



Cum Laude et Pecunia *The proof of endearment is endowment*

Bury Grammar Schools continue to offer excellence in education. We exist because of a long and honourable tradition of benefaction. When Roger Kay refounded the School in 1726, his generosity ensured that generations of future pupils would be blessed with the priceless opportunity of a fine education.

As the Schools have grown, that initial vision has required both the expansion of the campus, with the provision of ever improving facilities, and the creation of more bursary places for pupils whose families would otherwise be unable to send them here. The tradition of benefaction remains today. Legacies from

Old Boys and Old Girls will play an indispensable part in determining our future.

Many of our former pupils have responded to our Legacy Appeal. By becoming members of *The Roger Kay Society* and recognising the positive value of their own BGS education they are securing our Schools for future generations. Thank you.

In this edition of *The Key* you will read of the vast range of achievements of our students, of the many extra-curricular opportunities, of the spirit which epitomises our former pupils and of the building developments which are vital to our future success.

Olympic Inspiration

Olympic swimmers Rebecca Adlington and Keri-Anne Payne certainly made a splash when they visited BGS in November. Britain's successful swimmers took a break from their hectic schedules to spend time with our girls.

The visit began with a question and answer session held in assembly. Students asked questions about their preparation for the 2012 Olympics and their gruelling training regime. As the swimmers spoke of their experiences at the Beijing Olympic Games, our girls listened, enthralled. Later, BGS students were thrilled to participate in a master class. Our keenest swimmers took to the water to join Rebecca and Keri-Anne where they were given expert guidance on how to improve their techniques.

The visit was made possible through the generosity of parents and former pupils, Stephen and Susan Chicken.

Headmistress Mrs Georghiou said "Rebecca and Keri-Anne were absolutely inspirational and exuded a love for what they are doing. They really are national treasures and brilliant role models for our girls. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and they loved meeting them."



One Small Step for a Man Trip in Tandem

In March, BGSB Physicists were privileged to attend a lecture delivered by, amongst others, Captains Jim Lovell, Gene Cernan and Neil Armstrong at the Royal Society in London. Neil Armstrong is particularly guarded about his privacy and occasions to listen to him speaking are very rare; we were fortunate to hear one of the most inspirational figures of the twentieth century.

Michael Gaunt, Marcus Lancashire, Aditya Pahade and Sam Wilcock attended the lecture. They were chosen from the many candidates who had submitted essays in a competition entitled 'What Question Would You Ask Neil Armstrong and Why?'

There is still immense respect for the Apollo astronauts within the astronomy and astrophysics community. The room was hushed as they recounted their role in the development of the craft that would take men to the moon. As Neil Armstrong took the stand to give us his version of the monumental flight, the audience of respected researchers, intellectuals, scientists (including Professor Brian Cox OBE) and our party was silent, before erupting in applause as he repeated the historic words 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind'.



This July, Old Girl Beth Kahle née Shaw (2002) and her husband will begin an adventure of a lifetime, cycling from Cambridge to Cape Town on a tandem. Their journey will cover the whole length of Africa, up to 30,000km, and they will spend almost 2 years on the road.

After BGS Beth studied Earth Sciences at Oxford for four years. Both she and her husband have just completed PhDs at the University of Cambridge.

"Studying Geology has allowed me to indulge in two of my greatest passions: travel and communication. My husband, who is South African, is a wonderful photographer and specialises in wildlife and landscapes.

We are passionate about conservation, particularly in Africa and have decided to combine our interests, travelling by bicycle through a continent, and documenting our journey as a blog and as a series of illustrated articles for Africa Geographic.

We will be exploring areas that are seldom visited, photographing the landscapes, wildlife and culture that we encounter along the way.

We hope that you will follow us on our adventure!"





Steven Harvey, Headmaster of the Boys' School, writes:

The academic year 2009–2010 has been another rich one for BGSB. We returned in September to celebrate the best A Level results in recent years – results which were among the highest in the region. The pass rate was 99.5%, with 70% of entries being award A or B

grades. The boys' average point score was 344 – which represents 2 A grades and 1 B grade – and we are very proud of this statistic. 21% of the year group achieved at least 3 A grades. David Howorth, who was Vice Captain of School, achieved 5 A grades. James Scholes became our first Ogden Scholar to go to Oxbridge – to read Natural Sciences at Robinson College, Cambridge.

At GCSE the overall percentage of entries graded A* to C was 93%. The percentage of entries graded A* or A was 48%. Imran Nisar achieved an A* in all 10 of his subjects.

Our academic work continues to be supported and enriched by an extensive co-curricular programme. Among this year's highlights have been our participation in the inaugural UK Linguistics Olympiad; the 55th exchange with the Deutzer Gymnasium in Cologne; a visit by 12 boys to Auschwitz and Birkenau; a visit by Sixth Form Physicists to CERN in Geneva; and a Physics trip to London to hear astronaut Neil Armstrong.

This year's Young Enterprise team set up a company called *Theta* – they won a *Dragons' Den*-type competition held at Ernst and Young in Manchester. The judges described the boys as 'engaging, professional.....and confident'.

Last year, 4 boys won the regional *Top of the Bench* competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry, progressing to the national finals at Loughborough University. Our team came 7th overall, beating, among others, Harrow and Rugby.

Our co-curricular programme saw a new initiative in the Autumn – a Science Week for all five of the BGS family of schools. The week consisted of talks, demonstrations and practical activities for the youngest in the Kindergarten to the oldest in the Sixth Form – all aimed at enhancing their experience of the fun of science. It was a very enjoyable and successful week – and we are exploring similar weeks for other curriculum areas.

Stephen Fielden, one of our L6th students, has been awarded one of 25 places on this Summer's Space Camp at Andøya Rocket Range in Norway. Stephen is one of two candidates chosen from the UK.

We attach a great deal of importance to extra-curricular activities. During the Summer holiday, 40 boys toured Australia and New Zealand, playing football and rugby. It was an immensely enjoyable, enriching and memorable experience for all who took part.

Jordan McBriar and Joshua Mason were selected for the England Independent Schools' U18 and U16 squads respectively. And our U13 Cricketers won the Lancashire Schools Cup in an exciting final against Lancaster RGS in September.

In music, the joining of forces by the Boys' School and the Girls' School for a performance of the Mozart Requiem in the Parish Church in December was followed in March by the joint production here in the Assembly Hall of *Oliver!* Both were great successes and examples of the Boys' School and the Girls' School showing how well we can do together what we could not do on our own; and examples, too, of what I believe is one of our great strengths – that we are able to offer what we believe are the benefits of a single-sex academic education with the enrichment which comes from shared extra-curricular activities. We saw such sharing again in the first of what we intend to be an annual Founders' Day Concert.

We congratulate Fifth Former Jack Whittle, whose trumpet playing led to his being invited to join the Hallé Youth Orchestra.

We again took part in the *Schools' Challenge* quiz – a *University Challenge*-style competition involving hundreds of schools from all over the country. In the regional Final the BGSB team beat Manchester Grammar School to win a place in the National Finals held at Westminster School in April. We lost out to Nottingham High School, but it has been for us a successful and hugely enjoyable season of *Schools' Challenge*.



All of the above would not be possible without the commitment, energy and talent of our teaching staff – and I pay tribute to them for enabling the School to offer the boys such an enriching experience. In December we said farewell to Julie Hone, our Head of Classics, who left to take up a similar post in the Girls' Division at Bolton School. At the end of this term, Tony Phillips, one of our Chemists, will retire from teaching to pursue a new career. And we shall, very sadly indeed, lose Tim Burns, our Head of Art, David Wilson, our Senior Master, and David Armsbey, our Second Master – all retiring after, between them, 103 years of service to the school.

It is good for a school, and good for a Common Room, when there is a range of ages and experiences among the staff. It is particularly valuable when there are one or two people who are willing to devote the whole of their careers to one school; they become the bearers of the tradition; and a Head is fortunate indeed to have their wisdom and counsel to draw upon. I have been particularly fortunate to have David Armsbey as Second Master – whose wise counsel has been a constant source of help and encouragement to me since my appointment.

David will be succeeded as Second Master by Richard Marshall, our Deputy Head (Academic). I have appointed Devin Cassidy, one of our Heads of Year, to the new post of Deputy Head (Administration and Pastoral).

In addition to the teaching staff, other groups of people make very important contributions to the School. The recent refurbishment of the Assembly Hall – new flooring and new curtains – has been financed by the hard work of our Parents' Association. Other improvements include Phase 1 of our Science Project – the complete refurbishment of our two Chemistry laboratories. This year will see the start of the building of a new Sixth Form Centre for the senior students of both schools. We are very grateful to those of you who are supporting the Governors' appeal. It is only through such generosity that we can carry forward the exciting plans we have for the future of our schools – to enrich and enhance our teaching and learning facilities, and to make it possible for those who would benefit from a BGS education, but whose parents cannot afford the fees, to come here.

