indicate if you need disabled access to the school building

Yes, I/We would like further information about hotel and guesthouse accommodation in Rossendale.

Yes, I/We would be interested in attending the evening concert.

If the school were to consider providing entertainment such as a disco after the evening concert, this would be of interest to me/us.

If you have any other suggestions for the reunion then please do let us know.

.....

Please return the form to Trevor Elkington at BRGS, Glen Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale BB4 7BJ.

BRGS' School Report

BRGS received its own school report with an Office for Standards in Education Department (OfSTED) inspection in March. A team of 23 inspectors spent a week at school, observing lessons for teaching and learning styles; attending extra-curricular activities; and speaking with a number of teachers and pupils. They concluded that BRGS is a "very good" school.

MAKING THE GRADE

The following extract summarises the inspectors' findings:

"BRGS is a very good school that provides very well for all its pupils. Standards are well above those found in most schools nationally and compare favourably with similar schools. The pupils achieve very well in national tests and public examinations. Their personal development is impressive. The school is particularly successful in combining high academic achievement with well-managed care for all its pupils and students. The quality of teaching and learning is very good. The very good leadership and management skills of the headteacher and his senior staff set high standards and enable all to fulfil very well the academic and social aims of the school."

Martyn Morris, Headmaster, said: "We received a truly outstanding report which reflects the hard work and dedication of all the staff and students. I am very proud to be headmaster of such a school as this."

OUR STRENGTHS

Academically our results at A/AS level and GCSE level were rated as well above average with our national test results at Year 9 in 2002 in the top five per cent of all schools nationally and above average for grammar schools. GCSE results in 2002 were also very high, in the top five per cent of all schools nationally with all but two of the 150 candidates obtaining 5+ A*-C grades. Nationally, approximately half of all pupils did so. The inspectors believe that "the strongest features in these excellent results were the very high number of pupils obtaining the highest grades A*/A and the consistently very good achievement by both the boys and the girls."

The inspectors said that standards at school are high because "pupils are intellectually curious and academically ambitious" and are self-motivated learners who "arrive at school cheerfully and soon settle to the various routines within classrooms." The inspectors observed that the school "provides a very caring, happy and supportive environment". Outside of school, our strong partnership with parents was

highlighted along with our links with the local community.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Although emphasising that we make good use of our buildings and facilities available at BRGS, the report echoed our concerns over lack of space. This was noted in respect of the limited private study facilities for sixth form students as well as specialist facilities for physical education, science and technology which "are below the recommended level." For example, the indoor teaching accommodation for PE is very limited with a small school gymnasium which has remained unchanged for the last 65 years. We will address the issues of space with plans for capital developments at BRGS, including a new sports hall.

David Heap, Chairman of the Governors, said that areas needing improvement are being addressed but "overall, we cannot be anything less than delighted with the report."

If you would like to read the full report then please refer to the OfSTED website <http://www.OfSTED.gov.uk>

OUT IN THE FIELD

By Janet Helm, Head of Geography

The Geography Department places great emphasis on fieldwork. Each year, except for Year 11, experiences at least one fieldwork trip a year and since January the following visits have taken place.

Recognising students' affinity for water, the Year 10 GCSE classes undertake a study of the change in discharge along the Whitewell Brook from its source near Clough Bottom Reservoir to its confluence with the River Irwell in Waterfoot. The data required involves entering the river in either your waders or Wellingtons and taking width, depth and velocity measurements at five different sites. The latter involves timing the speed taken by "bonio" biscuits over a distance of 5 metres, the trick being to catch the bonio at the end of its run so that it can be "recycled" at the next station! At the end of the day the prize goes to the student who arrives back at school with the wettest clothes and the muddiest recording booklet!

Year 12 also undertake river work for their A2 coursework and in June went to the Trough of Bowland to look at how the rocks in the river change in size as you move downstream. Yet again there is the opportunity for those who so wish to spend most of the day "paddling" and legitimately picking up stones and dropping them back into the water.



