



***Derek Calrow is a Governor, Chairman of the Development Committee and Appeal Patron. He is a passionate supporter of our schools and committed to ensuring the success of our Appeal.***

***Derek writes:***

When seated in the magnificent surroundings of Bury Parish Church on Founders' Day, listening to the commemoration of our founders and original benefactors, one has the opportunity to reflect upon the importance of their gift. To some extent, the list is symbolic because the names, read in alternate years by each of the schools' Heads, are not known personally to the current generation. However, the vision and generosity of our forefathers brought our school into existence and our Governors remain committed to the founders' aims to deliver the finest education possible to bright girls and boys, irrespective of means. To achieve this, we must continue to rely upon benefaction.

As independent schools, Bury Grammar Schools can not call upon the taxpayer to fund building developments which will undoubtedly enhance our pupils' education. Similarly, since 1997 and the advent of a Labour Government, meritorious pupils whose parents cannot afford our fees receive no assistance from the Government.

It was a Rochdalian and a Patron of the Schools, Sir Peter Ogden, a hugely successful computer entrepreneur, who challenged Bury and other independent grammar schools to raise money to fund bursaries. He places a huge value upon his own grammar school education and has been a most generous contributor to our schools, recognising the quality of education which we deliver. We are grateful to Sir Peter for his early support which has undoubtedly encouraged others to give generously to our bursary fund.

The new Kindergarten is further evidence of what can be achieved if there is the will to succeed. The facilities in this purpose-built school are second to none and demonstrate the quality we may anticipate in the new Sixth Form Centre.

As Chairman of the Development Committee, with particular emphasis on fundraising, I am most grateful to those generous people who have responded to our Appeal. I give you my warmest thanks.

Recently, the schools have benefited by a legacy in excess of £200,000 from the estate of Peter Dearden, an Old Boy of the school. Peter graduated from Birmingham University in Chemical Engineering, going on to make his life in the USA. His generous bequests to both Bury Grammar School and Birmingham University reflect his affection for the educational institutions which made such a positive impact on his life. His vital contribution will be attributed to the Sixth Form Centre.

That great servant of the Bury Grammar Schools, Jack Farraday OBE, made a bequest in his will which has made it possible for a decade of pupils to benefit from BGS education. There are also others who have been willing to make a final, but lasting gift to enrich the education of our pupils today.

Over the years, many talented students pass through these schools. They leave us as confident individuals, armed not only with the knowledge they have acquired, but also with a sense of belonging and comradeship. It is heart-warming to view the response of our alumni.

Many are willing to ensure that others receive the benefits which have helped them achieve success in life.

I am a proud grandfather of six. It gives me the greatest pleasure to see the progress of five grandchildren already at BGS – and one little lady is in waiting! I declare a self-interest in my donations to the splendid facilities which they will enjoy now and in the future.

At the end of the day, we can only rely on our friends. We have had some wonderful responses from alumni, parents, former parents, Governors and staff, both current and retired. It says something of the extraordinary commitment of some current parents, who not only pay fees for their own children, but also give generously to both bursaries and building developments.

The boys' and girls' schools are in excellent shape in the hands of Steven Harvey and Bobby Georghiou. Under Steven's stewardship there has been a transformation of the standing of the boys' school. The recent Inspectors' Report of girls' school was truly outstanding. David Harrison capably handles the finances of the schools with total dedication.

Lastly, Francine Healey is at the front line of events, alumni relations and fundraising. She has quite a remarkable talent and as an Old Girl and current parent, she is steeped in the interests of the schools.

I urge everyone to support the Appeal as they are able. Please be assured that every donation will make a difference to our schools' future, whether modest or significant. I give you my assurance that your contribution will be gratefully received and prudently applied.

*For further information about the Appeal, please contact Francine Healey, Development Officer on 0161 7641733 email. [francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk](mailto:francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk) or Derek Calrow on 07813 773336.*