We are not without our challenges. We have worried, and do worry, about the recession and about what effects this might have on recruitment and retention. We have worried, and do worry, about what seems to many of us to be excessive regulation. We have worried about the demographic trend – but here, at least, there may be some good news. I am pleased to report that, after three years of being a three-form entry school – because we felt it was more important to maintain standards than numbers – we will, this September, again have four forms in the First Form. It is likely that next year's First Form will be the largest year group in the School.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we look back with pride on all that has been attempted and accomplished this year. We thank those who are leaving – and especially the U6th – for all that they have contributed to BGSB during their careers here and wish them the very best of good fortune for their future studies and careers. Those of us returning in September look forward to welcoming new boys and staff to the school and to embracing the challenges and opportunities of a new academic year.



Bobby Georghiou, Headmistress of the Girls' School, writes:

In any school year in the midst of the business of learning in lessons, playing sport and observing annual events there are always those special occasions which stand out. This year which has marked the seventieth anniversary of the outbreak of the

Second World War, seen the visit of two Olympic swimmers, instituted the first Founders' Day Concert and returned the Green Party candidate in the school election is no exception.

But first the core business as we celebrated the many achievements of the girls in our 2009 Prizegiving held at the Bridgewater Hall in September. Once again the Upper Sixth, now heading to university, triumphed with all papers passed and 82% of them at grades A and B. There were some remarkable successes: 24 students (one third of the cohort) each gained at least three straight A grades; 8 students gained at least 4 A grades; 5 including Aadithya Anbhan, Sophie Greenhalgh, Alexandra Griffiths and Lahari Ramuni had at least 5 A grades; Philippa Scott gained 6 A grades. Philippa's story reached the national press as she had been unaccountably rejected by her five chosen universities but she has now received an unconditional offer to read Law at Cambridge.

Our GCSE students were also triumphant, gaining a pass rate of 99.4% with 71% of all grades at A and A*. 28 girls gained 10 A/A*. Zainab Al-Dubbaisi, Heather Gordon and Anum Saleem all gained 10 A*.

To these of course may now be added other achievements from this year. Two Lower Sixth teams competed in Liverpool in the regional round (North of England) of the *Rotary Public Speaking Competition* having already achieved success at town and district levels, the latter earning them the Farraday Shield. Lower Sixth Economics Studies students Alice Henry, Sascha Eady, Anum Saleem and Anna Burlace won the 2020 Vision National Schools Award, a competition organised by the Pensions Archive Trust and London Metropolitan Archives. In sport the 1st VII netball team won the Under 19 County tournament. Kathryn Cross was invited to tour India with the England Women's Cricket Development Squad. There can be few more inspirational opportunities for a young sportswoman than to meet an athlete who has reached the very top of World competition and such it proved with the visit to school of Rebecca Adlington and Keri-Anne Payne. Keri-Anne and Rebecca gave a master class not only in swimming but also in dedication and determination.

Highlights for the girls will always be the school trips that take them abroad. Last Summer a combined Classics and Festival Choir trip took in Sorrento, Pompeii and the highlight for the Choir, singing in St Peter's Basilica. There have been two ski trips to Utah and Sugarbush, USA and for our linguists the joint exchanges to Dijon to Cologne and a visit to Madrid.

Every BGS pupil knows that Founders' Day is the most important day of the year. In 2010 it also brought together some memorable events. First was the visit to School of some very special Old Girls, Joan Isherwood, Marie Shaw, Sheila Stocks, and one Old Boy, Edward Roberts. All of these had been in School in 1939 and they came because I began our year by asking our girls to imagine what it was like to sit in the hall in 1939, 70 years ago. My assembly was based on readings from the local *Bury Times* and I thought at the end that it would be interesting to send it to the girls who had actually been there in 1939 and to have their opinion on what I had said. They wrote the most fascinating letters in return. We have collected those as a resource for our girls studying History now. It is fair to say that it was Old Boy Edward Roberts who stole the show when he produced from his brief case the bomb which had landed in his back garden.

In the middle of the day our guests were able to witness the conclusion of our mock election. We had been gripped by it all ever since the visit of all the 'real' candidates for Bury North one of whom, Maryam Khan, is an Old Girl. The mock election's outcome was a real tribute to all of the girls taking part and in particular to the successful Green candidate, Sophie Jones, who wins a trip to the Houses of Parliament as the guest of the other winner, Mr David Nuttall. It also reflects the concern of the girls for the environment. Our 'Eco Schools' group has been busy suggesting ways of reducing our carbon footprint and using resources more carefully.

We all enjoyed the Founders' Day Concert. Although it sounds as if it is a long-standing tradition this was actually the first. The Joint Concert gave us the Festival Choir, Orchestra, Dance and Concert Bands along with some very lovely individual and ensemble pieces. I believe too it may have been the first concert at which were to be heard both School songs. I am happy to be corrected on this if any of our readers can recall earlier occasions.

Fundraising remains a very important part of our work as the plans for the Sixth Form Centre now await final approval from Bury MBC. We all remain very grateful to all who have supported our appeal. A second Hair and Fashion Event which is the inspired idea of parent Antony Popadic raised £16,000. The beginning of the year saw the opening of the new Modern Foreign Languages Suite in the Girls' School which occupies the completely refurbished classrooms of the old Kindergarten. Given the age of our main building, this became a major undertaking made possible only with a very generous donation from Mr Peter Skinner who as Projects Director oversaw the transformation and is the inspiration behind the design and construction of the Sixth Form Centre.

Last week was marked by the passing of Ena Lord (1916–1924). At 103 she was a remarkable Old Girl and former teacher of Bury Grammar School Girls and the only person we believe ever to meet all 8 headmistresses at Bury Grammar School Girls. I met her in 2003 when I was first appointed and I remember introducing her to the parents at a Kindergarten concert and their instantaneous applause for her – probably in admiration for having survived all 8 of us.

Four long-serving members of staff are retiring this time. Mrs Harrington (Head of Food Technology) was appointed in 1987 to teach Food and Textiles. She has been fully involved in pastoral care and Careers where her commitment to the girls has never been in doubt. She has taught many girls to love preparing good food and has had her fair share of successful young chefs in local competitions.

Mrs Matthews (Mathematics) was appointed in 1990. The School was already well known to her as she is an Old Girl (1960–1967). Mrs Matthews has been a key member of our examinations and Sixth Form tutor teams. A gifted speaker, her assemblies are always memorable and she is held in strong affection by girls and colleagues alike.

Mrs Oakden (Head of Early Years Foundation Stage) was appointed to Kindergarten in 1984. With very considerable skills as a reception teacher, Mrs Oakden was the natural choice to set up and lead our Cygnets Pre-school eventually overseeing its relocation to the new building in 2008. Mrs Oakden is the champion of our youngest children and under her care they have always flourished.

Mrs Rosenthal (Mathematics) joined BGS in 1981 and she became Head of Years 10 and 11 in 1989, a post which she held until 2006 when she became part time. Both as a Head of Year and teacher of Mathematics, Mrs Rosenthal gave very clear guidance to the girls who enjoyed too her strong sense of humour. We congratulate her upon her recent appointment as a Magistrate.

Between them these long-serving members of our teaching team have given 98 years of service and they leave us with our thanks and in the knowledge of a job very well done. We wish them all happiness in retirement.

BGS reaches the end of another academic year in very good heart; it remains strong academically, guards its traditions, and looks well into the future.

BGS in colour



Founders' Day – photographs courtesy of Nathan Chandler



Salters' Chemistry Festival Winners



Don't Lose Your Head exhibition



Ski Trip to Utah



BGS Advanced Level Art



U13 Cricket Team – winners of the Lancashire Cup



Winners of the Derrick Jones Football Trophy



U19 Netball Team – Greater Manchester County Champions



Jordan McBriar and Joshua Mason selected for the Independent Schools FA U18 & U16 tour squads

Australia and New Zealand Tour

In Summer 2009, 40 boys forming a junior football squad and a senior rugby squad, toured Australia and New Zealand.

The first destination, the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia is well renowned for its warm climate and active nightlife. The group stayed in Surfers' Paradise, getting into the Ozzie spirit by partaking in surf lessons in this ideal location.

The first sporting fixtures saw the amalgamated under 14/15 Football squad comprehensively outplaying their hosts by winning 3 – 0; whilst the senior rugby team unfortunately lost 29 – 0 against St Stephen's School.

All the boys enjoyed the opportunity to try out the rides during a visit to Dreamworld.

Auckland, New Zealand, was the next stop on the tour, where a number of boys decided to take on the 'SkyJump' – a 192 metre high fall from Sky Tower.

We then travelled to Queenstown on the South Island, a famous tourist spot with its idyllic, steep mountain landscape. Here the group embarked upon the 'Triple Challenge': a helicopter ride, white-water rafting and a powerboat ride on the Shotover River - it did not disappoint.

Dunedin was next; sightseeing along the coastline we visited an area where albatross can be viewed in their natural habitats. The sport was strong in Dunedin. The rugby squad lost heavily 46 – 0 and the football team drew 2 -2.