Students taking river measurements

This group has had another two days out since Christmas. In March they visited Cwm Idwal in the Snowdonia area, where they walked around the backwall of the corrie, observing the glacial features. Unlike the previous year the weather was kind and so the students were able to visualise the path taken by the ice, whereas the 2002 visit was conducted in thick cloud such that two groups spent much of the day trying to find each other rather than looking at the action of ice on the landscape! As a total contrast, also in March, this same group of AS students spent a day in Salford, tracing the changes in the inner city area from the decline with the closure of the docks as reflected in the Langworthy ward up to the present day investment on the Salford Quays where the new designer outlet shops were voted a major triumph by many of the "shopaholics" in the class.

On return to school any necessary statistical calculations and written work are computer processed. Photographs are made available for the students on the web-site.

At present, during the examination season, there is a lull in the fieldwork programme, but immediately school returns in the Autumn the Year 9 will be visiting the limestone caves at Ingleton whilst the Year 7 experience the delights of Waterfoot within their first two weeks of entering the school.

BRGS SIXTH FORM STUDENTS BECOME MENTORS

About 50 of our lower sixth form students undertook an intensive training course concentrating on team-building skills and how children learn, in order to become mentors in reading and maths with local primary school children.

The mentor scheme is run by East Lancashire Education Business Partnership and aims to support schools in raising levels of achievement in literacy and numeracy through classroom based volunteer support. Our students will work in partnership with primary school children to enable them to reach their full potential in reading and maths by providing support, encouragement and direction.

BRGS sixth form students will be based at Bacup St Mary's, Britannia, Holy Trinity, Northern, St Joseph's, Thorn and Sharneyford Primary Schools and will visit the schools in pairs every week starting from the autumn term. They will help listen to children read and with other tasks to assist the primary school teacher. Year 12 student, Sarah Maudsley, said "mentoring is a good opportunity to work with children and gain classroom experience as I would like to be a primary school teacher in the future." Nathan Atkinson, in Year 12, is looking forward to the "opportunity to work with children in the community."

Benefits for the primary school children include the increased individual literacy and numeracy support and attention they receive; the opportunity for pupils to have regular discussion on a one to one basis; and the presence of a positive role model outside of the family unit or school environment. Benefits for our students include the opportunity to work voluntarily with children, an opening to contribute to the achievement of a primary school child and a chance to develop interpersonal and communication skills, and to work in partnership with our local schools.

COMIC RELIEF 2003

An excellent £1,300 was raised by BRGS students at the school's Charities Fete in aid of Comic Relief. Each form was given the challenge of coming up with their own idea for a stall to raise money and then had to organise everything from marketing and publicity to prizes. Stalls ranged from the traditional 'Soak the Teacher' to 'Whack the Rat'.

One innovative class decided on a cruel but effective money-spinner by selling raffle tickets to pour a cold bucket of baked beans over a teacher. Brave and sporting teachers who were willing to undergo this treatment were Gaynor Ashworth (English); John Ashton (Chemistry); Tony Edwards (Technology); Kevin Grehan (History) and last but not least, the Headmaster, Martyn Morris. The hall was packed with students eager to watch the Headmaster being covered in a bucket of beans.

Congratulations go to all the students who made the evening so memorable at the same time as raising valuable funds for Comic Relief.



The headmaster covered in baked beans

MUSICAL NEWS

By Ailsa Frazer, Music Teacher

The music department has had an extremely busy and productive start to 2003! The large numbers of G.C.S.E. and A Level pupils generated the musical material for two highly enjoyable evening concerts. The Valentine's Eve concert given by year 11 pupils included vocal and instrumental solo and ensemble performances with repertoire ranging from Bach to The Corrs! The concert also gave several students the chance to perform one of their compositions which they have been working on as part of their coursework. The A level concert consisted of high quality performances by sixth form vocalists and instrumentalists as well as two excellent performances by the Senior Choir.