We then travelled to Methven, a small town approximately one and a half hours away from Christchurch and close to the popular Mount Hutt ski resort. Here, both teams registered comprehensive wins against Mount Hutt College.

The final leg of the tour took in Sydney. The view of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House was stunning by night and a sight that will live long in the memory. On the final day, we visited Bondi Beach, a fitting end to a very enjoyable whirlwind tour of Australasia!



Harold Riley Art Prize

In November, the Headmaster and Mr Burns, the Head of Art, received an invitation to visit the Archive of artist Harold Riley. They received a very warm welcome from one of the Northwest's most famous artists and enjoyed a personal tour of the Archive. The Salford-born artist has generously donated ten limited edition prints for the *Senior Harold Riley Art Prize*; the latest being a house he painted during a visit to Bury many years ago. The 2009/10 prize was awarded to Mark Ghobrial. In addition to the prints, he presented the Headmaster with a catalogue of photographs for the library. We are honoured that Harold Riley has chosen to support our School as an Appeal Patron.



BGSB Mock Election

The Boys' School has been running a Mock Election to coincide with the 'real' General Election since at least 1906, when a report appears in the first ever issue of *The Clavian*. This year got off to a lively start as eight eager candidates took the field: Chris Boon for the Conservatives, Joe Schofield for Labour, John Yiasoumis for the Lib Dems, Adam Roche for UKIP, Connor Pearson for the Green Party, Luis McBriar for the Socialist Alliance, and two Independents, Shayaan Subra and Marc Williams.

The 'seat' of Bury Grammar School Boys was held by UKIP, who won the 2005 Mock Election in controversial circumstances. This year all the parties produced posters, leaflets, badges and websites to promote their cause. Hustings at which all the candidates were able to outline their policies were held to coincide with those of the actual General Election on May 6th.

All boys in the school were entitled to vote and turnout was a creditable 70%. Liberal Democrats won with a majority of 59.



Interschool Chess Tournament

During the BGSB Rugby and Football Tour of Australia and New Zealand, staff and pupils met with Old Boy Tony Booth (1956) in Auckland when he came to watch the boys play. Mr Booth, a footballer for BGS in the 50s was very impressed by the boys' performance.

Tony, also a keen chess player, expressed a wish to sponsor a competition and on returning to school in September Mr Max Ahmad organised the BGSB Interschool Chess Tournament.

In early spring, the competition to find the most outstanding player was open to the whole school. Twenty boys of varying ages were bold enough for the challenge, which was run on a knockout basis over several weeks.

The final lived up to expectations and with very few pieces left on the board the *Tony Booth Chess Trophy* was presented to School Champion James Tsim (U6SI).



Energy Week

Energy Week took place in November and it was a collaboration of the five Bury Grammar Schools to raise the profile of Science within the curriculum. The aim of the week was to increase the enjoyment of Science – so often constrained, especially in examination years, by dull syllabuses – and allow participants to simply enjoy Science – no writing allowed in most cases!

During the week a great number of activities took place, provided for by well recommended outside providers and making use of the close links we have with places such as the Chemistry Department at Manchester University.

Boys and girls in the Junior and Senior Schools enjoyed constructing and firing rockets in the assembly hall, the aim being of course to see how far they would fly, although one or two regarded the aim as being to hit the teacher! The rocket-firing was also put into context by the organisers who gave the children a thought provoking address before each session which covered a wide range of scientific topics – all relevant and interesting.

Our youngest children in the Kindergarten enjoyed trips to the Girls' Science laboratories and participated in activities in all three Science departments.

Senior boys and girls from the Third and Fourth Forms enjoyed a truly inspiring 'Flash Bang' demonstration, kindly led by Dr Frank Mair from Manchester University.

Junior children enjoyed a Kinetic Theatre workshop which was a pantomime of sorts but with an educational undercurrent which taught the children about energy and forces.

In addition the children took part in energy trails, writing and poster competitions. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the week was a tremendous success.

A team of Science staff from both schools worked tirelessly to ensure the success of Energy Week. Thanks must also go to the Parents' Associations of both schools for their generous sponsorship.

Young Enterprise Competition

Young Enterprise North West is the UK's largest business and enterprise education charity. They promote *learning by doing*, equipping young people with the skills needed to enter the world of business. To qualify for the competition, teams have to run their own business, elect a board of directors, sell shares, design their own products and services and market them.

This BGSB team, *Agenda*, produced a product relating to alcohol awareness. They designed a 'shot' glass with a USP – the calorie content and alcohol units printed on the glass.

The BGSB team, *Theta*, produced educational flash cards containing over 100 of the key words used at Key Stage 1.

In a preliminary competition, *Theta* faced tough questioning from a *Dragons' Den*-style panel at Ernst & Young, Manchester. Between 20 and 30 teams from Greater Manchester had entered the competition and BGSB were delighted to win 1st place. The boys were described as "Engaging, professional and positive and spoke with clarity and confidence". Their knowledge was described as "First Class".

The Area Board Final of the competition was held at the Honeywell Centre, Oldham. Both teams had to produce a company report with interim accounts, set up a trade stand, perform a five-minute presentation and field questions about their experience from a critical panel of judges.

Despite *Theta* being awarded 1st prize for their trade stand, and both teams giving professional presentations, both were beaten in the overall category.

Congratulations to them all for their efforts throughout the year – Lord Sugar watch out!



The Ogden Trust Bury Schools Science Partnership Ambassadors' Dinner

BGSB was the venue in October for a Science Ambassadors' Dinner for the participating schools and college of the Bury Ogden Independent State School Partnership. The science ambassadors were students nominated by the schools who have a particular aptitude for science. Many of them plan to study Science at university and so the opportunity to meet leading academics in their field was eagerly grasped. The dinner was attended by students from Castlebrook, Derby and Woodhey High School, Holy Cross Sixth Form College, Bury Grammar School Boys and Bury Grammar School Girls, Science teachers, governors and scientists from Manchester, Leeds and Hull Universities. The evening promoted the importance of science to young people and was concluded with an address by Professor Helen Gleeson OBE from the University of Manchester who explained, with reference to her own distinguished career as a Physicist, the role of scientists today and provided a fascinating insight into her own leading research on liquid crystals.



A Level Physics Visit to CERN

Thirteen BGS students travelled to Geneva in November last year to visit CERN, the European organization for Nuclear Research.

When they arrived in Geneva the group took the opportunity to visit the Museum of the International Olympic Committee.

On the second day the group arrived at CERN and after a talk on their history and aims were guided through the ATLAS control room (ATLAS is one of the four massive underground particle detectors) and then onto a three dimension film made during the building of the detectors. They toured the workshops where the beam tubes were being repaired after their crunching failure the previous Summer. It was at this point that the massive scale of the project was brought home with a wealth of unique engineering and materials being utilized over the length of the 27 km Large Hadron Collider experiment and most components being tested at liquid nitrogen temperatures (-196 Celcius). They then had lunch at the onsite canteen, surrounded by some of the planet's finest scientists and engineers, before moving onto the Microcosm museum.

On their last day they visited the European headquarters of the United Nations where they toured the massive buildings that were Geneva's first multinational collaboration. Initially built to house the League of Nations it is a fantastic piece of architecture. Massive though the enormous assembly rooms are, where hundreds of national delegates and dignitaries sit in session, they are only of a similar size to the cathedrals carved out hundreds of feet below the Swiss and French countryside to house the particle detectors.



Dijon Exchange

In March, BGS welcomed a group of 29 French students, from the Lycée Charles de Gaulle, Dijon. They spent their first day in school with their respective pen friends and saw our performance of *Oliver!* We visited the National Media Museum in Bradford and the Imperial War Museum in Salford before exploring the city centre. The students had a great time and spent the weekend with their host families.

BGS returned the visit at the end of the term. We had a glorious day in Dijon, walking through its streets, touching for luck the owl of Notre-Dame.

We went to Besançon and spent half a day at the Citadel and the zoo. We had a tour of a cheese factory and a tasting session. Our second excursion took us to Beaune, an ancient and historic town by the hills of the Côte d'Or (the Golden Coast, because of the vineyards' golden colours in autumn and the very rich region of Burgundy). We visited the *Hospices de Beaune*, a charity running hospitals for the needy. We finally went to the *Cassissium*, a museum/factory whose main celebrity is the blackcurrant, used to make the famous *Crème de Cassis* and mixed with champagne to make *Kir Royal*.

Amongst other highlights, most will remember their day trip to Paris. This was a very successful exchange with Dijon, judging by the amount of tears shed as the train was leaving.



2020 Vision National Schools Award

Lower 6 Economics students, Alice Henry, Sascha Eady, Anum Saleem and Anna Burlace competed in the competition organised by the Pensions Archive Trust and London Metropolitan Archives back in February, sponsored by Capita Hartshead, a leading firm of pension consultants and administrators.

The students were required to research private and public sector pension provision in the UK for the year 2020 and provide a solution to an increasing problem of reduced funds, from the point of view of an individual worker (investigating alternative investment opportunities available).