The department has kept up its programme of concert visits with a trip to see the highly acclaimed violinist, Joshua Bell, at the Bridgewater Hall, and Indian musicians Rakesh Chaurasia and Subhankar Banerjee, who were performing as part of the



BRGS String Quartet from left to right Elizabeth Terry, Philip Haworth, Katrina Bishop and seated, Emma Seddon.

South Asia Milapfest festival in Manchester.

Forthcoming events include the Music Department trip to Wales on July 5th and 6th and the Summer Concert on July 10th. The trip to South Wales runs every two years and BRGS pupils give a concert in Llanyravon Methodist Church, the proceeds of which go to the church charity project for that year. Performances are given by junior ensembles including the Junior Choir, String Group and Recorder Ensemble and soloists of all ages.

The summer concert will take place in the school hall at 7.00 p.m. and the first half will include performances from the ensembles mentioned above. Following on from the success of last year, the second half will take the form of a Composition Competition in which the most promising composers from years 11,12 and 13 will have their compositions performed. A panel of judges will then give feedback on each one, and taking into account the audience's vote, will then announce the winner!

BRGS Roll of Honour

In the Second World War, 37 old students of BRGS, 36 of them boys and 1 girl, gave their lives. The girl, Miss Doris Burslem, who had been a nurse only a week, was killed when the Salford Royal Hospital suffered a direct hit during the Manchester blitz.

In their memory in June 1948, Mr. E.H. Holden, Headmaster, unveiled the memorial to the old students of BRGS who died. At the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Holden said:

"The world is changing before our eyes and we must have the intelligence to understand that unless it is going to collapse into chaos the foundations will have to be love, brotherhood, equality and justice for all. This task of rebuilding the world is the greatest adventure which has ever faced the human race."

"This memorial, set up by their fellow students, teachers and friends, in honour and remembrance will proclaim to future generations in this School the sacrifices which they made at the call of their country. There are many present whose sorrow is immeasurable and our thoughts are with them."

Harry Lowe, a former BRGS pupil, has researched the students listed on our Roll of Honour, providing commemorative information and articles that were published in the local press at the time of their deaths.

If you are interested in reading Harry's research please call Emma Gauntlett on 01706 234502.

A Lasting Legacy

For over 90 years BRGS has helped to educate generations of children in Rossendale in a supportive and family environment. In order to ensure that we continue to provide for future generations, we would be grateful if you would consider remembering BRGS in your Will. As well as helping children at BRGS your Will has a vital role in ensuring that your family and friends are taken care of so that your family or causes you care about are acknowledged and supported when you are no longer there to take care of them. Through making a Will you may also be able to save inheritance tax.

For these reasons, making or updating your Will makes sense, and costs relatively little to do so.

If you would like further information in confidence on making a Will or if you intend to pledge or have already pledged a legacy to BRGS please contact Emma Gauntlett on 01706 234502. If you let us know about your pledge, we will treat it in the strictest confidence. Most importantly, we can say thank you properly: we are hoping to plan a special event for people who have pledged a legacy to BRGS.

STUDENTS VISIT THE FIELDS OF FLANDERS

By Kevin Grehan, History Teacher.

At 11pm on Thursday 3rd April over 80 pupils and 8 staff set off to Dover to catch the early morning ferry to Calais. After little sleep we then got the coach to the First World War battlefields of Ypres in Belgium. Here, three horrendous battles were fought between the German and mostly British forces, and to visit gives a real taste of the horrors of trench warfare. We had excellent and informative guides who explained the battles and the conditions faced by both sides, including at the notorious 3rd battle of Ypres in 1917, better known as Passchendaele.

We had a packed day of places to visit. These included the very modern and interactive 'In Flanders Fields' museum housed in the reconstructed medieval Cloth Hall. We also visited Hellfire Corner, one of the most dangerous places to be in Ypres as it was continuously shelled by the German gunners overlooking it. Next we visited Sanctuary Wood Museum, where the trenches have been maintained. This visit complemented their history project on trench warfare as the pupils had a chance to go into the trenches and imagine what it must have been like in them for weeks on end with constant gun and shellfire, rats, cold, fleas and lice. We also visited the world famous Menin Gate, which has the names of 65,000 missing British soldiers carved into it; a most moving monument.

Finally, we visited two very different cemeteries. First, we visited the largest British military cemetery in the world where

pupils were struck both by the ages of many of those buried (mostly under 20) and by the spotlessly white gravestones as far as the eye could see. In complete contrast, the second cemetery we visited was the German cemetery at nearby Langemark. This was a most gloomy place with statues with bowed heads emphasising the solemnity. The small space given for the German site necessitated a mass grave of some 26,000 bodies in what is now a flower garden.

The pupils ended their day in a superb Belgian chocolate shop where a frenzy of spending took place – all for other people I am sure. We then made our long journey back to Rossendale, tired but in a reflective mood about all the vivid images from a very memorable trip.



Students at the Menin Gate, Ypres

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

• **Deborah Parker** (1989-1996) is hoping to get in touch with her school friend **Louise Robinson**, former pupil (1989-1994). Deborah is moving to Australia and would like to see Louise before she moves.

• **Clive Murgatroyd MBE** (1967-1974) is keen to find the whereabouts of the members the school choir from his time at school. Among others, singers included **Ted Hoyle**, **Duncan Haworth** and **Len Hunt**.

• **Roger Rawlinson** (1939-1946) would like to contact **Margaret Morris (née Spencer)** who was at BRGS at around 1939.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the above people please call Emma Gauntlett at BRGS on 01706 234502 who will be able to put them back in touch.

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS!

BRGS Orienteers have added to their achievements becoming Greater Manchester Orienteering Association (GMOA) Schools Champions and Runners Up in the Lancashire Schools Orienteering Association Competition. There were a number of individual gold, silver and bronze medal winners.



Pictured from the left are the GMOA Champions: Chris Pearson, Edward Marston, Joe Weston, David Barlass, Tom Hutton, Liam Taylor, Stephen Horrocks, James Wood and Tom Gray, BRGS Orienteering Trainer and Technology Teacher.

BRGS reports with regret the sad news of the death of **Eveline Collinson** who taught music at BRGS as **Miss Firth** and married **Ralph Collinson**, Head of Geography. **Ralph and Eveline** both started on the staff on the same day under **Mr. E. H. Holden**. **Ralph** is now based in **Royston, Hertfordshire**.

RECOLLECTIONS IN TRANQUILLITY!

By **Linda M Cottier, née Hutchinson, Former Pupil (1951-1958)**

The steep slope – in my day for staff, sixth form and girls only – leading up to the school entrance was just as steep, even in a car. Stepping into the foyer brought back the memory of Remembrance Day 1957, as Deputy Head Girl standing facing the Head Girl, **Dorothy Roberts**, our heads bowed, as the girls of the school filed silently round us passing the lists of old scholars who had died in two world wars.

The main hall seems little changed – I did not see the portraits of the two head masters who preceded **Mr Copley** but the names of **Jackson** and **Holden** were a part of our schooldays: we passed those faces almost every school day. Only recently during my research into technical education history in **Rosendale** have I learned of the influence of **Mr Holden** in establishing a strong reputation for success in chemistry in the inter war period. So many secondary schools of the day still looked to ape the success of the public schools in classics – **Holden's** enthusiasm for his subject put **Bacup** and **Rawtenstall Secondary and Technical School**, as it was until 1928, in the vanguard of the delivery of a modern curriculum.

I was a 50s pupil – there were few changes on the staff. A number of them had taught my father and I was occasionally used as a messenger when he and **Mr Duthie**, then Deputy Head, exchanged mathematical problems. I suspect both of them would have welcomed e-mail and the facility for speedier exchange.