We are delighted that the team's entry in this brand new competition has led to BGS receiving a £100 voucher for their solution from Capita Hartshead. Well done to the team who worked incredibly hard on their 'Property Pension' solution.

World Challenge Expedition to China

In Summer 2009, after almost 2 years of fundraising and training, the BGS expedition departed for China. After arriving in Beijing, the party spent an enjoyable three days visiting Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City and generally getting used to the environment, food, people and language. We then travelled to Xi'an where we visited the site of The Terracotta Army and completed a 2-day acclimatisation trek up the sacred mountain of Hua Shan.

Our next journey was a 23 hour train ride to Chengdu in the Sichuan Province where we prepared for our project phase and main trek after sourcing food supplies and equipment. We then embarked on the arduous journey to Kangding, the start of our 5 day trek through the Tagong Grasslands. The area is one of outstanding beauty and on our travels we had beautiful vistas, met Tibetan tribesmen, camped at a sacred lake and experienced hot springs at 15,000ft.

We then headed by bus to the Tibetan village of Tagong on a very dubious road. The village, high up in the grasslands is amazing, centered around Tagong Temple, an important Buddhist temple which people visit daily. Next we faced another 8-hour bus journey back to Chengdu. Here we enjoyed a shower and a 'real' bed before the 26-hour train journey to Guilin. Unfortunately, we were unable to undertake the planned project in a school/orphanage owing to the government's concern about the swine flu epidemic. Instead, we renovated an old people's home, working well as a team to leave our mark in China.

Finally, we travelled to Hong Kong for some rest and relaxation, visiting all the famous sites of this former British Colony. The highlight was the last evening at Victoria Peak watching the sun go down over the city harbour and enjoying a superb meal in the Sky Top restaurant.

We had an amazing time. There were some hardships, tears and worries on the way but we all gained far more than we ever imagined.

'A truly amazing expedition shared with truly amazing people; creating memories full of laughter, happiness and emotion which will stay in my heart forever.'





Appeal reaches £3.6m

It is testament to the warmth and affection of the BGS community that we have now raised £3.6 million. With your support we have accomplished a great deal. Over 60 bright students have been offered the life-changing opportunity of a BGS education. Our new Kindergarten and Pre-School is built and provides the finest environment imaginable in which to instil a love of learning. Our youngest pupils are flourishing in their bright, spacious, stimulating and well-resourced new school.

We must now look to the future and to the continued success of our Appeal. We have received a very positive response to our recently-mailed Legacy Brochure. We greatly appreciate the kind consideration of our friends and former pupils whose benefaction will guarantee that future generations will enjoy the gift of good education. If you have not received our brochure and would like to support the Schools in this way, please do not hesitate to contact Francine Healey.



The Autumn term will see the re-launch of our Appeal. We must sustain the momentum of our fundraising efforts to complete the new Sixth Form Centre and maintain our commitment towards bursary funding. We look forward to revealing our exciting new plans. In the meantime, we give our warmest thanks to those who have shared in our vision for the future; we are deeply grateful for each and every donation. We are appealing to everyone – please help as you are able. I should be delighted to discuss confidentially ways in which you can support us, show you our development plans and offer a tour of the Schools.

Francine Healey, Director of Development
Tel: 0161 764 1733 or Email: francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk

Parents Support BGS

An incredible £16,000 was raised towards the Schools' Building Appeal in February from a spectacular evening of hair and fashion.

A committee of parents from both Schools worked hard to ensure that guests had an enjoyable and memorable evening. The event gave a delighted audience a glimpse of the very latest hair and fashion trends, whilst sipping champagne and enjoying a gourmet selection of canapés. The theme of the evening was 80s Luxe – look out, big hair and shoulder pads are back with a vengeance!

Current parents Antony Popadic with his *Antony for Hair* team created the 'must have' styles for men and women whilst Julie Perry's *Revellers World Events* transformed the boys' assembly hall and provided two outstanding professional acts for our entertainment.

Talented school performers included the lovely Olivia Wood, who has already won a recording contract, and Joe Schofield and Amber Barry, who starred in the BGS Spring Production of *Oliver!* All three students enchanted the audience with their singing.



A range of unique and fabulous prizes was available including VIP tickets to see Elbow and attend their private post-concert party. We owe our thanks to many parents who offered wonderful auction prizes and of course to our generous bidders!

The evening was a complete sell-out and left a delighted audience looking forward to the next event.

WE SHOULD LIKE TO RECORD OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING PATRONS OF 'THE WAY FORWARD' APPEAL

NICK AND PAM BROWN
ALISTAIR BURT MP
DEREK CALROW
NEVILLE CORMACK OBE
SIR BRIAN CUBBON
MARK ELDER CBE
PETER HASLAM
ROBERT HOUGH DL

JANET LAWLEY
BRIDGET MCINTYRE
SIR PETER OGDEN
HAROLD RILEY DL
PAUL RINK OBE
DR GILL SAMUELS CBE
GEOFFREY SHINDLER
NICOLA SHINDLER

SIR CYRIL SMITH MBE DL
COLIN SNAPE
THE STOCK FAMILY
SIR DAVID TRIPPIER DL
VICTORIA WOOD OBE
THE YEARSLEY GROUP
SIR JOHN ZOCHONIS DL

A New Home for MFL

When Kindergarten moved into its new school in September 2008, the staff of Modern Foreign Languages in BGSB looked forward to a refurbished and spacious new department.



In September 2009, the wait proved to be worthwhile. We now have five brand new light and airy teaching rooms, all equipped with state of the art interactive whiteboards. This enables us to incorporate technology into our everyday teaching; from using modern language websites, showing topic-specific video clips and feature films, to interactive activities based on our course books. The MFL Department is enjoying being so well resourced and there is no doubt that pupil motivation for languages is enhanced by the new surroundings. We are already looking forward to the next phase, when we hope to replace the now obsolete Language Lab with a language computer suite.

There is much publicity regarding the crisis in language learning nationally, with the number of teenagers taking a foreign language falling rapidly, but this is certainly not the case at BGSB. Girls have the opportunity to learn French, German and Spanish and all take at least one language to GCSE. The current Year 13 boasts some excellent linguists, four of whom are off to university to study languages, including Laura Stoker who has been offered a place to read German and Portuguese at Cambridge.

Language learning is not restricted to the classroom. There is plenty of opportunity for pupils to put their skills to the test in real life. During the current academic year there has been a trip to Madrid and ever-popular exchanges with schools in Cologne and Dijon. A trip to Berlin is planned for next Easter.

As well as moving into new rooms, we also welcomed new staff to the Department this year. Lucienne Rauch, who spent the first years of her life in Germany, joined us to teach German and Spanish, and Old Girl and Oxford graduate Ruth Melia returns to the school to teach French, German and Latin. We look forward to Joseph Oakley, a Cambridge graduate, joining us in September to teach French and German.

Old Girl Ruth Melia reports: "As a former BGSB Linguist, I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the new technology which would be available to me as a teacher here. Learning a language should be a bright and vibrant experience, allowing students



access to cultures and traditions, as well as giving them the tools to communicate. Language lessons at BGSB are the antithesis of 'old school' education – lively and animated with never a dull moment"

Science Project – Phase One Completed

This is an exciting time for BGSB Science. With the completion of phase one of a three phase science development project, the future of science at BGSB looks very bright indeed. The two brand new multi-functional Chemistry laboratories certainly fulfil their brief: to provide cutting edge science and ICT facilities, designed with both functionality and visual impact in mind; they provide an inspirational environment in which to work.

With the profile of Science growing significantly within the school over recent years, so have our student numbers. The three Sciences continue to be the staple for the majority of our Sixth Form students and despite this increase in number, excellent grades have been maintained or even improved. Our goal of raising the profile of Science and the number of students studying the three Sciences to a higher level is certainly being realised. At a time when many schools are moving towards a more general science approach, with GCSE exams in Core and Additional Science, BGSB has moved in a different direction. Separate Sciences are now delivered to students from 11 to 18 years of age. All boys sit separate Science GCSE exams, and in doing so, acquire more of the skills they require to study Chemistry, Biology and Physics to A level and beyond. With ICT integrated into our Chemistry laboratories and a plan to do the same in other areas of the department, boys see ICT as an integral part of their learning in lessons, rather than a bolt-on, in a booked room, separate from Science, that happened once in a blue moon.

Phase two of the development is even more exciting! With the potential to completely remodel the central area of the Science department made up of four classrooms, the debate now rages as to how best to use our 'room real estate'. Three new dedicated laboratories are a must with integrated ICT in each, and each Science controlling at least one laboratory to ensure they are well resourced and well managed. There is even potential to build in smaller Sixth Form teaching rooms or even a dedicated Sixth Form computer suite to encourage and foster independent learning. Whilst we are very much in the early planning stages, one thing is certain: we are transforming our facilities and the teaching and learning in Science to ensure BGSB, and Science at BGSB, have a very bright future indeed!



Sir Brian Cubbon

Born in 1928, Sir Brian Cubbon was a Kay Scholar at Bury Grammar School and School Vice Captain, going on to read Classics at Trinity College Cambridge. Joining the Home Office in 1951, he dealt with the police, penal policy and prisons. In 1976 he was appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Northern Ireland Office and in 1979 Permanent Secretary at the Home Office. Sir Brian is one of Britain's most respected former senior Civil Servants. We were thrilled when he agreed to work on our behalf as a Patron of our Appeal. Sir Brian writes:



I was very pleased, and greatly honoured, to become a Patron of the Schools' Appeal. I was at the School throughout the 1939–45 war. On Founders' Day we marched with particular pride past the old Drill Hall to the Parish Church and listened to the names of the Founders and original Benefactors. The air raids, or rather the air raid warnings, disturbed our lessons, and masters disappeared to the war. But the School coped. Art and Music suffered a little, but we were given a good grounding in the essentials: accuracy in Latin and Greek; logic in Maths and Physics, and creativity in English. In the Sixth Form we had a good number of free periods, but we learned the virtues of self-help.

I owe everything I have achieved since to this education at BGS, and especially to L C Lord, the Headmaster, who put me up for a scholarship to one of the best Cambridge colleges. I was a Kay Scholar at Bury, and my education cost not a penny, at Bury or Cambridge.

I have had a good career in the government service. It has been interesting, useful and surprisingly adventurous. I dealt with the accession to the Common Market as it then was; with Northern Ireland; and with many bits of the Home Office – mainly police and prisons. Since retiring, I have had 20 even more adventurous years, helping to establish a new company which provides commercial intelligence. I have been a member of the Press Complaints Commission, and its Ombudsman. I have converted two oast houses. I am paid by the Rural Payments Agency to let sheep graze in my 17 acres.

My family connections with Bury stopped over 40 years ago, but I regularly attended the Annual Dinner of the Old Clavians in London, and met a variety of headmasters who attended.

All this came together in 2008 when I helped Steven Harvey arrange for Douglas Hurd, the biographer of Robert Peel, to be the Guest of Honour at Prizegiving. Lord Hurd was the last Home Secretary during my nine years as Permanent Secretary at the Home Office. Another BGS connection with my career is that two of my closest colleagues as Permanent Secretaries corrected their Home Counties origins by taking BGS Old Girls as their partners. I have also got to know Bobby Georghiou, and I endorse the general assessment that the two Heads are quite outstanding.

Should a young boy or girl today be given the same benefits that I had, and a free education that could not be bettered? Certainly, and for benefit of our country and its future. A special education will always have a special effect. The bursaries provided from the Appeal are a wholly good thing but need to be financed.

These days we do not always find it easy to provide money for immediate donations, but a legacy is one solution. It costs nothing during our lifetime, and it is tax free, for us and for the School. I have seen how much commitment and drive Derek Calrow, with Francine Healey, are putting into this side of the Appeal, and Francine can give all the help needed with the formalities of a legacy. Read her recent Brochure about this.

I urge readers of *The Key* to join me in using this way of putting something back into the School: add a BGS legacy to your will and so become a member of the *Roger Kay Society*.

Battlefields Tour 2009

The school's sixteenth annual battlefields tour marked our second visit to the Dutch city of Arnhem and the scenes of the heroic but doomed Operation 'Market Garden' of September 1944. 45 boys and staff began a three-day tour of the largest airborne operation in military history. Wreaths were laid on the graves of the two BGS pupils killed during the fighting: Gunner Tom Hopkinson of the Royal Artillery from Tooting, who is buried just outside the city of Nijmegen, and Sergeant Harry Parkinson of the Glider Pilot Regiment who lies in Arnhem (Oosterbeek) Cemetery.

The group visited many different sites to illustrate various aspects of the fighting. These included the newly-refurbished Airborne Museum at the former Hartenstein Hotel in the suburb of Oosterbeek, the British landing zones eight miles from Arnhem and the famous 'Bridge Too Far' over the Rhine at Arnhem itself. We laid a small wreath close to the spot where the father-in-law of school librarian Mrs Ann Montgomery, Paratrooper Robert Montgomery, was badly wounded as he fired his PIAT bazooka against advancing German tanks. Perhaps the highlight of the tour was our visit to the Ter Horst house in Oosterbeek which was used as a British dressing station during the battle. The lady of the house, Mrs Kate Ter Horst, helped look after the wounded soldiers and became known as 'The Angel of Arnhem'. Thanks to the good offices of the Dutch grandfather of one of the tour party, we were welcomed into the house and its beautiful garden by Mrs Ter Horst's daughter Sophie Lambrechtsen who was a small child during the battle, hiding in the cellar. Sophie and her husband were totally unfazed by the arrival of 45 Lancastrians in their front parlour and we were plied with cakes and drinks before a guided tour of the house, its grounds and the beautiful church next door, the oldest in the Netherlands, which contains many mementoes of the battle. On the last afternoon at Arnhem (Oosterbeek) Cemetery a CCF Colour Party under the command of Cadet RSM Peter Phillips paraded, a School wreath was laid on the grave of Harry Parkinson and a short act of remembrance was held during which the School Roll of Honour for the Second World War, containing 46 names, was read.

This was a very successful and memorable tour. It was accompanied by our first seven-tour pupil 'veteran', Ryan Harper. It also marked the last battlefield tour for Mr David Armsbey, who has helped to organise and lead all sixteen annual tours since 1994 as well as the additional visit we made in the Summer of 2006 to the 90th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of the Somme.



Auschwitz Visit

On Monday, 12th April a group from BGSB travelled to Krakow, the medieval capital of Poland, before transferring by coach to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, symbolised by the iconic gate bearing the legend *Arbeit Macht Frei!* The camp, originally an army barracks for the Imperial Austrian forces, was occupied by the Nazis when they invaded Poland.



Many of the barrack blocks have been converted into museum galleries. The spartan rooms bear a few pictures and maps on the walls, and artefacts which tell of the horrors of life in this place.

We saw the gas chamber and the adjacent crematorium, and the firing post. Display cases contained rugs woven from human hair, children's shoes, prosthetic legs, luggage, spectacles: everyday objects by which people might have been defined. We saw punishment cells and isolation cells.

The concentration camp could be mistaken still for an army camp or a campus. The Nazis had thoughtfully planted avenues of poplars to soften its appearance. The Birkenau death camp is rather different. We walked alongside the railway line towards the gatehouse which was so familiar from newsreel and textbook. The sheer scale of the site is staggering - perhaps close to one square mile.

There is an air of dereliction - as though, perhaps out of shame or embarrassment, no one has been prepared to preserve anything. The vast crematoria have been allowed to collapse, most of the accommodation has gone. This is not a museum; this is a stark, shocking, even brutal reminder of the evil that was done here.

As we arrived inside the camp the names of some of those who had died here were being read out over the speaker system. Music was performed by some of the world's greatest Jewish musicians and singers. Our group gathered around a memorial stone while prayers were recited for victims of the Nazi atrocities.

This is a harrowing place - the final abode before extermination; the brooding watchtowers denying any hope of escape. However, here were 20,000 young people marching - defiantly, proving that ultimately the Nazis did not triumph. We were the March of the Living, and ours the only group from the UK. Our boys were privileged to participate in this Jewish act of faith and hope.

The tour was rounded off by a fleeting visit to Krakow's Jewish quarter, including the 17th century synagogue and a brief stop outside Oscar Schindler's factory.

The visit was emotional and truly memorable. We are most grateful to Herzl Hamburger for his generous sponsorship.

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day 2009 had the exciting theme of Heroes and Heroines. The event encouraged boys of all years to comment on what makes a hero: from inspiring comic book characters to everyday citizens doing heroic jobs. Various activities saw several self-penned pieces left on the 'Post a Poem' board and the event ended with a Poetry Extravaganza held in the LRC. Many teachers and students gave up their lunchtime to recite their favourite poems on what was an enjoyable occasion for everyone involved.



Meet the Author: Chris Bradford

Chris Bradford is the writer of the increasingly popular *Young Samurai* series of action-adventure books. He visited BGSB in October and gripped the boys with displays of martial arts, and the close encounters with the audience demonstrating his authentic Samurai sword certainly had the teachers on edge.



Chris answered questions from the audience and signed copies of his books at the end of the session. The boys were inspired to read the books and find out more about martial arts.

Wartime Memories

Headmistress Bobby Georghiou gave a thought-provoking assembly on the first day of term in September 2009. She transported the girls back in time to 1939 and the outbreak of World War II, capturing their interest and sparking their imagination as the picture of BGS in quite a different era was created.

Following the assembly, Bobby Georghiou sent her notes, to determine their accuracy, to numerous Old Girls who had attended BGS in wartime. The letters she received in response were wonderful. They described the determination of a community as they sought to give their children the gift of a good education even in the most difficult times. It is a story of resolution, ingenuity, humour and of a brave spirit which has been handed down to us today. All the letters can be viewed on our website www.bgsalumni.com – we guarantee an interesting read!