I recall most staff travelling by public transport from outside the valley. How would they have managed today with so much more paperwork to carry? Perhaps the wheel will come full circle when all teachers and students have lap top computers. Students will e-mail all written work to their tutors and the piles of paper containing curriculum objectives, lesson plans and reports will be a thing of the past!

But I would like to hear of two of the then younger staff – women whose example inspired me to read English at university and, as it has turned out, to spend all my working life in education. They were **Miss D Newall** (who married **Mr Humpston**) and **Mrs D Chedzoy** (1952-1958). Does anyone have any news of these former staff?

WORKING ON THE WEB

Welcome to our new Website Manager, **Marta Ostas**.



Marta Ostas

Originally from Poland, **Marta Ostas** came to England in 1991 at the age of fifteen. After graduating from **Manchester University** in **Molecular Biology**, **Marta** has worked in finance (**PricewaterhouseCoopers**), marketing (**Ingersoll-Rand**) and web development at various agencies in **Manchester** and **Leeds**. **Marta's** experience in web development has ranged from design, coding and testing to project management and dealing with clients. Her interest in the role of the internet in education was initiated whilst working on a project to develop teaching aids for school children.

Marta's role at **BRGS** is to develop our website further and expand its functionality. She would like it to be a source of information and an educational tool for pupils and staff.

Marta said: "I am hoping to involve all the teachers in the project in order to get ideas on the most appropriate topics for creating tailored teaching aids. These could be in form of animations, presentations, quizzes, revision notes and tests that could be both published online and presented in classrooms." Eventually, **Marta** would like to train teachers to update their own section of the website to make the whole system more efficient and effective.

The possibilities in developing the website are endless, making **Marta's** role very diverse. One exciting element of **Marta's** role is to work in partnership with our partner primary schools to establish their own websites. A further area she will be focusing on is developing the area for former pupils on the **BRGS** website.

Overall, **Marta's** aim is to make our website the best school website in the country!

Outside of work **Marta** enjoys playing tennis, swimming, cycling and walking. She also enjoys snowboarding (but not the injuries!) and painting landscapes.

The new **BRGS** website is under construction, but for an early preview, please go to www.brgs.org.uk/new-website/index.asp

Sport's Report

COUNTY CRICKET CHAMPIONS

By Brendan Baird, PE Teacher



BRGS County Cricket Champions

The BRGS Under 13 cricket team played in the Lancashire Indoor 6-a-side competition, triumphing as county champions.

This success came in spite of the limited cricket facilities at BRGS and is really due to the excellent coaching and club structure in Rossendale with three of our players at Haslingden Cricket Club and one at Ramsbottom Cricket Club.

The route to success started with victories over Fearn Community High School and Haslingden High School in our local group. Next the team played some more local winners, Rhyddings High School, which BRGS won to reach the Lancashire area final. At this point BRGS suffered a defeat against Montgomery High School but beat two of

our oldest rivals in Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS) and St. Theodore's RC High School. Highlights from these matches included BRGS needing 3 to win off the last ball against QEGS at which point Jonathan Marcroft hit a six, and just when a St Theodore's batsman was causing us problems a brilliant catch by Jo Sipocz won BRGS the game. This meant BRGS along with St. Theodore's had qualified for the Finals at Old Trafford.

BRGS started poorly by losing to Burnage High School from Manchester, which meant they had to beat St. Theodore's again to reach the semi-finals. In a very close game BRGS won with only one ball to spare. Adam Holt, Mazzafar Rauf and Zayn Hussain batted BRGS to victory. In the semi-final BRGS played against the Merseyside winners Archbishop Beck. With Jack Walmsley batting and bowling to a high level BRGS made 99, and Archbishop Beck were held to 89, so BRGS won by 10 runs. St. Theodore's had again won their matches and would be our opponents in the final. Could we beat them for a third time?

St. Theodore's were bowled out by some excellent bowling and fielding for 69. BRGS were now playing very well and reached the target of 70 with 2 overs to spare. Jonathan Haworth took 2 wickets and Jonathan Marcroft again hit a 6 to win the game. BRGS became both Lancashire Area Champions and County Champions.

NETBALL SUCCESSES 2003

By Sue Smith, Head of PE

After becoming Lancashire Champions and then North West Regional Champions the Under 16 netball team reached the National Finals. These were held at Roedean School in Brighton in March. 18 teams competed in the finals from 9 different regions. These were then split into 2 sections with the top 2 qualifying for a semi-final or final.

BRGS played very well in their section in appalling weather conditions (gale force winds and cool temperatures) to finish as winners and qualify for the semi-final.

In the semi-final BRGS played St. Catherine's from Surrey (a team of giants!). St. Catherine's chose tactically to shoot without the wind in

the first half and were leading 5-1 at half time. Although BRGS scored more in the second half, it was not enough and we lost by 7 goals to 5. Devastation all round after a hard years training.

The girls then had to refocus to play a 3rd place play off against Corfe Hills School from Devon. We played brilliantly and won by 8 goals to 4 to claim 3rd place. A momentous achievement!

BRGS were also awarded the trophy for scoring the most goals in the Finals, another amazing achievement.

This has been a very successful year to finish third in the country, especially because 8 out of the squad of 10 were in Year 10 and will be going for gold next year!

BRILLIANCE IN BASKETBALL!

By Martin Pigott, PE Teacher.

The following summary of the school's basketball achievements since January 2003 makes for impressive reading:

- The Under 19 Team reached the North West Sixth Forms (Division 2) Play Off Final beating Bury Grammar School with a score of 49-39. This is the fourth final the team has reached in the past 5 years and BRGS has won every one!
- The Year 11 Team won the Rossendale League, our ninth successive win in the League which has been held since the 1994/1995 season. The Year 11 Team also reached the Lancashire semi-final, losing to the eventual winners, Millfield High School, Thornton Cleveleys.
- The Year 10 Rossendale League is still underway for 2003 but BRGS has won 6 out of the previous 8 championships and this year reached the Lancashire final but lost to Southlands High School, Chorley in a close game with a final score of 43-58.
- Congratulations to the Year 9 Team who won the Lancashire Final against Archbishop Temple High School with an excellent score of 41-27.
- Our Year 8 Team lost to Archbishop Temple High School in a close game, 19-21, in the Lancashire Quarter Finals.



Clockwise from bottom left: Year 9 County Champions: Peter Illingworth, Lewis Haigh, Danny Wilkin, Richard Belsten, Tom Hawley, Grant Fulton, Tom Maxwell, Nick Clemons.

The squad included Emily Grimshaw, Samantha Haigh, Rachel Henry, Scarlett Martindale, Lucy Noone, Lindsay Parkinson, Hannah Southwell, Anna Stephenson, Victoria Thornton and Nadia Wood.

BRGS continue to dominate netball in the Rossendale Valley with the Year 8, 9 and 10 teams winning the tournaments.

We continue to look for opposition further afield to try and increase the number of matches and therefore the standards of our players.

If you would like to find out more about how you could invest in the future of pupils at BRGS and enable us to continue to provide high quality education, please contact Emma Gauntlett, Development Director, on 01706 234502 or on emma.gauntlett@brgs.org.uk. Thank you in advance for your support.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 25th September

Reception for former pupils in London (tbc). Invitations will be sent nearer the time.

Saturday 4th October

BRGS Reunion at school.

If you are a former pupil or parent and would like to compete against current BRGS Sports Teams, please let Emma Gauntlett know on 01706 234502. We are trying to gauge interest in setting up a series of matches between Old Boys/Old Girls versus BRGS students in various sports.



Bacup & Rawtenstall
Grammar School

BRGS OLD ASSOCIATES

<http://www.brgs.lancs.sch.uk/esquirrel/associates/associate.htm>

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