In May, a group of those former pupils visited BGS to share their experiences with our current pupils. Joan Isherwood, Marie Shaw, Sheila Stocks and Edward Roberts spent the day discussing the impact of the Second World War. Our girls were particularly enthralled when Mr Roberts produced a bomb which

had landed in his garden in Whitefield. There is no doubt that the reality of wartime was brought home to our students – recollections of the terror of the Blitz and the harsh reality of rationing were particularly moving.



Eco Schools

BGS is actively focused on achieving a Silver Eco Schools Award and has set up an Eco Action Team, which is made up of nominated Eco Representatives from each form for years 7-10.

The Eco Representatives are the driving force behind Eco Schools and are responsible for encouraging their peers to get involved with activities and initiatives that they organise.

The latest Eco campaign was *The Big Tidy Up*, which took place in April and was part of a national initiative organised by Keep Britain Tidy. Over 60 girls took part and collected 40 bags of rubbish from around school, its grounds and the immediate vicinity.

The event was a big success with the girls enthusiastically donning their green plastic tabards and gloves and getting stuck in to the task.

The Action Team is promoting recycling this term and a whole-school *Switch Off* campaign has been revealed to promote less waste of electricity and water around school.



BGS at the Royal Opera House

In February, Eve Smith, Ellice Rigby and Zoe Jackson, who are all members of the Halle Youth Orchestra, travelled to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to experience playing music for ballet.

The visit was part of a joint project between the Halle Youth Orchestra and the Royal Opera House. Initially the girls met dancers and musicians from Covent Garden and learnt about the realities of playing in a *pit orchestra* and the life of a professional musician. During the Autumn term they attended weekly rehearsals of the orchestra where they prepared extracts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. This hard work culminated in a concert at the Royal Northern College of Music in December, where they were joined by BGSB pupil Jack Whittle (trumpet).

The culmination of the joint project was the girls' visit to the Royal Opera House in London where they had the opportunity to perform the music from *Romeo and Juliet* with dancers from the Royal Ballet.

Sing As We Go

In July 2009, 60 girls from the Festival Choir and the Classics Department began their tour of Italy. The views across the bay from our hotel in Sorrento were stunning, we got our first view of the real Mount Vesuvius and the choir performed in the beautiful Chiesa San Francesco.



A big day for the Classics students was the guided tour of Herculaneum and Pompeii. The highlight of everyone's day was seeing the real house of Caecilius just as it is in the Latin textbooks! The choir drew a small crowd when we gave an impromptu concert in an old Roman amphitheatre, taking advantage of the excellent acoustics. Everyone got a chance to relax on a boat trip to the island of Capri. Once we had arrived, we all went to the top of the island on the funicular railway, although the Italian 'queuing' wasn't quite so relaxing!

In Rome, the choir had an amazing experience, taking part in the Mass at the beautiful St Peter's, followed by a tour of this huge building. We also saw the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, the Palatine Hill and the Trevi Fountain. The final day of our trip to Italy arrived far too quickly.

Inaugural UK Linguistics Olympiad

In February, both Schools took part in the UK's first Linguistics Olympiad. The competition is similar to the well-established Olympiads in Sciences and Maths. The problems are all about language, and require competitors to spot patterns in unfamiliar data.

They had to use their skills in syntax (the order in which words appear in sentences), semantics (rules governing the meanings of words) and morphology (how words are composed) in order to solve several puzzles in the 2 hour test.

For BGSB the test culminated in the boys' having to navigate around the Armenian capital's underground system, where all the stations were written in Cyrillic script, and BGSB tackled problems in Abma (an Austronesian language spoken in parts of the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu) or Armenian.

Many congratulations go to our winning teams: BGSB gained certificates in Gold, Silver and Bronze and BGSB achieved the highest score nationally in the Foundation Level.

OGA Annual Reunion Lunch

Picture the scene if you will. It is the first weekend in October and the day of the 2009 Annual Old Girls' Reunion Lunch has arrived.

BGS Girls is ready to receive the many wonderful women it has seen pass through its doors over the years. The classrooms that run the length of the Roger Kay Hall are slowly beginning to fill with ladies from over 8 decades of BGS. There is an air of nervous excitement as Reunion Group Leaders prepare for the arrival of their former classmates. As more people are ushered through the doors, the audible buzz of chatter is punctuated at intervals by screams of sheer delight as old friends recognize one another and memories come flooding back.



Over 150 ladies return to BGS every year – often for the first time since leaving as a Fifth or Sixth Former. Why do they return? The pull of the event is a simple one. It is about meeting old friends, reminiscing over a multitude of shared experiences, and revisiting the school that played such a large part in their lives.

2009 saw a 35-year reunion of over 30 people and a 21 strong group celebrating their Golden Reunion in style with a champagne reception! What a wonderful thing the Old Girls' Association is. Far from being 'stuffy' and out of touch, it is very much alive and kicking and, at its heart, you will find a strong sense of fun and camaraderie plus, of course, a love of BGS.

Best wishes, Suzanne Gauge, Secretary of the OGA.

Photographs from the event are on the alumni website www.bgsalumni.com

OBA Founders' Day Dinner 2010

The 2010 dinner at School went extremely well... around 155 Old Boys attended.

We were very well fed (duck, no less!) and watered (Thwaites's beer!). Old Clavians from far and wide attended - Clive Armitage from Australia and Barry Henstock from Canada. Another Canadian visitor was Joe Prophet, who left BGS in 1939 and I believe this was his first visit to the OBs' dinner.



My contemporary Mark Joynson gave a very nice toast to the School but the star of the evening was John Kendall who was on fine form amongst great friends, former colleagues and ex-pupils. In his speech, entirely without notes, he reminisced about his early career under John Robson with subsequent musings about life in the Senior Common Room. John was one of the last of the teachers of 'my era' to retire. Good luck to all those in retirement.

Former masters were well represented - I spotted Philip Gooderson, Derek Hodgkiss, Malcolm Curtis, Martin Hateley, Peter Skinner, Tim Burns, Geoff Bennett etc etc. It is as much fun seeing them as it is catching up with old friends!

Kind regards, Martin Entwistle (1985), Secretary of the OBA. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like information about future OBA events Tel. 01204 882502 Email. bgsoba@me.com.



Photographs from the event are on the Alumni Website www.bgsalumni.com, all courtesy of Nathan Chandler (2008).

The 2010 OGA Reunion Lunch is to be held on Saturday 2nd October in the Roger Kay Hall

If you have not yet retraced your steps back in time then we would certainly recommend adding it to your list of things to do. It is truly amazing how the years melt away when you get together with old friends even when you haven't seen them for a decade.

Whilst there will always be a number of reunion year groups at the lunch (1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 & 2005 are celebrating this year), there are also many ladies who attend on their own or with a few friends so please do not feel that you have to be part of a group. Everyone is welcome.



For more information about the event, please contact Suzanne Gauge, Secretary of the Old Girls Association. Tel: 01706 632724 Email suzanne.gauge@btinternet.com

Margaret Mary Timpany

On Saturday 12th June, Louise Alford represented Bury Grammar School at the opening of the new RNLI Hovercraft Station in Morecambe to witness the Naming Ceremony and launching of the *Margaret Mary Timpany* D-Class Lifeboat. The late Dr. Timpany (BGS 1936), generously remembered a number of charities in her Will including our school. Margaret's kind bequest will support two pupils who are joining us in September.



London Branches of the Associations

Despite the distance from Bury, a warm Lancashire welcome was given to all Old Boys and Girls attending their respective London Reunions.

The London Old Girls held their annual reunion lunch on 8th May at the Hughes Parry Hall in Cartwright Gardens. As always, the Headmistress provided a taste from home, Lancashire Cheese, specially bought for the occasion from Bury's 'World Famous' Market. The event was a great success and we were pleased to see five of our youngest Old Girls at the meeting. They are all studying in London and took time out of their busy exam schedules to join us.

The London Old Boys held their sophisticated affair on 12th May in the Members' Private Dining Room at the Guildhall. 22 Boys attended the dinner this year representing 6 decades of BGSB. A jolly good time was had by all.

If you are interested in joining the London Branches of the Associations and would like to receive invitations to events held in the South please contact michelle@bgsdev.demon.co.uk.

A History of Sport

We are intending to re-design the Boys' School Dining Hall with a particular emphasis placed on the historical achievements of the School and its students in the sporting world. As this is where we host our visiting teams after fixtures it would be a showcase feature for the School. I would welcome any donations of school sports photographs (these can be professionally copied and returned) or items of school sports kit and equipment/apparel throughout the decades. These can be framed or displayed in cabinets in the vicinity of the Dining Hall. A short description of the item along with any names or dates would be most helpful too.

If you are able to donate any items, please forward them with your contact details to the School, c/o Mr. G. Lovgreen, Director of Sport. Email: glovgreen@bgsboys.co.uk

Old Boy Solves DIY Nightmare

Old Boy and DIY enthusiast Max Ashton (1987) became so disillusioned using 'clean cut' jigsaw blades that he came up with a new Dual-Cut design: a revolutionary blade that would cut any material without chipping the surface, solving a major nightmare for every DIY enthusiast.

The problem of investment then had to be resolved. "If I'd gone on *Dragon's Den* or indeed to any investor with a theoretical product and no patent I would have been laughed out of the door. Unfortunately this is the impossible position that holds back most inventors and stops many great ideas from even getting off the drawing board"

With no guarantee that the design would work, Max contacted a major US tool manufacturer. He persuaded the company to develop his design. After the first prototype was produced at Starrett's factory in Brazil, the new blade was found to work exactly as predicted.

Now launched in the UK and worldwide, the new *Starrett Dual-Cut* jigsaw blade is being heralded as the solution to all the annoying problems associated with jigsaws.



Inspiration can come from anywhere

Old Girl Jessica Mortimer (2008) and Old Boy Harrison Woods (2008) have a car clamper to thank for inspiring their new business venture.

The cousins, both 19, were faced with a fine after unknowingly parking in a reserved space. They wondered if there was a more convenient way for businesses to reserve parking, rather than clamping.

After researching the options online, they hit upon a Chinese device that seemed to offer the solution. The entrepreneurs quickly moved to secure a licence as sole distributor in the UK.

Harrison said "Manual bollards require a lot of ground work to fit and are a pain to use. The Parking Guardian is a battery-powered barrier that drops to allow entry when activated from inside a car. It provides a physical block to any vehicles wanting to pass and can be operated from up to 30 metres away."



Hair-raising Idea

Old Boy and budding inventor Joshua Redford (2008) was shortlisted in the nationwide competition *Britain's Bright Ideas*.

Tired of being woken by the sound of his Mum's hairdryer, Josh went to work designing a quieter solution to his problem. The result is an infra-red hairdryer which functions like a toaster and uses less energy than a typical fan model. Josh said "Instead of using convection heat it would use radiation heat, it wouldn't need a noisy fan; it'd be quiet".

Npower spokesperson Kevin Peake said "Josh's idea was simple, effective and captured *Wallace and Gromit's have-a-go* approach to innovation."

Josh is on track to complete his Masters in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Imperial College, London and has been awarded an internship with Pure Digital Radio.



Memories of a Refugee Ernst Fraenkel OBE

Below is an extract from Ernst Fraenkel's article; to view the article in full please see www.bgsalumni.com/memory-lane/

In Summer 2009, I was mentioned in *The Key* as one of the German Jewish Refugee children brought to England in 1939 and to BGS through the efforts of the late Mr. L. C. Lord, then Headmaster.

It was just over 70 years ago that I entered the Upper 5th Form, knowing very little English. I was allocated a desk next to Wolfgang Plessner, who had arrived slightly earlier than I. Wolfgang was a great success at BGS, I alas was not and I fear I must have been a disappointment to Mr Lord and the Governors.

I look back with affection and gratitude to my two years at BGS. I was treated by masters and pupils alike with a great deal of kindness and tolerance.

During most of my time at BGS I stayed with the Forrester family, who had two sons, Trevor and Robert, at the school. The Forresters were Non-Conformists and showed an extraordinary sense of true Christian spirit by taking into their home a 16 year old Jewish boy who was undergoing a difficult period in his life.

I remained in contact with Mr and Mrs Forrester until their deaths. Trevor and Robert became Captain and Vice Captain of the School. Robert was my friend until his death last year.

Entrepreneurial Duo Win F Word, Series 5

Old Girls Lisa and Helen Tse (1996) starred on Gordon Ramsey's *F Word* on Channel 4 earlier this year and won Best Local Chinese Restaurant in the UK 2009/10.

Lisa, Head Chef and CEO of the award-winning Sweet Mandarin Restaurant now goes on to appear in the first *UK Iron Chef*, battling against the clock in front of hundreds of hungry spectators.

"I am honoured to be invited to cook on *Iron Chef*. My three passions in life are cooking, people and business, and *Iron Chef* ignites all three. I will rise to this challenge and try my best. I've been told that when the secret ingredient is revealed, we are free to choose what to cook and have an hour to produce something amazing. The Japanese call it *omikase*. I call it *omigod* - cooking without a net!"



Memory Lane – 2nd X1 Team 1959



This is a photograph of the school 2nd X1 for the season 1959/60. The team enjoyed a very successful season under the management of Geoff Bennett. The team played 21 games, winning 17 and drawing 4 and thus remained undefeated. Goals for totalled 81, goals against 21.

Our unbeaten record came under serious threat in a last home game against Stand Grammar School. We were 1-4 down at what appeared to be full time. However, Geoff Bennett who was the referee had clearly noticed much time wasting by the Stand boys (not noticed by anyone else mind), and decided to play on. This allowed us to pull the score back to 4-4 whereupon Geoff immediately blew for full time, much to the annoyance of the Stand contingent.

One of our unluckiest players was John Keate, not in the photograph. He played on the left wing at Bolton County, as replacement for Harry (Pud) Heywood – perhaps on detention – and John scored 5 goals in an 8-2 win. He was dropped for the next game!

Pictured on the front row, first on the left is Graham Ogilvie who died sadly about 5 years ago after a long illness. Graham was a fine player and one of the best

exponents of the slide tackle, I can recall. Invariably he would win the ball, often taking the man as well.

Mike Edelson is pictured sitting next to Graham; he was our top scorer with 21 goals, many of them we recall being ‘toe-poked’ into the net.

Geoff Bennett did a great job as our coach; he jealously guarded our better players and resisted all attempts by the 1st X1 boss – I think this may have been Bert Asquith – to promote them to the first team.

Jeff Gosling (1959)

Sixways Supremo, Pat Sanderson Joins Spoons Ambassador Programme



Wooden Spoon (www.woodenspoon.com) is a children’s charity that involves some of the UK’s top sporting role models in making a difference to the lives of young people who are disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially

Spoon invites people to become Ambassadors in recognition of their support. Already the Honorary President of Spoon Worcestershire Region, Old Boy Patrick Sanderson (1989) has been helping the Spoon Worcestershire Committee for many years and as such is totally deserving of this accolade.

Pat started playing rugby at BGS before joining Littleborough RUFC. In 1996 he joined Manchester Sale (now Sale Sharks) where he was capped by England U21s and England A.

In 1997 he debuted in Hong Kong winning his first sevens’ cap. In 2003–04 he played in six of the IRB World Series rounds including the three wins in South Africa, Hong Kong and London. In 2002 he was also a member of England’s Commonwealth Games squad in Manchester.

Pat won his first full international cap on England’s 1998 southern hemisphere tour as a 20-year-old, facing New Zealand twice and South Africa, and he won another three caps on the 2001 tour to North America.

He played at Harlequins for a few seasons before moving to Worcester Warriors for the 2003–4 season as captain. His consistent performance in the premiership resulted in an international recall for the Autumn test opener against Australia in November 2005. Despite some impressive performances in those Autumn Internationals and being made captain for England’s tour to Australia in 2006, he fell out of favour with England.

Sanderson is an established and firm favourite at Worcester Warriors – with both the supporters and the club, and is fondly referred to as ‘Captain Fantastic’. He has played over 150 top flight games and scored more than 20 tries for Worcester and has again been named as club captain for the 2009–10 season.

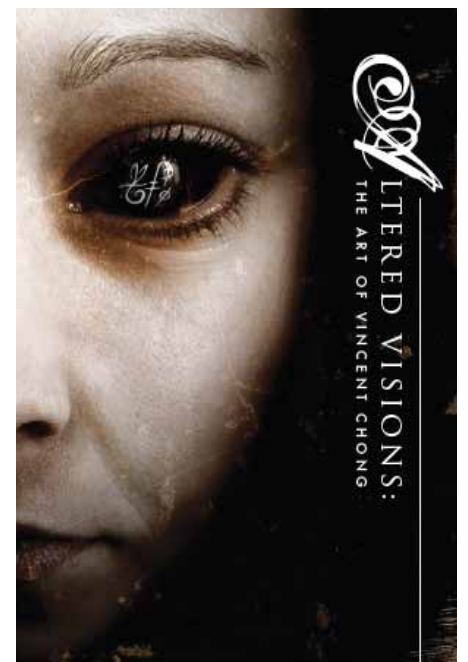
Spoon Worcestershire Chairman John Gibson commented “Pat will be an excellent Ambassador for Spoon. He is a leader on the pitch and shows the same qualities off the pitch. He is genuinely interested in what the Regional Committee is doing and helps out when possible. Worcester is fortunate to have a player and captain of such qualities and Spoon is fortunate to have him as an Ambassador.”

Altered Visions

Old Boy Vincent Chong (1999) burst onto the horror and fantasy scene several years ago with a sequence of incredible artworks. He has provided cover artwork for authors such as Stephen King, and has worked with publishers from around the world providing illustration for record covers and websites. Now some of his incredible artwork is collected in his book *Altered Visions*.

“Vincent Chong’s work is outstanding, it is astonishing. It will capture your attention, perhaps a little part of your soul, too, and don’t be surprised if Mister Vincent Chong’s visions steal into your midnight dreams.”

Vincent has received many awards including British Fantasy Award ‘Best Artist’ 2007, 2008 and 2009. You can view his online portfolio at www.vincentchong-art.co.uk



Helen cracks the New York Marathon

Last November Old Girl Helen Ryan (1981) travelled to the ‘Big Apple’ and joined 42,000 other runners ready to tackle one of the world’s toughest road challenges. Helen completed the marathon in less than five hours and raised over £700 for Breast Cancer Care.

Academic Exchange

Although the respective cultures of Britain and America are superficially very similar, upon being immersed into Californian society there is a deep feeling of sensory overload. Huge gas-guzzling cars abound, McDonalds litter the landscape like Enver Hoxha's pillboxes and everything is centred on conspicuous consumption. However, in the middle of one of the largest economies in the world, and arguably the most consumerist. I found myself in a liberal, environmentally friendly oasis called Davis. It is my home for 10 months whilst I am on academic exchange from the University of Warwick to the University of California.



Located in California's central valley, and about 45 minutes from San Francisco, Davis is the archetypal American college town. There are more bicycles than residents and the bike roundabouts are so treacherous that Fraternities will set up spectator sofas alongside them in the first week of term to watch the freshmen crash. The pace of life is very different from a British University's. Exams are almost constant, papers are shorter but more frequent and the huge class sizes make you feel as though you're on an educational conveyor belt. However, despite this

impersonal approach, the faculty members are more approachable and more contactable than the vague notion that is office hours back home. Being thrust head-first into this undergraduate assembly line was a daunting experience. The vast bureaucracy that has been set up to deal with the needs of 30,000 undergraduates requires careful navigation which proved to be a culture shock when coming from a university half the size.

As I have mentioned a few times, the effect of going on exchange for a year can feel close to overwhelming at first. Therefore it is important that there are sources of advice, networks of support that can help you wherever you find yourself. During my time in California, I have been fortunate to receive the support of two such networks.

During my final year at Bury Grammar School, I had the pleasure to meet a former School Captain, Geoffrey Wandesforde-Smith, who holds the position of Emeritus Professor at the university that I attend in California. Since my arrival in Davis, Geoffrey and I have met several times and been in electronic contact regularly. He has been an enormous source of advice for me as I was settling in to life here, and without the Old Boys' network I would not have had such a comfortable transition to American life. Despite being thousands of miles away from home, the strength of the links that Bury Grammar School builds is still as effective as if I were back in Bury.

The second organisation that has helped me feel at home here in California has been Sigma Chi, a greek-letter Fraternity. The reality of life in a 'frat' has proved very different from the glamorised image made popular by Hollywood. Although it is primarily a social club, it is also deeply involved in campus politics, philanthropic work, sport, alumni relations with the 200,000 Sigma Chis in America and a whole host of other activities. It has provided me with a home when the dorms shut during the holidays, given me people to visit during my travels around California and even organised an internship with a political lobby group in the state capitol.

My message therefore, is that despite the weakening effects of distance, networks such as the Old Boys' Association maintain their strength through the links that are fostered whilst at school. These links have helped me when I was disorientated by California's 24/7 consumerism and byzantine higher education system, and I hope they will continue to help those like me, as well as alumni closer to home, for a long time yet.

Ciaran McCaughey (2008)

Cambridge Offer

Old Girl Philippa Scott (2009), who made national headlines last year having gained six straight A grades without a university offer for English Literature, has done rather better this year having been made offers by all five including Cambridge. Philippa has enjoyed her Gap Year immensely, especially the ski season in France where she perfected her skill of snowboarding and put into practice her love of cooking gourmet food. Philippa will now join elder sister Charlotte (2006) at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.



Old Girl wins prestigious Nick Clarke Award

Victoria Derbyshire (1986) is recognised as having conducted the best broadcast interview of 2009. The BBC Radio 5 Live presenter won the prestigious Nick Clarke award, for her interview with Peter Bacon.

Louisa Compton, Editor of the Victoria Derbyshire Show wrote: "*Victoria never shies away from asking difficult questions, but she does so in a fair, firm and polite manner. She's never abrasive or rude, she doesn't try to trip people up or humiliate them. She's genuinely interested in what people have to say. And she listens (which is more of a skill than you'd think).*"

You can read more about the Nick Clarke award and listen to the award winning interview online: www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/5live/2009/10/victoria-derbyshire-wins-the-n.shtml



Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of the following Old Boys, Old Girls and former staff members:

- Ena Lord (1924) ***
- Mary Bentley née Fell (c.1931)**
- Frank Greenhalgh (1935)**
- George 'Bernard' Hill (1936)**
- Stanley Porter (1937)**
- Catharine Barrett (1938)**
- Cicely Dawson née Malpas (1941)**
- Laura Gillett née Edyvean (1941)**
- Joan Wilkinson née Chadwick (1941)**
- William 'Roger' Crompton (1942)**
- Nancy Harris née Timpany (c.1943)**
- John Finney (c.1944)**
- Keith Mitchell (1945) ***
- John Schofield (1947) ***
- Grace Putman née Marshall (1948)**
- Geoffrey Moorhouse (1950) ***
- Valerie de Looze née Orton (1956)**
- Ken Hall (1956)**
- Ellen 'Vicky' Shepherd née Suddall (1956) ***
- Mike A Stott (1962)**
- Steve Toft (1965)**
- Liz Nichols née Walsh (1981)**
- Paul Gregory (1988)***
- Helen Thornton née Cliffe (1995)**

*Further information is available on our website www.bgsalumni.com

Old Girls' and Old Boys' Associations

The OGA and OBA are a thriving group and in addition to sports teams and recreational clubs, each association organises a fantastic annual reunion, which presents an opportunity to tap into the network of BGS alumni.

Association members receive annual newsletters, invitations to all events and access to the Schools' facilities. For more information, please contact the associations directly:-

OGA Secretary Mrs Suzanne Gauge
suzanne.gauge@btinternet.com

OBA Secretary Mr Martin Entwistle
bgsoba@me.com

Forthcoming Events

There are many School and Alumni events held throughout the year. For more information about BGS events please visit the new alumni website.

Coming soon:- Fundraising Ball, Alumni Reunions, Prizegiving, School Open Days, Craft Fair, Concerts, Productions, Exhibitions and much more.

If you would like to receive event reminders and invitations please contact Louise at the Development Office, telephone 0161 764 1733 or email louise@bgsdev.demon.co.uk



Henry Dunster Society

Date for your diary

2013 marks the 350th Anniversary of the birth of Roger Kay and we would like to invite Henry Dunster Society members to a special celebratory event to be held here in Bury. Further details will be available in due course.

If you would like to find out more about the Henry Dunster Society and becoming a member please visit our website <http://www.bgsalumni.com/the-henry-dunster-society>



Visit the new website
www.bgsalumni.com



Old Boys' Football

The Old Boys' Football Club is looking to recruit Old Boys who wish to play football. Players at the club range in age from 16 to 40 and older and cater for a range of playing standards.

Come and join a club that has played in the Lancashire Amateur League for more than three quarters of a century. They have proud tradition, fabulous facilities and an active social calendar.

Visit www.bgsalumni.com/football for more information.

Reunite Service

As the years go by, owing to changes of address and circumstance it is easy to lose contact with old friends and many Old Boys and Girls have asked us to help trace their former classmates. We are in touch with thousands of alumni and we are always happy to help reunite friends whenever we can.

Please do not hesitate to contact Louise at the Development Office if you would like help to trace your lost friends.

BGS Keepsakes

We have a selection of BGS keepsakes available to buy including Cufflinks and Ties, BGS Umbrellas and Cups, handcrafted Silver Swan Brooches and Swan with Cygnet note cards.

To help raise funds for the Appeal we have two books by Old Boy Ian Fallows (1942), *Bury Grammar School A History and William Hulme and His Trust*, available for sale. We can also offer a superb set of signed Limited Edition prints by Gerry Halpin MBE MAFA.

If you are interested in purchasing BGS keepsakes, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Office. All items are available to view online at www.bgsalumni.com/Alumni



CONTACT DETAILS

Steven Harvey
 Headmaster

Bury Grammar School Boys
 Tenterden Street,
 Bury BL9 0HN
 Telephone: 0161 797 2700
 Email:
headmaster@bgsboys.co.uk

Roberta Georghiou
 Headmistress

Bury Grammar School Girls
 Bridge Road,
 Bury BL9 0HH
 Telephone: 0161 797 2808
 Email:
info@bgs.g.bury.sch.uk

David Harrison
 Bursar

Bury Grammar Schools
 Bursar's Office,
 Farraday House, Bridge Road,
 Bury BL9 0HG
 Telephone: 0161 764 4442
 Email:
dah@burygsoffice.demon.co.uk

Francine Healey
 Director of Development

Bury Grammar Schools
 Development Office,
 Farraday House, Bridge Road,
 Bury BL9 0HG
 Telephone: 0161 764 1733
 Email:
francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk