

Bury Grammar School

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Record of the Old Girls' Association



Centenary Edition 2006



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Meetings 2006/2007

Annual Luncheon

Date: 30th September 2006

Venue: The Roger Kay Hall

Time: Lunch 12.30 for 1.00pm

Price: £12.00

School will be open from 10.30am to 4.30pm for viewing.

a year on the first Saturday after Founders' Day (5th May in 2007) and whose members cover a broad range of ages. New members are always very welcome! The committee would be delighted to give you further details.

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Founders' Day AGM & Dinner

Date: 4th May 2007

Venue: To be announced

Silver Swan Challenge Golf Day

Date: To be announced

Venue: To be announced

NOTES

Copies of the Record will NOT be sent out unless the subscription has been paid. Previous ten year memberships of the Association will automatically lapse on non payment of a life subscription.

Life Membership is offered for £30.00.

Life Membership for persons over 60 years of age is offered for £10.00.

London Branch

The Old Girls' Association has a thriving London Branch which holds a lunchtime meeting in central London once

Unless otherwise stated there will not be a charge for meetings.

6th May 2006

Dear Old Girls

I think of 2006 as our year and your year. It is our year because it marks the centenary of the day on 17th January 1906 on which the girls entered our building for the first time, joining the boys and effectively becoming Bury Grammar School Girls. It is your year because we could not have centenary without our Old Girls; we have been thinking about you a great deal and many of you have joined us in our celebrations. Our Editor, Pamela Brown, has created this special centenary edition of The Record so that we can acknowledge just how important to us are our past, our old girls and our traditions. At the same time we are affirming our future. Nineteen hundred and six realised the vision of some remarkable local people who caused our school to be built and who insisted that the girls should always have an equal share. And this was before we had gained the right to vote! Two thousand and six sees us looking forward again with a new building programme and a reaffirmation of our deeply held belief that we should make the school accessible to all bright girls by supporting those whose parents cannot afford the fees through our bursary scheme.



As a major part of our celebrations, the OGA and School commissioned two honours boards for the Roger Kay Hall. The first contains the names of the Head Girls 1906 - 2005. The second will hold the names of Head Girls for the next one hundred years - another symbol of our confidence in the future. We invited all of our past Head Girls into School on 14th January and meeting them all was a highlight of the year. As you read all of the biographies included here I am sure you will be struck as I was by what a remarkable group of women they all are and how they exhibit those qualities we see again and again in our girls: dedication to others and a belief in living life to the full. In a real sense they represent the one hundred years of all old girls so I hope that every girl who has attended BGSJ will feel that she has a special place in the Roger Kay Hall.

This was followed by the celebrations on the 17th January, itself. In the morning we recalled for an audience of Old Girls and Old Boys drawn mainly from the period when both schools shared the Hall, the events of 1906. In the afternoon the staff entertained the girls. There was much hilarity and happiness and I do believe that if the bell had gone early giving everyone the chance to leave and go home not a girl would have stirred. As it was, they all went home that evening with a celebration mug and a piece of cake. I think most of them will remember it for ever. I know I shall.

As I write, we have another very special event to come. On Monday 26th June we celebrate the laying of the foundation stone for the Roger Kay Hall with a re-enactment of the original ceremony which was performed by the Masons (and will be so again) and a splendid concert. It promises to be a grand occasion and it also gives us the opportunity to bless the foundation stone for our new building programme which begins with Kindergarten.

The land behind the sports hall is cleared and ready; we have been delayed by planning. In the meantime we have been gathering support for our Appeal. While we can fund the first stage, that is only a part of what we need to achieve for BGSJ and the joint sixth form centre, which is so badly needed for our older students can only go ahead if we have financial support from our wider school community just as children from poorer family backgrounds can come to us only with the help of our bursary funds. Fortunately we are gaining some very strong support, much of it from our Old Girls and Old Boys.

For those of you who have not managed to visit us recently, I do hope that we shall see you at an Old Girls' event soon, perhaps for the annual reunion lunch this year on Saturday 30th September. I think you will be very pleased to see the Roger Kay Hall where our Parents' Association has funded the renovation of the proscenium arch to be in keeping with the original panelling. In the centre looking over us all is a beautiful carved swan.

You will receive this special edition in late summer just as we all look forward to the new school year. I believe it will bring the usual rich pattern of new girls beginning their schooling with us and the upper sixth form will be moving on to university; girls will have their successes, play hard and work hard and enjoy all that is BGSJ. We shall all prepare for Prizegiving in the Bridgewater Hall when our speaker is to be Bridget McIntyre, who is an Old Girl and UK Chief Executive of Sun Alliance. So, once again, it will be an Old Girl handing over a key to the new. In 2006 your School holds as true to its traditions and purpose as on the very first time we crossed its threshold.

I hope the New Year will also bring many of you back to School and that you will all keep in touch. With my best wishes

Roberta S Georgiou
Headmistress



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26th May 2006

Dear Old Girls

My annual pattern of tasks is out of kilter as I write to you in May instead of March and the weather serves to confuse me even further. It is a cold and grey day and still feels like winter. Yet last week I was in Assynt enjoying sunshine and clear skies, blue lochs and stunning purple-blue mountains, watching young heron fill their nest and waited with baited breath for them to totter to the edge and launch themselves into the wide world.

Teaching seems to me to be a bit like that. Teachers watch their pupils grow, play, learn and squabble until they are ready to take the great risk of trying their own wings and soaring. The great joy for those of us who teach is to follow that flight and watch our former pupils out-fly us and their parents to find new horizons and challenges which we didn't even know would exist. The most difficult thing is to let them go - even to push them out of the nest when we know they are ready and that keeping them will increase dependence and hold back their development.

It will be the autumn and the next academic year before you read this letter as part of the special Record of a most particular year in the life of B.G.S. Often I have contemplated the years since the first girls knelt on the wet and gritty floor as they followed the boys into the Roger Kay Hall for their morning assembly on a rainy day. What changes there have been outside the school in those hundred years. Transport, technology, the material necessities of life and the expectations of current young people could not have been imagined by that generation of B.G.S. pupils. Yet I think they would recognise the ethos and values of the school in 2006. B.G.S. still strives to give each girl the key to wisdom and understanding. It is still a family where each member matters. They would recognise the independent spirit of enquiry which enabled so many of them to make their mark in the world in a wide range of fields and which still encourages twenty-first century school leavers to break new ground in their higher education courses and their ambitions.

I have enjoyed being part of the meetings and celebrations which have marked this centenary year of the working together of the two Bury Grammar Schools. It has been good to look back at what has been achieved, to meet old friends and to look forward to the next centenary. It is good to see the school in such good heart, well led, well served by all its staff and well represented by its bright and self-assured pupils.

The developments in hand are exciting and essential for the future of the school. To begin with the youngest pupils is right. As the daughter of a primary school headmistress I looked forward to my contacts with the Kindergarten and Junior School and enjoyed being part of both sections of the school. It was a great joy to see the Junior School handsomely re-housed before I retired and now it is the turn of the Kindergarten for both boys and girls. Then the Sixth Form Centre. Bury Grammar School has long offered the best of single-sex education in a coeducational world but a sixth form world of shared social areas, seminar rooms, lecture theatre and drama studio was not imagined when the sexes were expected to keep to their own sides of Bridge Road as they were for so many years. At last Bridge Road will be a bridge between the parts of the Bury Grammar Schools. The front of the hundred year old building will be embellished in a way which is appropriate for it to thrive through the twenty-first century. The school has always tried to make its opportunities open to all and its Bursary Scheme aims to achieve once more the wide social balance which I found when I became Headmistress in January 1987. Everyone benefited and privilege came from the opportunity of being part of such a fine school, not background or class or wealth. I commend the Schools' Centenary Appeal to all former students. The smallest amounts will make a difference as I hope the school was able to make a difference for you.

It certainly made a difference for me. All I learned as a Headmistress has enabled me to share my long years of experience in education through the 21st Century Learning Initiative, as an Inspector and Consultant with schools in the Independent and Maintained sectors and as a school governor. I continue to work in Manchester and Tameside and beyond though I rely on my trusty walking stick ever more and do enjoy late mornings and holidays and the quiet company of my cats, (relatively quiet - they are part Siamese). I have my usual holiday in the Mani of Greece arranged for late June and this year will be taking with me a new (to me) guide book. It was written by the former pupil of the Boys' School, their speaker at their Old Boys' dinner, historian and classicist, Professor Peter Greenhalgh. We met at the Founders' Day breakfast after the communion service in the Parish Church - a great way to begin a sunny celebration with the cherry blossom at its best as we left school, processed along the road to the church and in the church grounds.

Occasions like Founders Day make one reflect and feel the privilege of being part of the family of Bury Grammar Schools and I wish them every success in their ambitious and exciting development plans. I send all of you my best wishes for your year ahead. I hope to see some of you and to hear from others.

From Janet Lawley, with love.



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12th May 2006

My Dear Old Girls

When we reach so momentous a date as a centenary, it is inevitable that we look back to our own experiences. I cannot claim to remember the whole of the last century, but it is now more than half that time since I came to B.G.S. as a member of staff. I remember well walking along Irwell Street on a crisp September morning. I had bought a new coat to boost my confidence, and, though nervous, I was also modestly hopeful, for I had taught for nine years at the Park School, Preston, and thought I had served a useful apprenticeship. I did not realize what I was soon to learn, that one's second job has perils as great as one's first. Beginners in a good school are helped and as far as possible sheltered. It is often assumed that the more senior can look after themselves and they tend to think so, too. This makes the pitfalls caused by slight yet vital variation in custom and practice all the more dangerous. My confidence was almost as soon discarded as my coat.

With her usual wisdom, Miss Lester gave me Upper Va - a form old enough to tell me what I did not know. They were a delightful group - anyone still out there? - and I soon grew fond of them, but our first encounter was nerve-shattering. The first shock was the form-room. I was used to rooms where, if there was a dais, it held the teacher's desk. In Room 3 it was the girls who looked down on me from desks rising in tiers towards the ceiling. The resemblance to an amphitheatre was very marked and I have never felt more sympathetic to the early Christians flung to the lions. The second problem was that I had to compile the form Blue Sheet. I had never before heard of this terrifying document, which had to include all possible information about the girls - ("Why not their blood groups?" I found myself muttering), written in one's neatest handwriting for presentation to Authority. Matters were not helped when I innocently said: "I didn't know so many of you would come from Prestwich", a remark received with gales of laughter by all those who came from elsewhere and glares from the Prestwich contingent. I had not realised that they were teased about the local mental hospital.

The passing of time has mercifully blurred the rest of that day, but I could write at length about the rest of the term. No doubt Mrs Brown as editor and everyone else as readers will be glad that I resist the temptation.

I send good wishes and thanks for happy times at B.G.S. (Girls)

Joyce Batty.



Prizegiving Report

Prizegiving in The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
27th September 2005

Headmistress's Report

Mr Chairman, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen, School,

Ninety nine years and nine months ago we were planning a big move. A school was being built; half of it was already complete and filled with boys; the rest was waiting for us - the Girls' School. We arrived on January 17 1906, smiled pleasantly at our neighbours, firmly shut all of the interconnecting doors and got on with the job of providing our girls with a no nonsense high quality education, good manners and good sense. Now in 2005 we have accomplished another move here, to the Bridgewater Hall, so that for the first time we can all be together and celebrate in style the achievements of a whole school, some of which you have already heard in the musical items which began our evening. I am so very glad to see everyone here: our parents, Governors and friends and above all our pupils, some of whom joined us only three weeks ago.

We have much to celebrate. Our returning upper sixth students between them achieved record results at A level. They passed every single paper and achieved 83% A or B passes. 24 students (just under one third of the cohort of 75) each gained at least three straight A grades and added top grades at AS level to their achievements.

Six girls have 4 grade A passes and Julia Riggs gained 5. Three girls have been placed among the top nationally: Jennifer Tsim top 5 in General Studies out of 26646 candidates and Nicola Ullathorne in geography out of 4064 candidates. Susan Heap is one of the top ten candidates in English Literature.

Overall the results were more than sufficient to ensure that the great majority of our girls proceeded on to the university courses of their choice and you can see from the programme that they won some highly competitive places including nine at either Oxford or Cambridge. So much for the so called 'anti independent school bias'.

The picture at GCSE is just as good. Our overall pass rate at grades A* - C is 98.3% with 64.9 of all grades at A/A*. 27 girls gained 10 A/A* grades and 4 girls gained 10A* grades: Elizabeth Hulmes, Penelope Lawton, Aparna Madhavan and Charlotte Maher. Two girls gained top marks in the country. Sarah Lomax was in the top 10 for business studies out of 15865 candidates and Lauren Jones of was in the top 5 in French out of 138508 candidates. In fact Lauren was top because our breakdown shows she did not lose a single mark. There are three key ingredients to such success: the determined study of the girls themselves; the unparalleled dedication and scholarship of our teaching staff and the support of parents.

There will be those who are disappointed to hear this but I will not be joining the national bandwagon of questioning success in young people. We hear that exams have become easier, that

the Boards give away top grades so that schools buy into them, teachers complete the coursework for them - the stories are endless; we have all read them. So it is a maverick voice which just suggests that maybe young people are achieving more. And yet we have seen evidence of it ourselves already this evening in the musical performances of our students. Twelve ensembles and the orchestra have played for us. How many schools could have listened to such musicianship twenty, thirty and forty years ago? Every time I hear them play I think that they cannot get better - but they do. Why not in academia too? Our eighteen year olds currently represent the pinnacle of achievement in British education but I do not expect them to hold the record for ever. Year 7 is on its way!

To prove this, arriving in school just three weeks ago half of the upper thirds, have already experienced their first major challenge in the visit to Glaramara, an outdoor activity centre in the Lake District. For some this will have meant staying away from home for the first time. Challenge is an important part of our education and for this reason I hope that our extensive programme of school visits will continue. At the end of last academic year the whole school participated in our two day cross curricular event with every year having an away day and then special activities in school which varied from kite flying and willow weaving to poetry reading, scientific experiment and drama. While others went to Tatton Park, an army camp and Stratford, the lower fourth, went to France. It was a jittery time with the horrific events in London just unfolding and parents were understandably anxious but I should like to reassure you all as we embark upon a year with just as much adventure. We have returned safely from the Choir's successful tour of Poland, from water sports in the south of France and from two ski trips let alone countless visits in England. In the spirit of amitié and freundschaft we have exchanged visits with Koln and Dijon. Both are run jointly by the Modern Languages staff of both schools with the German Exchange now celebrating its 50th year. The unforeseen can happen but all of our visits are meticulously planned and they are run by teachers who look after your children as if they were their own. And here I should like to pay tribute to the work of senior teacher, Mrs Schofield who oversees with staff the detail of every trip, who has prepared countless risk assessments and who is assiduous in every detail. My thanks to every member of staff who has given up time in order to lead and accompany our girls to places new. We must always let our girls experience adventure otherwise they will be like the goldfish in the round bowl who, on being released into a pond, continue to swim around in small circles.

One group in school which positively seeks to hurl itself into difficult situations is our CCF. Frequently seen in camouflage paint and incredibly grubby boots, on March 11th they were immaculate as they had their biennial inspection this time carried out by Major General His Grace the Duke of Westminster,

who gave them a glowing report. Later on they went on their annual camp to Wathgill where they were put through their paces including the overnight exercise. I am particularly proud of the resourcefulness of our senior officers who, I am told, face the challenge of kit inspection with an aplomb not quite matched by their male counterparts. Apparently the perfectly turned sheet is achieved with the use of - hair straighteners. This fact will be a great comfort to all parents who have wondered whether these things have any particular use at all other than to be discovered on their daughters' bedroom floors under a nicely smouldering towel. On a serious note, Major Rylance tells me that the girls contribute a great deal to the CCF especially our officers, Company Sergeant, Sara Petela, Colour Sergeant, Emma Petela and Sergeant Amy Parry. We are particularly proud of them and of the CCF as a whole when they lead out the schools on Founders' Day in May.

The CCF is one of our many joint activities in school. The sixth forms now share an afternoon each week of extra curricular activities including sailing, web design and sculpture. We also have some shared lessons and have been able to give our sixth formers greater choice by opening up a number of subjects to both schools. These subjects are currently Latin, Economics and Business Studies with access to more. You have heard of the Governors' plans for a future sixth form centre allowing for social integration and the best of both worlds. This 'best of both worlds' is also apparent in our joint drama productions as all who enjoyed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Autumn term and *Grease* in Spring would agree. We also had our first joint charitable collection as the Boys' School, somewhat curiously dressed as girls, invited us to take part in their fund-raising during World Aids Week and it was great fun and much good was achieved. Our good relationship exists at all levels and particularly between the Heads. The interconnecting door is now wide open. Mr Richards was one of the first to welcome me to Bury as a new Head. He gave me advice when I sought it, support at all times and has forgiven me every time I have tried to pin a crime on one of his boys only to discover that the girls were in it too. My first reaction when he announced his forthcoming retirement was to realise that I shall miss him but he will take with him in April our very good wishes for his future retirement.

As I turn now to some individual achievements I know that it is not possible to cover all this evening. We are therefore fortunate to have had a team of budding journalists operating all year in the school for our School Magazine which is due for release soon. Its editor is Sherry Ashworth who has known her own share of success not least in the publication of her latest novel, *Paralysed*. Shortly you will applaud Lauren Dakin who has just completed her A levels and now moves on to study radiography. She achieved her success despite illness and moreover was busy serving the community with distinction in her work with St John Ambulance. She has been recognised for her achievement within the organisation with the Grand Pryor Award and was promoted to Head of Youth Forum as a result of which she is now an officer with three pips. Fellow upper sixth formers, Sarah Bowe, Jennifer Tsim, Julia Riggs and Rosalind Joseph gained an impressive clutch of medals in the British Biology Olympiad and gave a team performance among the best. Nicola Ullathorne, Nicola Reynolds and Aneeqa Khan were national finalists in the Ogden Business Competition and once

again our team for the Rhys Davies Mock Trial Competition performed at the highest level this year being runners up. Ours is the only school to have won first or second place since the competition began. Then we held our own mock election. Inspired by Mrs Thorpe, our candidates created a stir somewhat upstaging the real thing. Our own winner was Amy Parry (Conservative), whose prize was a visit to Westminster with the elected member, David Chaytor MP, accompanied, in the spirit of democracy, by the Labour candidate, Katie Hodge. It is true to say that behind every girl we applaud this evening there are even more achievements for which there may not be a certificate. Any girl who took a GCSE, AS or A level in Art or Technology contributed to the 18th Annual Exhibition last May when more than 1000 art works were displayed around the school. Lower Sixth girls taking AS level theatre studies delighted us with their production of *Steel Magnolias*. I think that my case, that our students are achieving more and more in the course of their studies with us is probably gaining ground. In addition all of our girls support charity between them raising over £10,000 last year for different causes and currently more than 50 sixth formers are taking part in our service in the community programme run by Mrs Beales visiting the elderly, helping the disabled and working in schools. Some extend their help to the holidays; one group visited Lourdes and another, Vitalise in Southport.

From her first day in school every girl is encouraged to take part in our extra curricular programme. There are many clubs in the lunch hour and after school. They are run by staff and sixth formers who share with the girls their enthusiasm for a hobby or skill and through these activities the girls gain new friends and experiences. The Junior Drama Club run by Miss Russell gave us a spirited production of *The Flanders Mare* at the end of the summer term and on the very last morning we watched a dialogue followed by the riveting *Living with Lady Macbeth* produced by Mrs Beales with girls in years 9 and 10 with Emily Bergin as the lead. Indeed the programme is now so extensive that it is being co-ordinated by Mr Latham who becomes our first Head of Extra Curricular Studies, an acknowledgement of how important this aspect of our school is in ensuring balance, extension and, above all, enjoyment in all girls.

I have been delighted to witness the growth of our sport to the point where our PE department under the energetic leadership of Mrs Slade and, last year, Mrs Eady, need all of their own energy and physical endurance just to get through all of the scheduled clubs and practices each week. For this section of my report I am going to hand over to the sports captain, Emma Petela and her deputy, Katie Halstead.

Emma Petela

We now have 14 sports in school ranging from the ever popular soccer to gymnastics, judo, basket ball and badminton. I am pleased to report that our hockey teams have had a very good season with the year 7 team winning the Bury tournament, the year 9 team winning the Bury tournament and knockout while the year 10/11 team won the Bury league. Katey Jason, Lauren Jones, Joanne Long, and Jessica Mortimer, were all successful in county trials. In cross country Harriet Macfarlane and Jessica Macdonald were selected to represent Bury in the Greater Manchester Race. In Netball the U14 squad won the Manchester and District Tournament and the second trophy of



the year was gained by the Year 11 team who were victors in the mid season rally. Jennifer Cross not only captains the under 16 school team, she is also captain of the Bury and Greater Manchester U16 teams. She was selected for an England U17 netball training weekend. In swimming Joanne Long has achieved national honours by being selected for the Under 17 water polo team. In order to succeed at this level, she swims 20,000 metres a week trains for at least 4 hours and spends one hour in a gym. To fit it all in she is sometimes up at 4.45am but she does get to lie in at the weekends - to 6.15am

Katie Halstead

Rounders is one of our most popular summer sports with over half the girls in years 7-9 now playing. Our tennis players have reached the top. Elizabeth Ullathorne is an England futures player and with her elder sister, Nicola, and Emily Bailey and Helen Wakefield won through to the final of the Aberdare Cup when they were joined by Jennifer Healey. All five girls played brilliantly but did not win this time. But given that they were 14 and 15 and playing in an U19 competition they are sure to have other successes ahead and reaching a national final is an excellent achievement. Athletics has really developed especially as this summer we had our first sports day complete with ice cream from our very kind Guild. Our under 13 and under 15 teams were regional B finalists and Abigail Irozuru qualified for the national championships gaining a record for the long jump at 5.55 metres. Years 7, 10 and 11 are Bury Champions.

Behind all achievement is a teaching team and those staff retiring last summer will all have contributed to many successful careers. Leaving the English department, Mrs Martin retired as a part time teacher of English after 17 years along with Mrs Evans. Mrs Elton intended to retire but is undertaking some teaching at King David's High School while Mrs Harris, who was instrumental in setting up the Business Studies, also leaves after 10 years and Mr Holland, who retires from classics. All of them have contributed to the school. We thank them and wish them a happy retirement. This term we welcomed Ms Poulson to teach English from Altrincham Boys Grammar School and Mrs Cove, who joins the psychology department part time.

Our teaching staff would be the first to wish me to acknowledge the debt we owe to all of our support staff. Our

technicians facilitate all of our practical lessons and our ICT ensuring that the girls can always have full access to the hi tech equipment they need to learn. Our office staff help the whole school to run efficiently and during the organisation of this Prizegiving event at the Bridgewater Hall have been run off their feet. My own personal thanks go to my secretary, Mrs Anyon, without whose expertise this event would not have run so smoothly, and who gives me her support every day of the school year.

Kindergarten and the Junior School are expertly run by Mrs Robinson and Mrs Bottoms who ensure that our youngest children have the foundations they need to progress successfully through both schools. I could not do my job without the wise counsel and dedication of the Deputy Headmistresses: Mrs Billinge whose timetabling skills give us a flexible and imaginative curriculum, Mrs Buttery who oversees much of the day to day running of the school including this event and Mrs Skinner who became Deputy this term with increased responsibilities in pastoral care including within the sixth form, the day to day management of which now falls to the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Ward.

On this platform you see our Governors who give their time freely and generously to this school with only one goal in mind: its continuing ability to provide an excellent education for all of the children in its care. It is a very demanding role and one which Mr David Johnson knows particularly well as he is now serving for the fortieth year. He has overseen many improvements in the Girls School and to give you some idea of his contribution I ask the youngest girl in our school Mollie Longworth who is just 10 years old to imagine what it would be like to be sitting on this platform every year from now to her fiftieth birthday! We thank you, David, and all of our Governors.

From this platform I see the parents, friends, teachers and above all the pupils of Bury Grammar School Girls. It is a truly magnificent sight and to every girl I say, make the most of all that your school has to give you and next year we shall all be celebrating again.

Roberta S Georgiou
Headmistress



Annual Report

The AGM and Annual Dinner 2005 was held at a new venue this year; the Old Mill Restaurant in Ramsbottom where 45 Old Girls and their guests enjoyed a very pleasant meal in comfortable surroundings. The meeting opened with the welcome to all by Mrs Georghiou and we were especially pleased to welcome the deputy chair of the governors, Mrs Shefali Henry.

A moment's silence was kept in memory of those Old Girls who had passed away during the year before reading the greetings from those who could not be with us and, of course, we were not forgotten by the Old Boys who sent a witty and thoughtful greeting.

The Secretary and Treasurer gave their annual reports to the meeting, followed by the election of officers. The re-election of Secretary Betty and Treasurer Julie together with committee members Alison Pockney, Trisha Jones, and Francine Healey was confirmed together with the election of Kay Chappell as a new committee member. A special tribute and presentation of flowers was made to Pam Brown for her much appreciated work as secretary over many years and we were delighted that she is to continue as an active and valued member of the committee retaining responsibility for the production of the Record. Mrs Georghiou entertained the meeting with an amusing and thought-provoking speech dwelling on the theme of assembly and friendship; linking the coming together of all the varied and colourful personalities in our community and their contribution to the whole family of the School. Mrs Henry gave an interesting and informative account of her hopes for the future development of School.

The announcement was made at the AGM that Georgina Bolton, who plans to visit Australia, had been awarded The Dorothy Lester Travel Scholarship. Last year's recipient, Sophie Livsey, had enjoyed her trip to Canada and on her return presented us with a fascinating insight into her travels which will be published in the Record.

On Saturday 7 May 2005 the Headmistress, Pam Brown, Francine Healey and Betty Kenyon made the journey to London for the AGM and 70th anniversary of the London Branch of the OGA. They took Lancashire Cheese, apple pie and grapes as their part of the buffet lunch. It is a tradition that the headmistress supplies the Lancashire cheese on this occasion. The welcome from the London Old Girls was warm and enthusiastic. I am sure this London visit will be repeated.

In June a new venture was organised in the form of a Golf Day together with the Old Boys and this proved to be a very successful event thanks in no small way to the sterling efforts of Pam Brown. All who took part at Bury Golf Club had a most enjoyable day culminating in the presentation of the Silver Swan Challenge Trophy for the winners and the Mucky Duck Runners Up Cup! A slight misunderstanding over which rules were in place resulted in the Old Boys and Old Girls agreeing to hold each trophy for six months of the year! This year's Golf Day will be held on 26th May 2006 at Rossendale Golf Club and we would love to see even more of our members taking part.

The Annual Luncheon took place in October and we were delighted with the attendance of over 200 Old Girls. Six reunion groups were present including those of 20, 25 and 40 years and all tried to give a splendid rendition of the school song under the watchful guidance of Dorothy Stoddard. In her speech Mrs Georghiou reminded us of the efforts of Old Girls past and present and how vital those links with school are. This year Old Girls were invited to join the Old Boys for morning coffee and after lunch several Old Boys responded to our invitation to meet with us in the Roger Kay Hall and have a look around school. I can safely say this is an event not to be missed so make a note now in your diary for September 30th.

Once again we are grateful to Liz Sutcliffe and her staff for the excellent catering, Bill Hogan and his band of helpers for their huge unseen efforts, to Tony Wildin for setting up the sound system and to Eileen Schofield who was our contact within school. Thank you to them all.

As part of the celebrations to commemorate the centenary of the joining together of the girls' and boys' schools under the same roof, new Head Girl Honours Boards were purchased for the Roger Kay Hall this year with a generous contribution from the OGA. A lunch for former Head Girls and their guests was held on 14th January 2006 to mark the unveiling of these boards and we are especially grateful to Betty Kenyon for the tremendous work she did to make contact with so many past students. A further celebration was held in school for all old girls and boys and their partners on 20th January: the actual anniversary of this special day. We were delighted to welcome so many former pupils to these important dates in the life of the school.

During the afternoon of the 20th January 2006 to commemorate this day School was to hold a 'Special Assembly' taken by Mrs Georghiou. Having started her history talk she was "taken" off stage; needless to say Bobby knew this was going to happen. The staff continued with a well-rehearsed Revue. At the end of the performance the noise of applause from the girls was deafening. The staff were seen in an entirely different light! All good parties end with a take home present and piece of cake and this was no exception. The girls were presented with a commemorative mug and piece of the birthday cake.

Finally, on behalf of the OGA, may I thank all our many supporters now spread the length and breadth of the UK and abroad, Miss Lawley and Miss Batty for their continued interest and participation, Julie Hartley for her masterly control of the accounts, David Harrison for kindly checking the annual figures and not least to Mrs Georghiou for her enthusiasm and commitment to the Old Girls' Association. We look forward to another exciting and fulfilling year.

Gill Ryan
Secretary
April 2006



THE SILVER SWAN CHALLENGE GOLF TROPHY

Friday 26th May 2006



The Silver Swan Challenge Trophy was held this year at Rossendale Golf Course and five courageous four-balls braved the elements yet again to participate in a most enjoyable day of golf and good cheer.

The weather was atrocious right up until minutes before the first four teed off which only goes to prove that "the sun shines on the righteous!" Although the course was very wet the teams played some very good golf and a good deal of merriment could be heard on certain holes.

Once again we all enjoyed a truly memorable day and the friendly and amusing atmosphere was second to none. Our thanks must go to the boys for both their company and their generosity, not to mention their humour, and to the Development Office for its continued support, in particular

Francine Healey for braving the weather to act as our official photographer.

A most enjoyable dinner was enjoyed on our return in the evening, to which we were pleased to be able to welcome Mrs Bobby Georgiou and Mr Steven Harvey to present the prizes. Rob Yates played an exceptional game and took the prize for best OB score and Liz Cheetham matched his score to take the prize for best OG. Shirley Taylor flew the flag and took the prize for the nearest the pin competition.

Despite fielding an outstanding team of Old Girls, sadly we were truly beaten this year and our congratulations must go to the Old Boys on their standard of play. However, we will be back next year to reclaim the trophy!



John Dyson, Liz Cheetham,
Hillary Ankers, John Ayers



Peter Jones, Kath Findlay,
Linda Davies, Rob Yates



Melvyn Ince, Pam Brown (Capt's ???)



Brian Sutcliffe, Elizabeth Howarth,
Joan Winterburn, John Yates



Stephen Crompton, Odette Riley,
Pam Brown, Melvyn Ince



John Keate, Shirley Taylor,
Liz Dyson, Chris Neal

London Branch Annual Report 2005

This meeting was our 70th anniversary meeting, and we were delighted by the good attendance. We were particularly pleased to welcome visitors from the Bury branch as well as Mrs Georghiou.

As usual it was good to hear Mrs Georghiou's report from school with details of the many successes in academic work, sport and performance arts. It is also very gratifying to learn of the increasing equality between the girls' school and the boys'. Mrs Georghiou also very kindly maintained the custom of bringing us "real" Lancashire cheese - it's not the same down here!

As this was the 70th anniversary meeting we naturally fell to reminiscence. There have been very few committee members within that time, and all those no longer with us are remembered.

We have been nomadic to say the least, holding meetings in Crosby Hall, Caxton Hall, Westminster Cathedral's meeting room, a convent once, Putney High School once, we think, and the community centre in Great Smith Street, where we usually shared the venue with the annual meeting of an association of manic depressives!

Sue was able to put on display the tablecloth and teapots from the Caxton Hall days of cucumber sandwiches. These have traditionally lived in the loft of whoever is the current

chairman. It was during the Caxton Hall days, under the influence of some of the present committee that we revolutionised from the cucumber sandwiches to our present format, which includes alcohol no less! Miss Lester started the tradition of bringing us Lancashire cheese, and claimed it provided her with a railway carriage to herself.

It is our intention to produce a file of Old Girls memorabilia, to be presented to school in time. Any contributions will be welcomed. Vicky Shepherd started the ball rolling with a collection of photographs.

This will be our last meeting in College Hall as it is closing for refurbishment. Enid has found another very pleasing venue within the University however, just around the corner at Connaught Hall, 36-45 Tavistock Square, London WC1. Directions to get there will be sent out on the notice.

Our meetings are always held on the Saturday immediately following Founders' Day, and the next will be on Saturday 6th May. As ever everybody is very welcome - bring your old friends!

Jane Belfield

Development Office

The Bury Grammar Schools' Development Office is now responsible for the maintenance of the Old Girls Database and the alumni website www.bgsdev.co.uk.

PLEASE keep the development office informed of address changes and career developments and don't forget to visit the alumni website where you can upload photographs, memories and articles as well as chat with old friends and read news about the schools. Louise and Michelle are always happy to help reunite classmates and assist in organising school reunion groups.

If you have any news, suggestions about the website, contributions to *The Key* or would like further information about their fundraising activities, please do not hesitate to contact Francine Healey (BGS 1979) on 0161 764 1733 or Email: francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITES?

Enjoy navigating our websites which are both informative and interesting.

www.bgsg.bury.sch.uk Bury Grammar Girls School



www.burygrammarschoolboys.co.uk Bury Grammar Boys School



www.bgsdev.co.uk Alumni





BGSG Parents Association 2005-6

2006 marks not only the centenary of the girls' advent into the present school building, but also the change of name of the Guild of Parents and Friends. In an attempt to make its purpose more transparent, the Guild decided at October's AGM to become the Bury Grammar School Girls Parents Association.

The 11th Annual Craft Fair in November was the first event to be held under the new name. The day dawned wet and chilly; at first we thought that Father Christmas might arrive on water skis rather than in the traditional sleigh. Inside the school, however, all was warm and inviting. The newly installed swan carving in the Roger Kay Hall gazed down on the rows of stalls; brightly coloured cards, photographs, wooden puzzles and jolly balloons. You could immerse yourself in cuddly fleece wraps, spider cushions and mohair teddy bears. Scents of Asian food mingled with the aroma of mince pies in the restaurant area of the sixth form centre. Soloists from the school played for visitors in the hall and parents and staff valiantly volunteered their help during the day. Our next Craft Fair will be held on Saturday 18th November 2006; new stallholders are always welcome.

In January 2006, honours boards were erected in the Roger Kay Hall displaying the names of Head Girls since 1906. This was the culmination of the refurbishment of the hall, largely funded by the Parents Association. The centenary of the Roger Kay Hall will take place in 2006, the foundation stone having been laid in June 1906 and the construction completed in March 1907. In 2003, a request was made to the then Guild of Parents and Friends to fund a new apron stage as the existing one was heavy and in need of repair. The Guild agreed not only to this, but to make the refurbishment of the hall a major project and this has taken two years to complete. The Roger Kay Hall is at the centre of the school both literally and symbolically. Parents gather there to await their daughters after the rigours of the entrance examination, attend, sometimes with trepidation, parents' evenings and watch their progress there through the years, making choices and key decisions. Productions take place there from Kindergarten and Junior School concerts to A Level Theatre Studies' performances and the stage has had to cope with rousing annual visits from Father Christmas as well as Charleston flappers in the 1920s pastiche, *The Boy Friend*.

The venture began with the establishment of a sub-committee to liaise with the school under the benign gaze of Mrs Billinge, then Acting Headmistress. A stage fund, into which money raised at Guild events would be deposited, was launched. During the summer holiday in 2003, the Guild funded new curtains for the hall to improve sound quality and acoustics and provide blackout, allowing full stage lighting to be used during summer evenings. The next phase of the project involved removing the old stage and fitting the new one and sanding and sealing the floor and stage. This ambitious schedule was carried out during the 2004 summer break. A major part of the undertaking would be to replace the existing stage surround with wooden panelling more in keeping with the rest of the hall. As befits a project so central to the school, the joinery work was to be done in-house, the panels to be manufactured in the school workshop. What lies beneath the pine cladding surrounding the proscenium arch was revealed when this was removed during the following February half-term holiday. The new panelling was installed during the summer crowned by the school emblem of the swan carved in a variety of different natural woods.

Over the two years of the project, the Guild raised the grand sum of £45,000; over £3600 of this being contributed by the Junior School from their sponsored swim in 2004. The swan carving and new lighting were funded by the Estate Governors and from a bequest by a former pupil of the Boys' School, resulting in a final total of £53,000.

The final major fund raising event of this academic year was the May Gala. In contrast to previous years, D-Day for the May Gala, Saturday 13th May, dawned wet and chilly. Should the theme of the Magical World of Disney be changed to Disney in Galoshes? A temporary respite from the downpour gave us an Eisenhower moment. Should we hold the May Gala indoors or venture outside? Fortunately, we chose the former as the heavens opened. Were we downhearted at the weather - well, a bit!

The Reverend Roger Kay found his peace disturbed by tombolas and raffles, floating ducks and smoothie stalls and hawkers for 100 Club members and Casino Night tickets. Antony For Hair had donated 5 aptly named Sedusa dryers to be raffled, demonstrated by 2 girls with a cascade of curls.

The theme of the day was personified in the Kindergarten Fancy Dress Competition. Holding the event indoors meant that the entrants had their hour upon the stage and there followed a procession including Mickey Mice, Beauties, Sleeping or otherwise, assorted Robin Hoods and a Tigger. The difficult task of choosing the winners was ably undertaken by Mrs Anne Davies, a Governor of the School, who acted as learned judge.

It was encouraging to note that the girls themselves were running even more of their own stalls this year with henna hand-painting, hair and nail art and sweets and tombola stalls. Their participation is vital to the success of Parents' Association events and thanks must also go to the staff for giving up their time to help. In keeping with the mood of the day, Mr Bergin was a more capable Sorcerer's Apprentice, putting up posters and sourcing raffle tickets topped by a distinctive pair of Mickey Mouse ears. Could they be worn to maintain authority over Year 9?

Those exiled outside included the barbecuers, grateful for their own source of heat, the coconut shy and the fairground rides which still attracted intrepid children despite the rain. The tropical atmosphere of the sixth form centre was more suited to George of the Jungle, lacking only a few palm trees. There was no truth in the rumour that the heating had been turned up in order to sell more cold drinks.

Thanks to everyone's hard work the day resulted in a profit of over £7,900 which will be used to fund projects throughout the school.

Thanks to the commitment of parents and staff and the increasing involvement of the girls, we have raised a total of over £18,000 during this academic year. The contribution of our retiring Chairman, Sue Bolton, to the success of the Parents Association has included the mammoth task of sorting and recycling secondhand uniform, a service for which many parents have cause to be grateful.

April this year saw the loss of Mrs Lilian Nield, a founder member of the Guild of Parents and Friends. Mrs Nield always took a special interest in our progress and we will try to match her dedication.

Lynne Brown

Secretary, BGSG Parents Association. June 2006

The Way Forward - Centenary Appeal

It has been a busy year for the Development Office team of Francine Healey, Michelle Bradshaw and Louise Alford, with much of it spent preparing to launch The Bury Grammar Schools Centenary Appeal.

Our Appeal Brochure has now been mailed which details the Governors' vision for the future developments of our School. We would dearly like to enlist your support and if there is any aspect of our campaign that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact Francine Healey, Development Officer.

We have been fortunate in securing the help of Appeal Patrons, of whom many are well known Old Boys and Girls. We appreciate their contributions and their willingness to endorse our campaign and work on our behalf to encourage others to do the same. They believe in the education we offer and value our students in the workforce.

We are also grateful for the support of our Corporate Sponsors, Parents, Governors, Staff and Alumni who have shown a keen interest in our future. Many of our current pupils owe their education to generous benefactors and their kindness makes a very real difference in our School Community.

In the first stages of our Appeal we have received donations and pledges of approximately £700,000 toward our Building and Bursary Funds and this early demonstration of commitment to our Schools is greatly encouraging. Since the mailing of our Appeal Brochure we have received a further £70,000 in gifts and pledges for which we are very grateful. However, if we are to be

successful in our Appeal to build the finest environment in which our pupils can flourish and provide the widest possible access to our Schools, we shall need your help.

If you have not already done so, please consider making your contribution to the future of our Schools. We can assure you that any amount you are able to give will be used wisely by our Governors and for the specific fund intended. We need to raise over £2.5 million and your gift will make a real difference.

Improvements to our Alumni Website www.bgsdev.co.uk are ongoing; please spare a few moments to visit the site and register your details. You will find school news, details of events, information about Schools' organisations and web links. As you will see, we are also building a fascinating photo archive and we would welcome any photographs you are willing to share with us.

We would love to hear from you. Please keep us informed of address changes, career developments and personal news. Please urge BGS friends to contact us; it is only by keeping our database up to date that we can offer the best assistance in planning reunion events and helping old friends re-establish contact with each other.

If you would like to visit School, receive information about School funds or enquire about events, please do not hesitate to contact, Francine Healey, Development Officer, Farraday House, Bridge Road, Bury BL9 0HG.

Tel: 0161 764 1733 or

Email: francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk

As our Kindergarten is very excited at the prospect of a new building, every child in this department took part in a sponsored event to raise money for the Appeal. All the children were sponsored by members of staff and also Boo Boo Bear to ensure their involvement.

Reception children took part in a sponsored push, pushing a

bicycle, pram etc around the playground for ten minutes and Year 1 and 2 took part in a sponsored team obstacle race.

They all did incredibly well and several enthusiasts presented this cheque for £4,268.28 at a Centenary Launch last November but since then the total has risen to £4,329.28





Head Girls' Centenary Celebration



On Saturday 14th January 2006 a special centenary celebration was held to dedicate the splendid new honours boards erected in the Roger Kay Hall, which school commissioned and to which the Old Girls Association were very happy to contribute. The Honours Boards bore the names of almost all our Head Girls. After a great deal of work in locating our Head Girls, 35 of all those contacted were able to join us, together with their families, many Old Girls, Governors and friends of the school. Our oldest Head Girl present was Marie Holland who was elected in 1938 and who went on to study at the University of London gaining a first class Honours Degree in Maths. She later helped to develop jet engines at Metropolitan Vickers during the Second World War and witnessed some of the first flights using the pioneering technology.

As you read the profiles on our Head Girls you will be struck by their many interesting and diverse achievements.

Some of our oldest and former head girls pictured beneath our newest swan in the Roger Kay Hall.



Natasha Muszanskyj (Head Girl),
Marie Holland, Bobby Georghiou

After a warm welcome from Headmistress Mrs Bobby Georghiou an inspiring and appreciative address was given from Natasha Muszanskyj our current Head Girl. A welcome was extended by Mrs Betty Kenyon, Chairman of the OGA, who said "On behalf of the Old Girls' Association of BGS a very warm welcome to every one on this special occasion and especially the former Head Girls. It is good to see so many of you here today, especially here in the Roger Kay Hall, possibly the heart of our school. Although I have to say it is with some trepidation that I stand here to say anything among such an illustrious company.

I wonder just how often a group of so many Head Girls has met together? Could this possibly be a Swan of Head Girls? I feel that this is appropriate in many ways, bearing in mind that

swans have grace, beauty, calmness, they glide along, they protect the young and they are loyal.

On entering BGS at the age of 10 in 1950 the Head Girl to me was a superior being - so grown up - she was even allowed to wear a navy skirt rather than the box pleated gymslip and tie that the rest of us then wore. A far cry from the present, when all the 6th Form wear their own choice of clothes and on special occasions smart black suits. In those long gone days we all wore a grey felt panama hat, even Head Girls. Woe betide any girl who tried to enhance the shape and fashionableness by putting a tuck in the back of it! And how did Head Girls cope with the notorious school buses, girls eating in the street, gazing through the Boulevard windows at the CCF and even talking to the boys?

When Bobby first told me about the Honours Boards for Head Girls, I thought what a splendid idea. Then began the search to find you all. It has been most interesting and the search is still not over. Strange to tell there was no list of former Head Girls. Luckily I look after the school archive so I went through old Prize-giving programmes; however, not all the programmes gave the name of the Head Girl. I moved on to cuttings from the Bury Times with some success. However, we still do not know the name for 1930, 1932 and 1933. Also as far as I can tell 1921 was the year of the first Head Girl. Having got the names the next task was to actually find everyone! There are still some, whose whereabouts have not been found. Each time I have located a Head Girl it has been a thrill to fill in another piece of the puzzle.

Head Girls, you have come from Edinburgh, Chester, London, Kent, Surrey and all places in between to be here today. There are some Head Girls who are unable to be with us due to still being at University, living abroad, family commitments, age or illness. Some are represented by a relation, that is why you may even have come across a man or two with a Head Girl name pinned to him. Tony Roberts, an Old Boy, is here representing his great aunt, Beatrice Roberts. She was Head Girl in 1924. Marie Scholes was Head Girl in 1938; she is our oldest Head Girl present. Marjorie Hulme (HG 1940) tells me she regularly meets with Audrey Brown (HG 1941). I am proud that a number of those whom I have taught in the Junior School are former Head Girls and are also here. It's a pleasure to see you all.

Head Girls have followed all walks of life. Your profiles embrace a wide variety of interests and careers and make fascinating reading. It is amazing what you have all done. From you, it can be seen that Head Girls of BGS are very special people.

Head Girls you all gave unstinting service to the school... your school. All that you did and do is greatly appreciated. You have made and indeed are still making you mark on the world. This Honours Board will ensure your name lives on forever in the history of BGS.

Again welcome to you all and enjoy the fellowship that this occasion offers."

A wonderful buffet lunch was enjoyed by all followed by an address from our Chairman of Governors, Reverend John Findon, Mrs Georgiou and former headmistress Miss Janet Lawley. The friendly atmosphere in the Roger Kay Hall as the mists of time rolled back and Head Girls young and old were able to reminisce and tour school, was just delightful.





The address from Mrs. Bobby Georghiou

One hundred years ago exactly some 150 girls must have been very excited. They were waiting for Wednesday for that was the day of the week on which January 17th fell one hundred years ago. On Wednesday they would be entering the building of their new school for the very first time. What is more, half of the building was already occupied by boys. Little did they know that they would have to wait a further sixty years to be allowed anywhere near that side. These girls were, of course, your predecessors; they were the very first Bury Grammar School girls.

For Miss Kitchener, Headmistress since the High School for Girls had opened in 1884, there must have been a great sense of relief. Gone would be the cramped conditions of the old town house where the girls had to traipse all the way upstairs in order to change their outdoor boots for indoor shoes and whose only claim to fame was a gravel tennis court and instead there would be spacious classrooms, an art room, a laboratory and, in the none too distant future there would be a glorious central hall.

I imagine she felt great excitement. She had been Headmistress for 22 years and much of the last ten had been taken up with negotiation with the Hulme Trust and with Bury Grammar School Boys which had taken over the High School for Girls at the turn of the century. The Boys School had asked her to start a Kindergarten which began life in 1901 but the building was in danger of being delayed. They had raised £20,000 but it was not enough so in 1903 only half the building on Tenterden Street side was complete. The Girls School was told to wait.

I can tell you that Headmistresses really dislike being told to wait for anything and so I am not at all surprised that records show that Miss Kitchener was displeased. We all know now that the story had a happy ending. By the combined efforts of a forward looking Governing body led by the Rector of Bury, just as it is now, and supported keenly by the Deputy Chair, a man called Henry Webb, who had been the chief force behind setting up the Girls' School in the first place, our building was ready and waiting for us and we all moved in.

It was truly an important day for Bury, for the Bury Grammar School and for local women about to receive all the opportunities that a really fine education can give you. Countless careers have been launched in this school and Bury Grammar School girls have also brought into the world children of their stamp, bright, enthusiastic and compassionate. It seems to me that over the last century it has been a force only for good.

We chose to mark this century by honouring our Head Girls. It seemed to us important that future generations of girls should see their names, think of their achievements and find this a spur for their own. We invited you all to school to see your names on our first century's honours board, to share your memories and because you have between you set the standard that we here now must follow.

When I joined the School three years ago the Governors asked me to write a plan for the next five to ten years. I felt that at this school we could go one better. The board you see on the right is our one hundred year strategic plan. It is blank, you tell me. It won't be, I tell you. One hundred names will be written there. Each of those one hundred names will represent many more girls just as you represented the girls in your year. And they will achieve great things. They will enter honourable careers, serve their communities, govern our century and make scientific

discovery. How do I know this? Because it has already happened.

You can tell me about global warming, declining standards of education and morality. I recognise that we all have frailties but I have an unassailable faith in young people and your School will go from strength to strength because we owe it to future generations to make sure that it does. When we all return to haunt our school in one hundred years time I expect to see as I waft down the corridors happy, intelligent girls with a keen love of learning just as we have now and just as you knew when you too were at school.

I can reassure you on several counts that even if you find changes - especially those of you who still regard the Boys' side as a no go zone - this is still in important respects the school you knew. It has the same high academic standards. Last year 83% of the passes at A level were at A and B. Natasha, our Head Girl is one of several girls going to a top university, in her case Durham, to read Law. Girls study medicine; we have our scientists, our linguists, our artists and we have our mavericks and this year 7 girls have gained places at Oxford or Cambridge colleges.

The girls' education is highly resourced. You will find if you take up our invitation to explore the School after lunch: 10 laboratories, a gym and a sports hall. Then there are the art rooms and rooms for technical subjects such as design and technology and home economics. You should come across rooms full of computers and if you were here on a school day and looked into some of the classrooms you would see teachers using interactive whiteboards and classes of girls using laptop computers connected to the Internet. We still use the pool across the road and have our netball and tennis courts as well as the hockey and athletics sports field. The headmistress still has the same study and you are welcome to call in on your way out - if only to reassure me that you have not become lost.

Every form in this school still supports a charity and every girl has the chance to take part in sport, music and activities. We still sing the School Song and every girl can quote Sanctas Clavis Fores Aperit. Our assemblies are presided over by Roger Kay himself in the portrait behind me and by our beautiful carved swan carrying the key in her beak.

Tuesday is the last day of our first century as Bury Grammar School Girls and, if you can, I hope you may return to celebrate it with us at 10.30am at a special ceremony lasting about one hour. It is also the first day of our next century and the governors have ambitious plans for the future which are quite in keeping with the original vision for the schools. We are to build a new Kindergarten. You may already see the cleared site behind our sports hall. We shall then develop the very centre of our original building to create a new sixth form which may be used by both boys and girls. It will have seminar rooms, a lecture theatre and recreational and study space as well as a cafeteria. The entry, just for sixth form will be in the very centre and boys and girls will use it on equal terms although this time they will share the door. We shall also remain committed to our bursary scheme which allows children from families who cannot afford fees to enjoy our particular education. And so to help us bring in 2006 and 2105 I ask all of our Head Girls and their families and friends to join with us all in a toast: Bury Grammar School Girls.

Words from Janet Lawley - former Headmistress



"Head girls are a special group of people who won, at a very early age, the support and respect of their peers and their teachers and who were given a taste of the responsibility of representing others as well as the joys of leadership.

You represented a terrific bunch of young people and became their voice. I well remember the impression Bhavna Sharma made on the "Investors in People" assessor when the school became one of the first to win that prestigious and then rare award. She was given a thorough grilling and we were proud of her.

I have a collection of photographs of Founders' Day, many of them taken by Miss Orme, and I remember, as I am sure many of you do, the difficulty of steering the flag between the heavily laden branches of the cherry trees in the procession along the pavements to the service. Now that the girls join the boys' procession along the main road, that difficulty has gone.

You were leaders. Dee Hock - name may be unfamiliar but his invention is known to us all - the bit of plastic which takes the waiting out of wanting. VISA, says of leadership: "If you look to lead, invest at least 40% of your time managing yourself, your ethics, character, principles, purpose, motivation and conduct. Spend at least 30% managing those with authority over you. And the rest? Spend all 30% working for those who you work with, your staff. You don't manage them, (if you think you should, you have no place as a leader), you free them to manage themselves." Bury Grammar School Head Girls were brilliant at managing me.

In the first school magazine of my time I wrote, "The Head Girl, **Rachel Yates**, gets each day off to a good start for me. She keeps me up to date and gets me into prayers, almost always on time and properly prepared." Looking up that quote led me to leaf through my stack of Magazines and there you were, all the head girls of my time and Miss Thompson's.

In 1986 **Susanne Stock** reported on the Sixth Form tea party for the elderly of Bury and the following year she gave her thoughts at the end of her period in office. Her year had sent her a card saying "Thank you Susanne for all the hard work and worrying you have done on behalf of us all." I expect many of you know that feeling. **Jessica Waywell** describes the field trips to Notre Dame de Bellecombe and shares many memories of Mr Skinner, BGS boys and hot chocolate in Chamonix with her fellow geographers. **Emma Aitken** reported on a Faraday Lecture at the Free Trade Hall in 1987 and the next year there

was her photo as Daphne Stillington in "Present Laughter". She was Head Girl from 1989 to 90. There was **Saba Naqshbandi** taking up her place to read Law at UCL in 1991.

When she was 14, **Elizabeth Maudesley's** poem, "The Scarecrow", was printed. She wrote,

"I'll have to be on full alert
Throughout the coming day
For there's a job for me to do
To keep the crows at bay."

Being Head Girl must sometimes have seemed like keeping the crows at bay. **Katy Lord** had an early poem in the magazine too. "A fallen leaf" and then, a year later, there was a photo of her as one of Miss Brodie's girls - she was Mary McGregor.

Elena Gabrilatsou, Head Girl in 1993/4, began a family tradition for three years later her sister Thekla was Deputy to their cousin **Eleni Gabrilatsou** as Head Girl. Elena describes the choir visit to Vienna in 1989. I am sure she, like me, will long remember the combined performance, at the request of the local Austrian audience, of the choir, the Japanese children's choir and the Pasadena School Orchestra of "Eidelweiss" in the Esterhazy Palace. It was spine tingling as the Austrians joined in. Three years after that Elena was to play Leisl at school, at 16 going on 17! **Katherine Woods** wrote a very scary and damp story, "Eruption", for the 1996 magazine and my last Head Girl, **Beth Emery**, was a pupil from the age of 4 and her loyalty to the school, to its teams, its people and all it stands for were exceptional.

Miss Thompson's Head Girls were all pupils I remember well. **Francesca Moore** first appeared in the magazine with an account of an under-14 hockey tournament. There was **Sarah Whittles** going to Liverpool to read psychology. **Claire Foggon** wrote of a 1995 History trip to Tatton Park for an active Civil War day. **Helen Murphy** made it to print in her first year at BGS. In the U3 she was the Greater Manchester Police Young Citizen of the Year having raised £5,000 for charity during the previous 4 years. I still have a bound copy of the story she wrote at 11 years old.

Thank you, all of you, for all you did for the school and for me and for the memories you left behind. When she left Elena wrote "After 14 years it is time to say goodbye but I will never forget. I've made so many special friends which has made school a very special place". She speaks for many of us. Bury Grammar School is a special place.



Joan Isherwood, Janet Hesketh, Kelly and Pam Brown look excitedly at the new plans for the school



Remember the words of the school song. "Here may we tread the sacred path of truth, Here may we know the comradeship of youth, Here find a faith by which the spirit soars, Here turn the key that opens holy doors." Truth, comradeship, a faith and the key to wisdom and understanding. What better gifts could a parent wish for a child? This is a fine school but it doesn't just **give out** wisdom and understanding, you will note. It gives its pupils the key that will enable them to find those things for themselves, not just at school but throughout life. It is more than lessons and teaching. It is about learning from all you do.

Aristotle said "I learned most not from those who taught me but from those who talked to me". There was always a lot of talking at BGS: on the bench outside the head's room, on trips and visits, between pupils of all ages and with teaching and non-teaching staff. I am sure that has not changed.

I always wanted the school to be a place where everyone was prepared for future fulfilment, not just academic success or success just at school. I hoped every girl would accept the challenges and opportunities presented to her. I have and still do.

Since retirement I have travelled in a long boat down a tributary of the Mekong from the Burmese border, developed a passion to understand how learning happens by venturing into the fields of neurobiology, cognitive science, evolutionary studies and philosophy, and just last week I was standing in deep snow on Mount Etna.

I hope you still dream and grasp opportunities. I hope you are still people of vision and that the same opportunities at Bury Grammar School will be open to many generations of young people in the years to come. The future will need dreamers, people of vision. Remember George Bernard Shaw, "Some men see things as they really are and ask 'Why?' I dream of things that never were and ask 'Why not?'".

Long may the leadership and the talking and the fun of being at BGS continue and all the myriad of other bits and pieces, whether reported in the school magazine or not, which go to make up the key to those holy doors of wisdom and understanding.

Sanctas Clavis Fores Aperit."







Head Girls Profiles

Tracing our Head Girls has presented a major challenge to School Archivist and Chairman of the Old Girls' Association, Betty Kenyon. Girls' names change on marriage and early records are not always available or helpful. Quite often Prize-giving speeches given by the Headmistress would refer simply to 'the Head Girl' and the same was true of Governors' reports. It was as if being Head Girl was so great an honour that a girl lost her own name in the process! Painstaking work by Betty has now located very nearly all of our Head Girls since 1921, but we are left with a problem: who were the Head Girls when Miss Kitchener was Headmistress? A recent letter to Mrs Georghiou from Mrs Janet Vickers (née Croasdale) has shed interesting light on this. Having seen the details of our Head Girl celebrations in *Lancashire Life*, she wrote to say that she thought her aunt, Miss Dorothy Croasdale, who was a pupil from the age of 9 in 1910 might have been a Head Girl. Mrs Vickers sent a photograph of her aunt's silver badge (the well known swan design) which referred to her as 'Captain'. Although this could refer to her captaincy of the hockey team, it is likely that it was a greater honour because she also had a bronze badge with 'Prefect' inscribed. As the Boys' School uses the title 'Captain' we believe this may have also been the case in the early Girls' School. We should be keen to give Dorothy due recognition on our honours boards but we wonder if anyone has any more evidence to support our assumptions.

The School would wish to record its gratitude to Betty Kenyon for finding all of our Head Girls and so bringing them back to us.

Marjorie Heywood 1921-22

Marjorie was Senior Mathematics Mistress at Sherbourne School for Girls in 1934. She was the niece of Sarah Alcock, our first graduate in the nineteenth century.

Maureen Cowan 1922-23

In 1926 Maureen graduated from Victoria University with a BA in History.

Florence Barlow 1923-24

Beatrice Roberts (Mrs Colman) 1924-25

On leaving school, Beatrice studied French at St. Hugh's College Oxford, and gained her degree. She then took a Diploma in Social Studies, and worked at the Settlement for Underprivileged Children at Ancoats in Manchester. At the outbreak of World War 2, she worked as Evacuation Officer for the children from Guernsey. Many families were given the opportunity to leave the Channel Islands before they were occupied by the Germans. They were re-housed in Tooting for the duration of the war, and many stayed on in England afterwards. After the war Beatrice joined UNRRA. She worked in Paris with many people of different nationalities, helping to reunite displaced persons with their families. When UNRRA wound up, she became an Inspector of Homes for the Elderly in the Midlands, being based in Nottingham. Then, once again, she decided to work abroad in Algeria, helping Muslim girls become better educated. This proved frustrating as she received little support from their fathers. On her return to England, she became involved with social work for London County Council. In later years she met and married Colin Colman. They lived happily into their nineties in Chiswick, London.

Kathleen Cowan 1925-26

Kathleen became a teacher of mathematics. In 1929 she left the University of Cambridge having gained a Mathematics Tripos.

Alice Lomax 1926-27

In 1930 Alice left Oxford Honours School with a degree in Modern Languages.

Edith Richards 1927-28

In 1930 Edith left the Manchester Honours School with a degree in French.

Elizabeth Harrison 1928-29

In 1931 Elizabeth gained her degree in French at the University of Manchester.

Margaret Wilkinson 1929-30

In 1933 Margaret received her degree in French from the University of Manchester.

Lucy Lomax 1931-32

In 1936 Lucy was granted a degree in Physics from the University of Oxford.

Denise Sheldon (Mrs Brew) 1932-33

On leaving BGSG, Denise went to Manchester University where she gained her BA in General Arts. She then qualified as a teacher and taught at Tooting Primary School. She married Edwin whom she met at university in June 1941. She moved to Hollins Green and then to Warrington where daughter Margaret was born in 1943. Denny, as she was known, was very interested in the local WI, gardening and music. She died in October 1997.

Alice Collinge 1933-34

Frances Hurst 1934-35

In 1938 Frances left Oxford University with a degree in History.

Margaret Timpany 1935-36

Kathleen Harper (Mrs Hawthorn) 1936-37

Molly Auty (Mrs Taylor) 1937-38

Born February 13th 1920 in Bury, I attended St Chad's Elementary School 1925-30 and BGSG 1930-38. From there I went to City of Leeds Training College 1938-40 becoming an infant and junior teacher in Bolton and Burnley 1940-46. I married and moved to the Burnley area in 1945. I enjoyed family life with my husband and three sons but was widowed in 1991. I have now lived in Silverdale for 23 years.

Marie Scholes (Mrs Holland) 1938-39

I attended BGSG from 1926-1939 and from 1939-1942 went to The University of London, Royal Holloway College, graduating in Mathematics with 1st Class Honours. Between 1942-46 I worked at Metropolitan Vickers in the computations section in research on Jet Engines. I married in 1943, and in 1948 had one daughter, Alison, who attended BGSG 1953-1966. From 1946 I did voluntary work with various charities.

Doreen Godfrey (Mrs Hyde) 1939-40

Doreen attended Liverpool University from 1940 where she studied Mathematics, Physics and Oceanography. After graduating she taught at Nelson Grammar School before coming back to teach at Bury Grammar in 1947, where she remained until her retirement in 1981.

Marjorie Hulme 1940-41

After school I attended Girton College, Cambridge 1941-44. I was Assistant Mathematics mistress, Collegiate School, Blackpool 1944-47; Assistant Mathematics Mistress, Wade Deacon Grammar School, Widnes 1947-54 and later, in the same school, Senior Mathematics mistress. I became Headmistress of Leigh Girls' Grammar School 1955-61 and of Withington Girls' School 1961-1985. At present I am Chairman of the Greater Manchester Educational Trust.

Audrey Brown (Mrs Spencer) 1941-42

I read history at Bedford College, London University, 1942-45. The first two years we were evacuated to Cambridge. After graduating I trained in teaching at Cambridge Training College - renamed later Hughes Hall, and taught History at Worcester Girls' Grammar School until my marriage in 1949. My husband Eric, an old boy of BGS, was an Assistant Solicitor with Lancaster Council. In 1957 we moved to Chester where he held more senior posts with Cheshire County Council. I occasionally did supply teaching in a local high school, and have been involved in voluntary work including being secretary of the King's School Mothers' Guild. I have a daughter, Angela, an infant teacher, married to Tim, the Principal of a College in Salisbury, and a son Robin, a QC and Recorder in the Chester and Wales Council.

Margaret Howell 1942-43

In 1946 at Oxford University, Margaret received her degree in History. In 1947 whilst still at Oxford she gained her Diploma in Education.

Marjorie Dawson (Mrs Cooper) 1942-43

On leaving BGS I went to the City of Leeds Training College and then taught in Birmingham. Later I joined the Police Force there. After marrying Roland Cooper, I returned to teaching and moved on promotion to three schools, retiring from Aston as Head of Infants. Ron and I travelled a good deal. I was widowed in 1997, but have kept up the travelling with a friend and she and I trot round the world looking at gardens, then come home and dig.

Joyce Ashworth 1943-44

In 1948 at Manchester University Joyce gained her degree in Pharmacy.

Doris Kathleen Coutie (Mrs Roberts) 1944-45

Doris left BGS in 1945 and read mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge University. During her student days, she was a member of the Cambridge University Music Society choir when David Wilcox was the organ scholar at King's College, and the accompanist at CUMS rehearsals. She took up rowing, took an active part in the Methodist Society, and went on several walking and cycling holidays in Europe and Scotland using Youth Hostels. She then taught at Manchester High School, living at her school-day home in Prestwich with her widowed father until her marriage in 1952 to J. E. (Ted) Roberts, who was also ex-BGS. (They first met on the train to Bury from Besses o'th' Barn) Marriage took her to Abington Hall, outside Cambridge, where she worked, as mathematician at the British Welding Research Association, on a variety of projects covering brittle fracture of

steel and heat flow in welding. She also obtained her MA from Cambridge University. In 1954 came a move to Scotland, when Ted joined the steel maker Colvilles Ltd, and to a house and garden near Motherwell. In 1955 the first of what became a family of four children was born. During this period she was a founder of one of the earliest 'Pre-school play groups', a co-operative venture among volunteer mothers with some professional supervision of the young children. Reorganisation of British Steel Corporation in 1970 resulted in repatriation to England, at Middlesbrough. Doris retained her maths interest, and took a course in 'Modern Maths', subsequently imparting knowledge to other mothers who wanted to know more about what their children were being taught at school. She was a founder member of the 'Teesside Ladies Luncheon Club' and returned to singing, joining the Teesside International Eisteddfod Choir, taking her husband along too. In 1976 Ted was moved again, to BSC Tubes Division in Corby, and living in Stamford. Living opposite Stamford High School, Doris was asked to tutor sixth form girls who did well in other subjects but had failed the GCSE maths. This was done by the girls coming across to the house, in their 'free periods' for lessons in the dining room. Doris was suffering quite badly from arthritis; the family had all left home, so a move to a bungalow in Uffington, two miles out of town was made. In 1991, on the way home from a visit to our elder daughter in South Wales, Doris suffered a heart attack, and was taken in to Cheltenham Hospital. Initially progress was good, but she suffered a second fatal heart attack and died in August.

Mary Howorth (Mrs Matthews) 1945-46

In 1949 at Cambridge University, Mary gained her English Tripos.

Jose Newbold (Mrs Horton) 1946-47

Jose won a scholarship to BGS in 1939. She attended Leeds University 1947-50 and the University Dept of Education 1950-51. She was the secretary of the Leeds University branch of the Student Christian Movement 1949-51 and secretary of the Barden Grange Students Hostel. From 1951-53 she was secretary of the Northeast Council of the University Women's Camps for Schoolgirls, attending in June 1951 a garden party at Fulham Palace, London, where she met Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen. She was Head of the Geography Department, Thoresby High School, Leeds and in '51 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1953 she married Reverend Christopher Horton and moved to Blyth, Northumberland where he was assistant curate, later moving to Grangetown, Middlesbrough when her husband was appointed vicar. She had five children. She continued to teach until her retirement in 1991. She was a frequent speaker by invitation, at various churches and other groups in the Middlesbrough and Durham areas. She was a member of synods of both Middlesbrough Deanery and York Diocese.

After her husband retired in 1991, she moved with him to Whitley Bay and it was there she died on 8th March 1996. She was a dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and teacher.

Joan Cooper 1947-48

In 1951 Joan gained her degree in Maths and Chemistry from St Andrews University.

Eileen Dawson 1948-49

In 1952 at Cambridge University, Eileen received her History Tripos.



Lorna Davis 1949-50

In 1954 Lorna received a general degree from Dublin University.

Doreen Prestwich 1950-51

Janet Hesketh 1951-52

After school I attended Queen Mary College, University of London 1952-55 gaining BA Hons in English followed by a PGCE from the University of Manchester. Between 1956-66 I was teaching on Tyneside and in Lancashire. From 1966-74 I became Education Officer for the Hong Kong Government followed by Deputy Head Shelley High School, West Yorkshire 1974-86. After early retirement I took a TEFL course and did some TEFL teaching. I also worked for WRVS as Emergency Services Manager West Yorkshire. Since moving South in 1999, I have been heavily involved in theatre, particularly Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke, where I am a member of Play Readers Rep and have just embarked on possibly my final career as an usherette!

Shirley E Ashton (Mrs Bennetts) 1952-53

After attending BGSG from 1943-1953, I went to the University of Bristol where I gained BA Hons 1956, and Dip Ed 1957. Later I studied Applied Linguistics at the University of Kent, gaining my MA in 1981. I married in 1956 and have two daughters, one in ergonomics in the telecom industry, the other a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry and two grandchildren. I divorced in 1982 and retired in 1996 after 40 years in education. I have taught English (mostly literature) to students (mainly in the age range 15-22) in three Grammar Schools and in a College of Higher Education and throughout those years I have enjoyed a variety of wider teaching roles: examiner for NUJMB; trainer for the new GCSE exams; supervisor of students on teaching practice in comprehensive schools in Essex; tutor to Norwegian University TEFL students; exchange professor at Eastern Michigan University in the USA; tutor in the School of Continuing Education at the University of Kent and leader there of residential courses on Shakespeare, to name a few. I remain an inveterate student and in retirement have returned to the medieval history I first saw through the door at BGSG. I am currently working in the County Archives on the history of Canterbury at the time of Edward IV, trying to decipher the medieval handwriting and I am a guide at Canterbury Cathedral to a variety of groups of all ages and interests. Miss Farrow and Miss Hamer first showed me the key in the Prep Department: Miss Morris (English) and Miss Dunlop (History) handed it to me in the sixth form: ever since I have been trying to open the door to knowledge, with varying degrees of success but with undiminished enthusiasm. I have BGSG to thank for setting me on the way towards knowledge and in my mature years I still stumble along clutching the key.

Anne Parkin 1953-54

Pat Flood (Mrs Denney) 1954-55

When I left at Easter 1955 to do a term's secretarial course in Manchester, I am afraid the BGSG staff strongly disapproved but I was almost 19, had my university place (London) and was keen to do something different before I went there. In fact it proved very useful later. Last time I was at BGSG was in 2004 for the big OGA lunch, as it was my year's 50th. I thoroughly enjoyed touring the school and admiring the wonderful facilities. Perhaps if we had had a sixth form common room in 1955, we might not have left when we did!

Ruth Taylor (Mrs Nuttall) 1954-55

After graduating in Sociology from Bedford College, London, in 1958, I followed my husband's career from Theological College in Durham to parishes in Bradford, Oldham, Derby and finally to Bournemouth where he was Chaplain at the new University. During these years I taught RE and English at Easington Colliery Secondary School, at Hulme Grammar School and at Henry Cavendish Comprehensive School in Derby. Herman went to India for three months with the Church Missionary Society and I was able to join him for an unforgettable holiday. Then I branched into teaching English as a second language to Asian women in Burton-on-Trent. This was the most enjoyable part of my teaching experience, which I continued as a volunteer in Poole, Dorset. We retired to Corfe Castle, Dorset in 1995 and latterly moved North to our old haunts in the Lake District to be near my son, Taylor, and his family in Kentmere, Kendal and to my daughter, Rebecca, and her family in Colwyn Bay. It is nice to be nearer to old friends and to take days off exploring this lovely area.

Susan Peacock (Mrs Slater) 1955-56

After leaving Bury, I studied mathematics at Oxford University and then Computing at Cambridge---both fortunate choices. My first job was with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Windscale, supporting scientists in their use of computers. While there I married and had two children Simon and Amanda. We moved to Grantham when they were small, and I became a part-time teacher of Computer Studies and Mathematics, slowly building up over ten years until two part-time jobs had become more than full-time. While teaching I got involved in O level and A level examining. At 40, I went back into practical computing, as a programmer and providing support for a team of design and development engineers. This was followed, at 45, by a complete change, when I moved to Oxford and joined the Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations as subject officer for Maths and Music, involved in developments of examinations and over time taking on a variety of other subjects. Seven years later, having remarried, I moved to Canterbury to work for the European Erasmus programme, where I had colleagues all over Europe. I am now retired and have moved to Rugby to be within striking distance of my family and friends; still singing in choral societies, involved with U3A, continuing to enjoy Maths, computing and education through voluntary work for Bletchley Park, and with a new history in family history.

Elizabeth Morrison (Mrs Vinestock) 1956-57

I joined the Preparatory Department in 1947 while Miss Perigo was Headmistress and ten years later during Miss Lester's tenure I left with an Exhibition to Girton College, Cambridge, where I read Modern and Mediaeval Languages. Having studied chiefly French and Latin, I taught these subjects (mostly part-time) in a number of schools: Cheltenham Ladies' College, Pate's Grammar School and the Richard Pate School, all in Cheltenham, then Warminster School, Casterton School in Cumbria and Chorlton Convent High School in Manchester. My husband, Gerald Vinestock, was a schoolmaster, who became Headmaster of two boarding schools and later Director of the Independent Schools Information Service in the North, where I worked as his assistant. We have one daughter and two sons, and now five grandchildren. Later I undertook further study on a part-time basis at Lancaster University, being awarded my MA in Mediaeval and Renaissance French Studies in 1989 and in 1997 my PhD for research into the poetry of the sixteenth-century French poet, Jean-Antoine de Baif. I taught French in the Department of European Languages and Cultures at Lancaster from 1991 until I retired in 2004. I have published several articles

and given papers at conferences, as well as writing book reviews for academic journals. With a colleague, I edited and translated into English prose an anthology of poems by Pierre de Ronsard, which appeared in Penguin Classics in 2002. My book entitled *Poétique et pratique dans les "Poèmes" de Jean-Antoine de Baif* will shortly be published in Paris.

Vera Crossland (Mrs West) 1957-58

I made a rebellious start to my working life by deciding at the very last minute not to take up my university place much to Miss Lester's dismay! I joined the staff at Salford City Libraries Department, qualified by day release and later transferred to the former West Riding authority where I spent several interesting years in charge of a mobile library. As this involved visiting outlying villages and farms it was wonderful in the summer and distinctly hair-raising in the winter. After my daughter was born I went into school and college library work but I was happy to change direction for the last ten years before retirement working in the Tourist Information Centre in Hebden Bridge. The other thread to my life has been music; I am a qualified piano teacher but the main catalyst was undoubtedly my time in the senior choir under the enthusiastic guidance of Miss Shuttleworth; I have been singing ever since in all kinds of choirs and amateur opera. I am a chapel organist and conduct the U3A Singers in Harrogate. What little time is left is divided between my garden, studying ancient and mediaeval history and doing watercolour painting.

Judith Mary Phillips 1958-59, 1959-60

After gaining an honours degree in Physics and Chemistry at Durham University (King's College), I trained as a teacher at London University. My first post was at North London Collegiate School (a direct grant school founded by Miss Buss), where I taught chemistry and then became Head of Chemistry. Later I moved into the state sector as Head of Physical Science at Queen Elizabeth School Girls, Barnet. In both schools I taught several of the Nuffield Science schemes. In 1978 I was appointed as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools with a special remit for science education; I inspected education from primary to tertiary in schools and colleges from Northumberland to Cornwall, Norfolk to Cheshire until 1990. As a result of inspections I was involved in providing evidence to assist in the Government's creation of a science policy for schools and the National Curriculum for Science. Then I was promoted to the personnel post in HMI, moving to Ofsted in 1992 as Head of Personnel and ultimately became Director of Strategy and Resources, retiring in 2001. I was awarded the CBE in 1998. Since my retirement my partner and I have moved to North West Herefordshire and are busy developing a shrub and tree garden in a lovely rural part of England.

Rowan McIure (Mrs. Tomlinson) 1960-61

After leaving BGS, Rowan continued her studies at college in Salford for a further year. She then took up an appointment with the Blood Transfusion Services in Manchester. At the time of leaving the Blood Bank, she was Dr. Stratton's laboratory assistant; he was a leading authority on blood at that time. Rowan had two sons, Carl and David and moved to a village on the edge of the New Forest, south of Salisbury in 1971. She devoted her time there to looking after her family. David, her younger son, died in December 1985 and Rowan in June 1988. Her husband, John, continues to live in Redlynch, Salisbury.

Joan Wilson 1960-61

I entered New Hall, Cambridge in 1961 taking a degree in Natural Sciences specialising in Botany in my final year. In my last

summer at Cambridge I worked with a Harvard University archaeological team in SW France, a connection which continued for several years as time permitted. In 1964 I moved to the brand new University of Lancaster to start my postgraduate studies in plant ecology. I was appointed to the staff in 1966 and gained my PhD in 1968. Between times I was also involved in conservation activities in both Lancashire and Yorkshire and in a variety of village activities in Galgate where I moved in 1971. In 1984 I started to suffer from arthritis which has severely restricted my movement so I took early retirement in 1996. After a knee operation I could catch up on travel, which included Australia, the Solomon Islands and SE Asia, India and Antarctica. I now await a hip replacement but I have plenty of plans for the future.

Jacqueline Whittle (Mrs Wild) 1961-62

After leaving BGS, I read English at Westfield College, University of London and subsequently taught English in a London Grammar School and married John Wild whom I met when we were both students working on the Christmas Post in Middleton. On re-locating to the Northwest, I taught in a Cheshire grammar school then worked for Rolls Royce Motors in Organisation and Methods and Work Study. I took time out from work to bring up the children, Kate and the twins, Steven and David. I returned to teaching, where I remained until retirement. Since then I have indulged in gardening, French (again) and take part in foreign exchanges as well as walking, cycling and skiing in Europe (my 60th birthday was spent hurtling down a mountain in the Bernese Oberland on a toboggan). I enjoy writing, reading what I like rather than what I have to and travelling to more exotic destinations like India, Nepal, the Galapagos Islands and Peru. Next come Kenya and Zanzibar, with a bit of luck.

Rosalind Phillips (Mrs Peter) 1962-63

I left BGS in 1963 and commenced general nurse training at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, following which I trained as a midwife. I have worked as a nursing sister for most of the time in one speciality or another and have thoroughly enjoyed my chosen profession. In order to enhance the educational aspect of my role, I have studied for a degree and trained as a teacher in further education. I have worked in palliative care for the last 20 years, as a Ward Manager of a Hospice and now as the Palliative Care Hospital Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist at the local Hospital: this role encompasses clinical practice, education, management, audit and research. I have been married for 32 years and we have 4 grown-up children, 2 boys and twin daughters.

Gillian Hind (Mrs Wight) 1963-64

A pupil at BGS 1957-64, Nightingale House, I read Medicine at Girton College, Cambridge, and Middlesex Hospital Medical School 1965-1971 graduating in 1971, MA (Cantab) 1972. I worked in hospital medicine until married in 1974 to veterinary surgeon, James Wight, and moved near to Thirsk, North Yorkshire, where we still live. My career changed to community medicine and I became a Senior Clinical Medical Officer in Reproductive and Sexual Health Care. Also for a few years I was a Performance Assessor for the General Medical Council until retirement in 2003. I have three children and have been a Magistrate since 1994, a Parish Councillor for 23 years and was a school governor for 19 years. I am now Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, which is currently working to build a new hall. I retain a life long interest in music, having sung in various choirs and been a choir leader I now sing with a small choir in Thirsk as well as being a keen football supporter!



Judy Lee 1964-65

After leaving Oxford and spending a year working in London for BEA (now BA) I spent most of 70s in Canada and Australia. I did a postgraduate degree in Canada to work as a community planner for the Ontario Provincial Government. A highlight of the 70s for me was travelling to what then seemed exotic places on the way to Australia. I can still try to trump my children's gap year experiences with my tales of seeing the now destroyed Buddhas in the Valley of Bamiyan in Afghanistan! I returned to England and worked as a town planner for Norfolk County Council, Harlow New Town and the London Borough of Islington. In 1980 I married John, a journalist working for the BBC, whom I had met years before at Oxford. Before the birth of my son I was determined to return to work when he was 3 months old, but afterwards found that I really didn't want to leave him, so had what is now called a 'career break'. After a short break I started working for what has grown to be Europe's leading independent property market research consultancy and for which I still work as retail property market analyst for clients including the major institutional investors, developers and banks. I enjoy my work, which is UK based and draws heavily on my geography and planning experience; particularly enjoyable projects have involved studies of retailing in Central Manchester and London's West End! I have two children aged 24 and 21, both still studying; Nick is doing a Law conversion course after reading English at Oxford and Jo is reading Theology and Philosophy, also at Oxford. I have at times found the combination of career and home quite difficult, and I'm not sure that even now things are much more resolved for women on this front.

The reunion lunch in the Roger Kay Hall last October, when, encouraged by Betty Kenyon of the OGA, 14 of my group of '63/'65 leavers got together, most of them revisiting school for the first time, was a very enjoyable and heart-warming experience and I think one which will be repeated.

Brenda Clark (Mrs Afflick) 1965-66

On leaving Bury Grammar School in July 1966, I went to Newcastle University for four years, leaving with an honours degree in General Arts and a Teaching Diploma. My first post was at Morpeth Grammar School for Girls where I taught RE, History and General Studies. In 1971 I married and went on to have a daughter and a son, two years later. I have taught at various schools in different locations: Birmingham, West Yorkshire and Manchester. In 1986 I had a second daughter, fourteen years after my first! She is currently at Reading University. I now have three grandchildren and care for three elderly parents in their eighties. I also continue to work part time in my husband's accountancy practice.

Janet McLoughlin (Mrs Thornton) 1966-67

Janet gained a BSc (1) in Physics from Nottingham University (1970) and then her PhD in Biophysics from the University of London in 1973. Her professional posts have included SERC Advanced Fellow, Birkbeck College, London, where she then became Senior Lecturer in 1990 and Professor of Molecular Structure in 2001. In the same year she became Director of European Bioinformatics Institute, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Cambridge and an Honorary Professor and Extraordinary Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge. Her honours include Fellow of the Royal Society (1999), CBE (2001) and Elected Foreign Associate of The American National Academy of Sciences. She is married to Alan and has a son Alexander, born 1975, and daughter, Hazel, born 1977.

Susan Hollows 1967-68

Margaret Panikkar 1967-68

After reading Classics at Girton, I became a solicitor, doing my Articles in Manchester and working there briefly following qualification. For some 11 years I worked in private practice as an assistant solicitor in Rochdale. I met my husband John at Cambridge and we were married in 1976. We have no children, by choice. I worked for 15 years, part-time, at the Land Registry at Nottingham, but retired myself at the end of August 2004. I am now ungainfully unemployed, by choice.

Elizabeth Kay (Mrs Stopani) 1968-69

I live with my husband, John, in Croydon, Surrey and have three children: Amanda 31 Daniel 29, Ben 18, two stepchildren, their partners and 5 grandchildren. Life is never dull! I have worked in Education since qualifying as a teacher in 1972, working in the school, further education and university sectors. In 1986 I gained my MA (Education) in Curriculum Development from Sussex University. I work in a large comprehensive school in Croydon, where I am the Curricular Leader for Social, Emotional and Behavioural Skills. I developed and established the Learning Support Unit in the school as part of the Excellence in Cities initiative, a provision for pupils in years 7, 8 and 9, at risk of exclusion. My work now involves extremely close liaison with their parents, carers and families, their teachers and with many external agencies, such as the police, the Youth Offending Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Social Services, Connexions, Young Carers Project, Pupil Referral Units. As well as my day-to-day contact with the staff of the school I deliver in-service training and development. Outside work I enjoy many things including music, listening, playing and directing a small Male Voice Choir, reading, film and theatre, walking and spending time with family and friends. I have had the privilege to work with young people and adults, employed and unemployed, in the private and public sectors, including Teacher Training and Educational Research. To be working back in the very school in which I did my Teaching practice (in 1971!) and began my career, as a music teacher, now with disaffected, disadvantaged and disillusioned 14-16 year olds, was never a plan but very much where my heart is and where I want to remain (most of the time)! My work enables me to have real insight into the many reality gaps that can exist between curricular rhetoric and the intended recipients and the opportunity to work towards "bridging that gap".

I have very happy memories of my time at BGS and enjoyed visiting the school recently when I was delighted to find the music room in the same place and the Sixth Form Centre, although now very enhanced, looking very much the same as when my upper sixth colleagues and I were the first occupants! I remember so many of my teachers with affection, respect and gratitude for their inspiration, none more so than Dorothy Lester our Headmistress. When I left she gave me a delightful silver brooch. It always sits with my Head Girl's badge. BGS occasions are a good opportunity to wear both together.

Susan Collison (Mrs. Tyson) 1969-70

I left BGS in 1970 and went to Reading University where I read French and spent my year abroad in Strasbourg. After graduating I worked briefly for Bury Council as a careers advisor but quickly decided this wasn't for me and decided to do an MBA. In preparation I trained as a management accountant and planned to start my MBA the year after. Instead, I joined the family toyshop business and finally did my MBA at Manchester Business School three years later. I then worked in London for an American Bank in the City before rejoining the family business. I spent many happy years running the toyshops in Preston, Heywood and Bury before Toys'RUs came on the scene and

decimated the independent toy sector. By that time I had married and was living in Prestatyn, North Wales with my husband, Bob. I then started a new career as a training officer with Citizens Advice Bureaux and from there went to University College Chester where I managed a postgraduate programme and did some teaching. I have a son, Richard, and 6 years ago we moved to Durham. After a spell at Newcastle University, I now work at Durham University Business School. Richard is at the Chorister School and Bob runs a "spin-out" company that he started with some Chemistry Professors from Newcastle University. Since leaving school I have taken up skiing and watching test cricket. I travel to Rochdale regularly to visit family and am still very much in touch with Jane Stewart-Sant (née Humphreys) and Lynne Erlam (née Johnson).

Lesley Fitton 1970-71

After leaving school I went to London University to study Classics and Classical Archaeology. I then carried on with research into the Greek Bronze Age, particularly the archaeology of Minoan Crete. As a student I spent extensive periods on the island, especially at Knossos, which became something of a second home. I joined the British Museum in 1980 and am curator of Greek Bronze Age antiquities there: a job that I love. It offers a wonderful variety that includes working on both special exhibitions and the permanent galleries, researching and writing books and articles for scholarly and general audiences, engaging in various educational activities including lectures, seminars and workshops and of course, the endless 'housekeeping' tasks involved in the care of the collections. The Museum is a remarkable institution and, even after so long a time, I'm still enthralled by the richness of the collections. I feel lucky, too, to have wonderful colleagues. It is a privilege to work there. It's perhaps not surprising that I look back with gratitude to my days at Bury Grammar School, which very directly laid the foundations for my future career. The Classics staff who taught me were both inspired and inspirational. I remember Miss Orme, Mrs Soper, Miss Bickerstaffe, Miss Quillinan and Helen Lunt (who took me with her to excavate in the Nene Valley) with great fondness. I'm perhaps unusual in that I still use so much of what I learned in school about the ancient world in my working life - I'm certainly lucky to have found a dream job in a subject that I very much wanted to pursue. Yet, funnily enough, it was probably English lessons that I looked forward to most keenly, particularly those taught by Jean Marshall. Whenever readers or reviewers make kind comments about my writing style, I always think affectionately of her high standards and her encouraging help. I am married, with three daughters, and live in Hertfordshire.

Elizabeth Bell (Mrs Rawstron) 1971-72

I left BGSG in 1972 to read English at Birmingham University. Both my brothers, also from BGS, followed me there. In 1975 I returned home to Rochdale and worked for Marks & Spencer in staff management at Bolton and Huddersfield stores. I later left to work for the Burton Group in Rochdale. I married in 1976; my husband co-owned a Design Showroom. My son, Richard, was born in 1980 and daughter, Katherine, in 1983, both educated at BGS then Cambridge (son) and Leeds (daughter). I returned to work part time in the family business in 1986 but in 1991 started a PGCE course at MMU. I began teaching English at Tottington High School, Bury in 1992 where I have worked ever since. My son works for KPMG in London (Accountancy) and my daughter works in the family business, which is now based in Bolton. I visit the school most years, to report on Work Experience placements.

Brenda Birmingham (Mrs Parmiter) 1972-3

My father was a BGS boy so my name was on the list for Prep before birth - sex unknown. I spent 13 years at the Girls' School and my classmates from those days of pretending that our peggy-purse straps were horses' reins and later playing football on the hockey pitch and loitering with intent on 'the boulevard' are friends for life. I left in 1973 with 4 'A' levels, a respect for English literature fostered by Miss James and Miss Morris and a love of art and ceramics, fired (sorry!) by Mrs Hopkinson. A 'combined arts' degree at Leicester University embraced English, history of art, politics, comparative religion and sociology (there had to be at least one 'ology' in the 70s) but by then I had seen the BBC Holiday programme and was bitten by the travel bug. Vacations were spent working in hotels and guiding coach tours round Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. I was one of the early post-grad students in tourism management at the University of Surrey and worked in the travel trade, then for the charity RADAR (raising awareness of the needs of disabled travellers) before moving into public relations and travel writing and editing. I have worked as a London-based freelance travel writer for 20 years and roamed the world reporting on hotels and destinations for magazines, radio and - as the media has changed - for cable TV and websites. In 1989 I set up a travel publishing business, which was bought by a major company. Fortunately my husband shares my mania for globe-trotting. When our only child was born, to a 'geriatric mother' of 43 and an even older father, we rented out our home and set off on a round the world trip with baby and Granny in tow. My Mum, who is still thriving, decided that six months on the road was enough for her, but the three of us spent almost five years travelling, until our son had to start school. Then we settled back in the UK in Richmond, Surrey.

Gillian Whittingham (Mrs McGuinness) 1973-4

Graduating from Manchester University in 1977 I married Graham and started a post graduate course in dietetics. My early professional career began in Manchester Hospitals. I moved with my husband around the country, produced a son in 1983 and a daughter in 1985 and eventually settled in Solihull. Having worked in many disciplines I have been at Birmingham Children's Hospital for 15 years and now practise as a Specialist Paediatric Diabetes Dietician. I also work as a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Solihull.

Jane Smith (Mrs Holt) 1974-75

I left school in 1975, read Medicine at Manchester University, graduating in 1980 followed by GP training in the Bury area, during which time I met Stephen and married in 1983. In 1987 we moved to Solihull where our two children (Christopher 1987 and Louise 1991) were born. I worked 1-2 sessions a week while the children were small, then in 2000 became a half-time partner in a local GP practice. It is so local that I cycle to work! Stephen and I attend Warwick Quaker Meeting and are members of the Green Party in Solihull. I am also a member of Amnesty International, and help coordinate the annual Christian Aid Week collection locally.

Valerie Jones (Mrs Jackson) 1975-76

After leaving BGS I went to study Geography at Durham University (St Aidan's College) gaining a BSc Class 2:1. From there I was recruited onto the Management Development Programme with Royal Insurance (now part of Royal & Sun Alliance). After initial training with them in Nottingham I returned to my northern roots joining Bowring Schofields as an insurance broker.



Over the 12 years I worked there I progressed through the ranks to director for the UK division in Manchester. Marriage saw me move south of Manchester to the beautiful High Peak where I continue to live amongst the hills of Derbyshire at Chapel-en-le-Frith. 1994 saw the birth of my daughter, Megan, and prompted me to a change of career as a training consultant, still in the insurance industry; this ultimately led me to set up my own training company, 'Training Partners (UK) Ltd, which continues to keep me busy with a range of training activities, including text book writing for The Chartered Insurance Institute.

Linzi Banks 1976-77

Born in Middleton on 29th May 1959 to Ralph Banks (who was a plasterer) and Alice Banks (a school cook), I attended Boarshaw County Primary and Junior School 1964-1970 and started BGS in September 1970 where I was the Form Captain for our class U3C. I passed 8 'O' Levels in 1975, mainly in the Arts and entered the Sixth Form that September. I gained 'A' Levels in the summer of 1977 (again in the Arts) before starting at the University of Newcastle to study law from where I graduated with Honours in 1980. I moved to London and worked for the NHS for three years, gaining a qualification in management and administration. In 1983 I started working as an Executive Assistant in a Civil Services Trade Union before being promoted to Campaigns Organiser and then journalist. In 1990 I moved to the Local Government Ombudsman's office in Coventry where I have been working since as an investigator dealing with complaints against councils. I live in Kenilworth with my partner of 20 years (Andrew), who is a researcher at the University of Warwick. I love travelling and have visited every continent except Antarctica. I also love the cinema particularly independent American and Australian films and I sing in a community choir. I've recently gained a Diploma in Modern and Contemporary Art from the Tate Modern and am learning Italian.

Jane Shuttleworth (Mrs Walsh) 1977 -78

After leaving school I went to Nottingham University to study pharmacy, spending my pre-registration year in Nottingham before moving down to London. The following years were spent working in community and hospital pharmacy before specialising in community services. I married Aiden in 1988 and in 1989 we moved, with his job, to France. This was a good opportunity for me to improve upon my O level standard French! Our first daughter, Rachel, was born there in 1991 and we moved back to London, again with Aiden's job, in 1992. Our second daughter, Lizzie, was born in 1995 and we were on the move again, this time to North Yorkshire for a couple of years before coming to where we are now, in Hampton Middlesex. I currently work for Hounslow Primary Care Trust as Community Pharmacy Adviser.

Susan Robbie (Mrs Macleay) 1978-79

I had the privilege of being Miss Lester's last Head Girl and then spent three years at St Anne's, Oxford reading geography. Having met my husband, Angus, there, we married during my PGCE year (London University). I have taught geography in London, Oxford, briefly back at BGS, Carlisle and now, Sevenoaks with a break of seven years whilst we had our two children, Rachel, now 17 and Jane, 14. My husband is currently Rector of St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks where we've been for the past 4 1/2 years. I have extremely happy memories of my time at BGS.

Heather Crompton (Mrs Massey) 1979-80

I left BGS in 1980 and went into nurse training at Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1984 I commenced midwifery training and graduated in 1985. I currently work as a senior midwife on the Central Delivery Unit at St. Mary's Hospital Manchester. I am also studying at Bolton University and have almost completed an Honours Degree course in Health Studies. I am married to Phil and have three children: Phillip 15, Thomas 13 and Olivia 8. Phillip and Tom attend BGS and seem to be enjoying their school days as much as I did. I have attended a 20 year and 25 year reunion and was delighted to be invited to this occasion. I am sure I will find the experience very moving and will be proud to see my name included on the Honours Board.

Tina Merchant (Mrs Edgar) 1980-81

I left BGS in 1981 and studied at Reading University, graduating in 1984 with 2:1 in Latin. My early career was in insurance with Royal Life Insurance and I moved to Edinburgh with my husband Matthew in 1987. I later moved into research and marketing with Countrywide Insurance Marketing, developing business through a network of brokers in Scotland. I took a career break when our children Harriet (1992) and Simian (1996) were born. I have been a Company Director since 1995 when we formed a company to work in the fields of investment research and smaller unquoted investments based in Edinburgh.

Alison McGowan (Mrs Moriarty) 1981-82

I left school in 1982 and completed a degree in dietetics in Leeds before working in Manchester as a dietician. I changed career in 1987 and studied medicine in Manchester, qualifying in 1992. Since then I have worked in a number of local hospitals before training as a GP. I have been a partner at Blackford House Medical Centre in Bury for the past nine years. In 1997 Sean and I were married; we knew each other at BGS but it took us a long time to settle down! We now live in Tottington and Sean is a Partner in a Manchester Accountancy Practice. Our son, Alexander is continuing the association with BGS. He is now in year 2 of Kindergarten. Our daughter, Olivia, will start in reception in September 2006.

Rebecca Mole (Mrs Runeckles) 1982-83

Born in 1965 at Fairfield Hospital in Bury I attended Greenhill County Primary School before moving to BGS in 1976 aged 10. I always enjoyed sports and played for the rounders teams in addition to tennis, swimming and hockey teams, gaining my colours in the sixth form. In 1982 I was voted Head Girl much to the surprise of my teachers! In 1983 I joined NatWest Bank in Bolton with 9 'O' Levels and 3 'A' Levels and was granted study leave to attend Bury and Salford Technical Colleges where I eventually qualified as an Associate of The Chartered Institute of Bankers. During the next few years in Bury I bought a house, made some very good friends at work and local sports clubs where I played regular team tennis and captained the hockey team. After a number of transfers/promotions in the Region including 5 years in North West Corporate Credit and the Corporate Business Centre in Manchester I decided to move to London to further my career. In 1998 I moved to London finally settling in Wimbledon in 1999 and joining the daily commute to the City where I now work for The Royal Bank of Scotland as a Director in Structured Property Finance which focuses on major commercial property deals. I married in Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bury in 2002 and continue to live happily in Wimbledon with my husband, Ian (a Southerner!) In our spare time we enjoy walking and cycling. My family currently consists of 2 nieces and 2 nephews and a goddaughter. I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively over the years including trips to Asia, USA,

Middle East, Botswana, South Africa and Europe ranging from a French work camp, a trek in America and a 5 star luxury safari! I celebrated my 40th birthday in late November with a trip to Prague and Vienna with my husband and a weekend in The Cotswolds with my sisters and girlfriends.

Sarah Nuttall 1983-84

Susan Jackson (Mrs Mushtaq) 1984-85

I graduated from Leicester University with BA (Hons) Economics in 1988 and travelled for a year before taking graduate position with Sainsbury's, where I stayed for 9 years in various roles, including PA to the Managing Director, before specialising in Internet Marketing working on the team which set up Sainsbury's first home shopping service. I married Naeem in 1999 and have a fantastic family life with two gorgeous children, Yasmin (3) and Haris (7 months). I now work for the UK's largest digital services agency, AKQA, as Senior Project Manager and live in Essex.

Rebecca Ganz 1985-86

Rachel Yates 1986-87

Outside school I was involved in the local swimming club, ballet, amateur dramatics and Guides. These have continued to be strong influences in my life. On passing my A levels I moved to Bath to study Physiotherapy for 3 years and graduated in 1990. Salisbury was my next move where I enjoyed new friendships with colleagues and participated in the annual pantomime. I also started water polo, playing for Tisbury at National level for many years. I've worked as a rotational Senior II for many years in various areas of physiotherapy around the country, returning to Salisbury in 1998. I was promoted to Senior I in 2001 and moved to Derbyshire in 2003 to live with my partner, Martin. We have had a hectic year redecorating our house and playing National League polo. I'm better located now to visit family and friends, as they are a very important part of my life. Strong friendships remain from school too: Judith Banwell née Kay and Belinda Hughes. I remain very grateful to my parents for the opportunity to gain a good education at BGSG as this has been great grounding.

Suzanne Stock (Mrs. Gauge) 1987-88

After leaving school in 1988 I went to Leeds to study French and Spanish. After graduating I spent a number of seasons working as a holiday rep for Airtours, which was certainly character building! Following a stint working for them in the UK, I joined CIS in Manchester where I held a number of jobs in training and sales. In 1988 my sister had her first child and I joined the family business to cover her maternity leave. Eight years down the line I am now responsible for a team of eight and the entire UK sales budget! I live with my husband, Simon, who has just qualified as a commercial pilot and my son, Sam, who at 15 months old certainly keeps us both on our toes!

I went back to school in March this year for the first time since leaving in 1988. Apart from several new buildings, lots more computers and a myriad of new faces, the place seemed just the same. In fact, to be honest, oddly enough it felt as though I had never been away. I thoroughly enjoyed my school life - I loved the tradition of Founders' Day, the Roger Kay Hall and the school song, the great friendships forged, the inspirational teachers, the opportunities - both academic and other. School life at BGSG was a happy one for me and one that gave me a confidence and a desire to succeed in everything I set out to do. It really is a truly fantastic place - long may it continue to be so.

Jessica Waywell 1988-89

Emma Aitken (Mrs Gleadhill) 1989-90

After my time at BGS, I went on to study English at St Hugh's College, Oxford. Following my degree, I spent the next three years without a firm idea as to what I really wanted to do. I joined Coopers and Lybrand as a trainee accountant, where I met my husband, Simon, and proposed to him on February 29th 1996. During that year I decided to retrain as a teacher and moved back home for a year to stay with my parents whilst I did my teacher training. Over that time and since, I have become more and more passionate about education. I have been lucky to have a rich variety of experience, including working at a progressive, co-educational Arab school in the Sultanate of Oman where I was 'Head of the Dolphin House' - which of course included dolphin watching with my students in the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean. Back in London, my husband and I enjoy living near the South Bank and are part of a group of traditional cider enthusiasts and press by hand, a tonne of apples each Autumn and make cider to enter into the 'Big Apple' competition in Herefordshire. We are also keen scooter riders and I have ridden my smart, red, chrome-enhanced Vespa to the Champagne region of France and Lands End. I am at the Godolphin and Latymer School in Hammersmith, and am grateful for their tolerance of their Deputy Head teacher roaring quietly in through the driveway in my leathers! I hope eventually to settle in the Herefordshire / Worcestershire area where perhaps I can combine being Head Teacher of a more rural school with maintaining an orchard and making cider with Simon.

Saba Naqshbandi 1990-91

Having left school in 1991 I read Law at University College London where in 1994 I obtained an LLB (Hons). Following this, I completed a Masters in Law LLM with Distinction. I was called to the Bar in 1996 and am a member of Middle Temple. I practise from 3 Raymond Buildings, the Chambers of Clive Nicholls QC. My chambers were recently named as the Top Criminal Chambers in the UK. As such, my practice encompasses the whole range of criminal matters but I have a particular speciality in fraud, extradition and regulatory law. In the last few years, my notable cases have included R v Whiting (2001); I was a junior counsel for the prosecution in the murder of Sarah Payne; US Government in an extradition relating to the bombings of the US Embassies in Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi; R v Ocampo (2003), I represented a defendant acquitted of the largest Colombian importation in the UK; R v Skinner (2005), I was junior counsel in the Jubilee Line fraud in which my client was acquitted following the longest criminal trial in the UK. I also have expertise in regulatory and sports law and have been named in the legal directories as a specialist in these fields. Whilst work commitments take up most of my time, I am also heavily involved in charity work and am an Executive Member of The Noor Foundation, a UK registered charity, which establishes free kidney dialysis centres in Pakistan. We have 14 centres in existence since 1998 providing approximately 5000 free dialyses per month. The Noor Foundation is also heavily involved in the Earthquake Relief Effort, to which end I recently visited the earthquake areas in Pakistan. I also have a keen interest in design and enjoy travelling. Despite living in London for almost the last 15 years, I have strong links with home. Indeed both my father and sister live in Ramsbottom. I also have a small but close group of BGSG school friends in London who to this day remain my closest friends.



Elizabeth Maudsley 1991- 92

After graduating in 1996 with a degree in French and Dutch from Cambridge I worked firstly in the art department of a bookshop and then for a number of years as a European news and editorial manager for a press monitoring company in London and Paris. During these years I also did some voluntary work translating witness accounts of the genocide in Rwanda and travelled extensively in West Africa (Sierra Leone and Guinea), South Africa, Egypt and Sri Lanka. My interest in development issues grew and in 2002 I left my job and worked for a year for a non-governmental agency as a volunteer in Bolivia, concentrating on local development with cooperatives and indigenous groups. This was an eye-opening and humbling experience, working in the poorest country in Latin America really made me value some of the basic facilities and liberties we take for granted. After working in Bolivia, my partner's work took us to Melbourne, where we enjoyed the charms of the city and the outdoors' lifestyle. I even ran a half marathon, Mrs Riley would have been proud! I was able to raise money for the Sarah Thompson Appeal fund, the charity set up by my friend and classmate and whose work is continued by her family and supported by BGS. Whilst in Melbourne I taught as an adult literacy tutor in a community centre, this fired my enthusiasm to study again and I am now coming to the end of my PGCE course at Manchester University and will become a fully fledged French and Spanish teacher at the end of June (fingers crossed!).

I feel indebted to the staff at BGS for giving me the opportunities and life long desire to learn, travel and explore, and I wish the school, staff and students all the very best for the future.

Katy Lord (Mrs Denny) 1992-93

After graduating from Oxford I went into book publishing. Many hours of making tea and photocopying later, I now commission the crafts, practical art and house list at Hamlyn, an international publisher of illustrated books. I married Anthony in 2002 and we live in London.

Elena Gabrilatsou 1993-94

I have the feeling I have been here before. Being set a task to write a brief account of my life so far feels rather like being set school homework of the unappealing kind. However, as I am not being marked on this I shall continue willingly. I was born in Bury to Greek Cypriot parents who somehow managed to send their three children to private schools despite only having a small chip shop at the time. Their desire to give their children the best education meant that at the age of three I found myself in the office of the Kindergarten Head, Miss Stephenson. I have an early memory of this interview. I had to count eggs with painted faces, which I did, but I refused to leave her office until I had sung the "Sesame Street" version of the "ABC" song. This obviously was a good thing as I found myself growing and learning at BGS from 1980 to 1993. My love for theatre and music was nurtured and every concert, choir trip and competition is treasured in my memory. After my experience as Head Girl I left for university knowing that my strengths lay in working with people and developing projects. Having gained my degree in Creative Arts I had somehow found myself drawn to a career in TV Production which is strange as there is no immediate link. So thousands of cups of tea later I landed my first paid job as a Runner on "The Royle Family" and gradually worked my way up the production ladder after working on ITV productions such as "Cold Feet", "My Beautiful Son" and "Donovan". I have just finished First Assistant Directing a BBC comedy pilot about prison visits and am about to start on a new ITV drama in a few weeks. Before this I am off to Cyprus to spend time with my Grandfathers both

of whom live in a quiet, contented village in the mountains. They are both in their nineties and never cease to amaze me. I know their ethos was to do the best for their children, they did, and in turn their children have continued to do the same for their kids. It is because of this that I am able to partake in this unique book of Head Girls. I feel proud and am grateful for the start in life that Bury Grammar provided along with the love and guidance of my family.

Bhavna Sharma 1994-95

I left BGS in 1995 with 3 Grade 'A' A levels in Politics, Economics and English Literature and studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Wadham College, Oxford. I then took a year off to travel and volunteer in Central America and returned to study Development Studies, MSc at the London School of Economics. After graduating I joined a London based strategy consulting firm for 2 years, and decided to use this experience in the developing world context, where I worked for 2 years in Latin America including one year at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) in Ecuador. I returned from Ecuador a year ago and have been working for a London based human rights organisation called 'Anti-Slavery International'. We are the world's oldest human rights organisation, founded in 1839 as part of the original anti-slavery movement if the time. I specialise in the issues of contemporary forms of slavery in Latin America and have recently returned from a trip to the region.

Katherine Woods (Mrs Cornford) 1995-96

I've been in Australia since September 1999. I came out for my uncle's 50th birthday and loved it here so have been here ever since! Since April 2000 I have been working for Allianz Australia. I've been using my Psychology degree work in injury management. For two years I was Rehabilitation Consultant in Workers' Allianz Compulsory Third Party Claims, providing advice on appropriate treatment and rehabilitation for people injured in car accidents. This year Allianz secured a tender to provide insurance services for the Australian Government (Treasury Managed Fund). I joined the team as an Injury Management Specialist and have been involved in helping set up the new department and coaching staff members. Recently I was promoted to Team Leader and now run a staff of nine people. As for how long I am staying - well, I really enjoy Australia and the way of life here. I have now received preliminary approval for residency and expect to achieve formal residency status in February.

Eleni Gabrilatsou (Mrs. Hadjikakou) 1996-97

I left Bury Grammar School in 1997 and went on to the University of Manchester to study a joint honours degree in Accounting and Law. After my first few lectures, I soon realised that I was a numbers girl and decided to select primarily accounting modules in order to pursue a career in Accountancy. I spent 4 wonderful years at Manchester University making the most of student life and graduated in 2001 with a 2.1. Whilst in my penultimate year at University, I was fortunate enough to be selected by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) to attend their summer vacation programme. My time there enabled me to gain an insight into the world of audit and assurance and resulted in a graduate placement offer at PwC Manchester, which I soon accepted. In August 2001, I began to take my first steps towards becoming a Chartered Accountant, specialising in the financial services industry. It was by no means an easy journey but with the support of my colleagues, friends and family and after a lot of hard work, I qualified in August 2004.

PwC Manchester, much like Bury Grammar School, was like

a family to me and I thoroughly enjoyed working there however, I wanted to spread my wings a little and the bright lights of London were beckoning. Working within the financial services industry, provided me with some excellent opportunities to gain technical expertise in the niche market of securitisation. With this knowledge and experience, I was able to secure an internal transfer to PwC London. Working in London was a great experience. The work/life balance there was quite different to what I had been used to but I thrived on the pace of life (and the shops). After being in London for 6 months, I decided to venture into industry and to leave PwC. A job offer became available as a financial reporting accountant at CitiGroup in Canary Wharf, which I accepted. Working in industry proved to be a valuable experience, as I had to learn new disciplines working on long-term projects as opposed to short-term audits, whilst still managing my daily and monthly reporting commitments. My time at Citigroup however was short lived as a proposal of marriage and job re-location for my then fiancé led us back home to Manchester. Wanting to stay in industry and ideally within financial services, I was extremely fortunate to find a job working as a Senior Finance Analyst for Barclays Bank in Knutsford. A year on and I am still with Barclays enjoying working with my team and constantly learning new things on a daily basis. I am now married (with a new, even longer Greek surname) and have set up a home with my husband in Cheshire. Being voted Head Girl in '96/'97 is still one of the proudest moments in my life. I felt honoured to be able to follow in my older cousin's (Elena Gabrilatsou) footsteps and to work with her sister Thekla, who was voted my Deputy in '96/'97 also. We certainly kept it within the family. I always look back at my time at Bury Grammar School with fond memories as it played such an important part in my life from the age of 4 to 18. My parents came over from Cyprus determined to give their children an excellent education, which would act as the foundations on which we could build our future. Bury Grammar School has done just that and more and I will treasure that experience always.

Beth Emery 1997-98

I left BGSG in the summer of 1998 and started my Chemistry degree at The University of Durham the following autumn. I attended Van Mildert College, and loved every bit of it. I threw myself into the College and University life and became a College Governor, member of the JCR Executive Committee and Captain of the women's hockey team. After graduating with Honours in 2001, I decided to leave the world of chemistry behind and started with PKF, an international accountancy firm. The stress of the professional exams was all worth it once I received those precious letters at the end of my name. In fact, I'm now part of our National Training team, responsible for training and tutoring graduates. I have just come back from Australia, where I was seconded to our Sydney office for three months. I was also lucky enough to have some travelling time at the end of my trip to explore the East Coast of Australia and Dubai. This was an incredible experience. I now work in Manchester city centre and live in Sale with my boyfriend, who is a fellow Chartered Accountant. I'm looking forward to attending the Head Girls' lunch and taking a look around the school corridors. I have fond memories of BGSG; it was such a significant part of my life. I joined when I was just 4 years old, my mum was School Nurse and my brother attended the school across the road. I also made some great friends, many of whom I still see today. Yes, BGSG will always have a very special place in my heart!

Francesca Moore 1998-99

I went up to Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge to read Geography in October 1999. In June 2002 I graduated with First Class Honours. The following September I began an MSc in International and European Politics and Japanese language lessons at the University of Edinburgh. I completed my MSc in September 2003 and went up to Cambridge to read for an MPhil in Geographical Research. I completed my MPhil in September 2004 and began PhD research in Historical Geography. My PhD investigates mothering and motherhood in Victorian Lancashire, with a special focus on abortion and infanticide. I am now writing up. I am a Supervisor of Studies in Geography at Fitzwilliam College. This involves teaching and lecturing duties. I am an undergraduate admissions assistant at Emmanuel College and a Postgraduate Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. I have just started to write a book with a colleague about moral regulation in Victorian Lancashire. I am fluent in Japanese and enjoy playing hockey and watching cricket.

Sarah Whittles 1999-2000

Claire Foggon 2000-01

I left BGSG to study Biological Sciences at Oxford graduating with a BA 2i. Since 2005 I have been a human resources analyst with Deutsche Bank, London.

Helen Murphy 2001 - 02

I am currently studying for an MA Hons in Theology at the University of St Andrews. After graduating next June, I plan to begin a D Phil course in Political Ethics. I am going to study the application of traditional Christian ethical frameworks to contemporary international politics. After that I hope to become a RS teacher.

Helen Bolton 2002-03

I am currently in my third year at the University of Durham, completing a degree in English Literature. Once I've graduated in 2006, I hope to take a gap year, travelling to South America, and then taking a job for a ski season in France, before moving on to America to finish the year, working at Camp America and then travelling to Canada. I hope eventually to gain a job in publishing.

Nina Dutta 2003-04

I am currently a medical student in my second year at Oxford University and am thoroughly enjoying my time here. Oxford has been a great place to study, meet a diversity of people and get involved in a huge range of activities, from rowing to the union. The city itself is beautiful, particularly in summer where afternoons can easily drift by enjoying punting and Pimms. The medical course itself is fascinating. I chose to study medicine to be able to interact with and help people on a daily basis as well as its scientific challenges. The course thus far has incorporated both these aspects. I particularly enjoy seeing patients and look forward to the clinical years to follow. My time in Bury Grammar School is very special to me. It remains the place where I met my closest friends and took away so many happy memories. It truly was an honour and privilege to be Head Girl.

Priya Shekar 2004-05

I attended Bury Grammar from 1991-2005 and it was a great privilege becoming Head Girl in my last year at school. It was a brilliant experience and I felt proud to be representing a school such as ours. Sixth form life was busy; as well as doing all my duties, I was preparing for A-Levels and university applications. I was also part of the Charities Committee and undertook



voluntary work. However, the open days, Old Girls dinner and Founders' Day made the year all the more memorable. I was apprehensive at going to university after being in the same place for 14 years, but I soon realised that this was a new exciting chapter in my life and as hard as it may be to move on, it was time for new people and new experiences. Luckily, the hard work paid off and here I am today studying Medicine at Newcastle University. It has been something I have been looking forward to for a long time and I am thoroughly enjoying it. Of course, it is hard work but along with making new friends, enjoying Newcastle and participating in university life, I would not change this for anything. So where do I see myself in 5 years? Well hopefully I will have 'Doctor' in front of my name but where I will be working and what speciality of medicine I have no idea. I have a lot to look forward to in the future, although at the moment it seems a long time away! Even after just one year of leaving BGSG, it seems like a lifetime ago that I was there, but the memories will always be with me.

Natasha Muszanskij 2005-06

I started at BGSG in 1999 and immediately felt at home, making many good friends and having numerous opportunities both educationally and with regards to extra curricular activities: I was a member of the hockey team, a charity representative, a member of school council and of the school library team. In the senior school, I managed to achieve a good set of GCSEs, 8A*s and 2As and I have gone on to study for A Levels in English Literature, Geography, Government and Politics, History and General Studies. The Sixth Form has continued to present opportunities and challenges for me as I've played a full role in school life. Taking part in school charity events, the school election as the publicity manager for the Monster Raving Loony Party, being a deputy, and then editor of the school magazine, and taking part in the Service to the Community project have all kept me busy, along with my studies.

Being nominated, and then voted Head Girl has been one of the highlights of my school career by far. I was immediately thrown into the role when I returned in September, as I was

asked on the first day back to deliver a present to a 100 year old Old Girl. More surprises followed as I was asked to review Jamie Cullum's New Album for The Times, Radio 4 and 5, giving me a taste of fame when the whole year managed to get out of lessons to come and listen! Organising the North West Independent Schools Head Girls' conference 2005 was definitely a challenge, but also a day to remember. Over 30 girls arrived at BGSG as Head Girls and Deputies, and left as Head Ladies after an afternoon of training in modern etiquette. (I dread to think what people would have thought, had they seen us walking up and down the hall with the BGSG hymn books on our heads!) The best experiences I've had appear to revolve around giving speeches, unquestionably the scariest but some of the most amazing experiences of my life: The Chairman's Dinner, Prizegiving at the Bridgewater Hall, and at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London in the campaign launch. The feeling when I first stepped out in front of the two thousand people at Prizegiving, all there to share in the school, is one that I will cherish.

Being the Hundredth Head Girl in the Centenary year has definitely made my role unique and exciting; I have embraced every opportunity that it has offered to meet new people and try new things. When I leave BGSG to go on to study Law at University, I will look back on my years here as some of the best.



Natasha has recently been successful in achieving Grade A in all her examinations. She is now looking forward to completing her studies at Durham University where she will be studying Law.



2006 Examinations: The school's overall A-level pass rate was 100%. 83% of the grades at A and B. 60% of the grades at A. The pass rate of 5+ GCSE grades A-C is 100%. Our overall pass rate at GCSE grades A* - C is 97.5%. 59% of all GCSE grades at A/A*.



*The Centenary Celebration
of the opening of the Girls' School
on 17th January 1906*



Original school building 1906

*The Bury Grammar Schools
17th January 2006*



Mr. Chris Hyde leads the Concert Band



Mrs. Dorothy Stoddard conducts the Choir



Order of Proceedings

Katie Schofield, Piano

Scarlatti in D Major

Clarinet Quartet: Laura Stoker, Emma Barber, Lucy Schofield, Katherine Hampson
'Beale Street Blues'

W C Handy arr Jack Gale

Head Girl, Natasha Muszankyj and the School Captain Richard Turck

Welcome of Guests

Natasha:

Exactly one hundred years ago, the girls entered this building. The School Captain Richard Turck and I would like to welcome you to our celebration of that occasion. One hundred years ago - it was a Wednesday - the girls lined the corridors (in total silence, of course) as the Governors and guests arrived.

Richard:

The Clavian of 1906 reports that 'We did secure a fine day, but the sun, somewhat wintry and watery it is true, struggled to give us an earnest of how he means to shine on our sunny south side in the good days to come.'

Natasha:

The Schools' guests assembled in various rooms in the Boys' School and a procession was formed. *The Clavian* again tells us '...the procession entered the school and passed down the corridor between two lines of girls to the Art Room. It was at this point that we felt most deeply the need of a central hall.' (Clavian, 1906)

Richard:

Funds had not yet been found for the Roger Kay Hall where we can now all gather. That is a story for a later time. Now may I ask you all to stand for the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Bury, The Governors, Headmaster, Headmistress and guests of the Bury Grammar Schools 2006.

Arrival of the Platform party

The Chairman of the Governors, Rev'd Dr. John Findon MA, D. Phil.

Welcome to everyone, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Governors, Patrons, Old Girls, Old Boys, current pupils, staff, parents and friends of The Bury Grammar Schools. I note that the Girls are, as is right and proper, seated on one side of the hall and the Boys on the other. Now we all work very closely together and the bond between the two schools has never been stronger. Today you will see it represented in our music. I would invite you to join in the singing of the Boys' School Song after which please be seated to enjoy our first musical item.

(The original song was composed by Archdeacon Blackburne and he sang it himself to the Governors at a meeting by way of introduction. It lasted until 1949 when the Headmaster, Mr. Richard Chambers wrote the one still sung today in Latin, with Music Master, J. H. James)

The School Song (Boys School)

Accompanist: Mr. David Benger

CARMEN BURIENSE

"Sanctas clavis hic fores
Aperit", canamus;
Sanctitatis legibus
Semper hic vivamus,
Clavis detur pueris
Clavem laude meritis;
Fores pateant piis
Scholae Buriensis.

Optimum nos plurimi
Semper aestimemus;
Magistri cum pueris
Semper hoc oremus;
Vivat, crescat, floreat,
Suae voces audiat
Famae, vires augeat
Schola Buriensis.

The Concert Band:

'The Damnbusters March', Eric Coates arr Wagner
'Goldfinger' John Barry

Caecilie Hobhouse: Upper 5 (year 11)

The building of the new school:

In April 1900 the Governors of Bury Grammar School took over the High School for Girls as a partner in the new scheme which would make it Bury Grammar School Girls and the hunt was on to find suitable premises funded principally by the Hulme Trust. The Boys' School was in the Wylde and adjacent to Bury Parish Church. It had a main school room, five classrooms and a laboratory. Consideration was given to expanding it to include the girls. The Girls' school was in an old fashioned house and according to the Assistant Commissioner from the Hulme Trust 'quite unsuited to the purpose'. The Governors therefore decided to build two schools under one roof capable of housing 350 boys and 200 girls. They estimated it would cost £20,000. Unfortunately, when the architects' designs were submitted the costs were between £30,000 and £32,000 and so the plans had to be scaled down. They cut out 8 classrooms, the Hall and told the girls that they would have to wait. The foundations for their part would not be laid. The Headmistress was disappointed.

The Festival Choir: 'Bunch of Thyme' arr Michael Neaum
'It was a lover and his lass' Philip Lane

Richard Chew: Fifth Form (year 11)

The Boys' School in 1903:

Building began in 1902 in Accrington brick and it was decided to place the original foundation stone of 1625, rescued from the old building, in the middle of the front of the schools beneath the bell tower where it may still be seen today. Progress, though, was slow. The Girls' School was going nowhere, the weather was rotten and any hopes that the boys might enter their part of the School in October were dashed when extra draining and retaining walls had to be put in to stop flooding. Meanwhile Henry Webb, increasingly anxious about the Girls' School, had decided to take a stand. He estimated that the Governors needed to find a further £20,000 to build the Girls' School, add playing fields, a central hall and complete the Boys' School. On the 14th December the Governors agreed to launch a public appeal. On December 17th 1903 the formal opening of the building for the Boys' School was attended by the Earl of Derby with tea kindly provided by the Mayor in the Technical School. We moved in. We processed in a crocodile from the Wylde to Tenterden Street. We were accompanied by our Headmaster, Mr. Howlett and ten masters. I think I would particularly have admired Mr. James Legge Norton who taught German and French (allegedly with a strong Radcliffe accent). He served the School for over thirty years and was so respected that it became the tradition in later years always to stand for him at Old Boys' Dinners. He was apparently a stickler for accuracy and if a boy misspelled a word, he would be given a sentence to write correctly: 'A harassed pedlar, overcome by unparalleled embarrassment, consoled himself by gauging the symmetry of a pair of peeled pears'. As for the Headmaster, I would have seen him supporting our matches; he would have given me good careers advice whether I was academic or not and if I did see him in his study, which would have been by all accounts a daunting experience, I would have noted that he had a quill pen. On this day one hundred years ago, he was 57 years old; he would serve a further 13 years.

Daisy Foster: Upper 3 (year 7)

The arrival of the girls in 1906

If I had been at the school in 1906 I would have been one of 150 girls and my Headmistress would have been Miss Kitchener. She had been Headmistress of the High School for 22 years already in 1906 and was to continue as Headmistress of Bury Grammar School Girls until 1919. I would be in complete awe of her. One of my teachers would have been Miss Sarah Alcock who was the first Bury Grammar School girl to go to university in 1892. I would have been very well behaved. If the boys watched me playing tennis, then my Headmistress would complain and they would get into a great deal of trouble. In one room in the Boys' School, the Headmaster put in frosted glass to stop the boys looking at the girls. I simply would not meet a boy even though we occupied the same building. But if I waited until sixth form I might expect an invitation from a sixth form boy to go rowing with him on Elton Reservoir on the half day holiday afternoon of Founders' Day. Maybe I was dreaming about this as the important people passed by me on the corridor on the morning of 17th January. Or maybe I was one of those girls determined to go to university and change the whole position of women in society in the century to come, in which case I was probably trying to remember my Latin grammar. Perhaps I was both.



Daisy Foster admires a portrait of Miss Jane Penelope Kitchener



The Flute Trio: Sneha Chacko, Reeva Rajasanir, Alice Howarth
'Mockingbird', G.E. Holm

Alex Benn: Fourth Form (year 10)
The Members of the Platform Party in 1906.

The procession was headed by Archdeacon Blackburne, Rector of Bury and Chairman of the Governors. The Mayor was immediately preceded by the Honourable Arthur Stanley, son of the Earl of Derby. He was followed by Miss Kitchener and Mrs. Rothwell, one of the two lady governors. Next came Mr. Toulmin, newly elected MP, who was with Mr. Kenyon, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Henry Webb. These had all been instrumental in setting up the new school. The Chairman had led the difficult negotiations with the Hulme Trust. The Earl of Derby had owned the land on which the school was built giving three acres and £1,000 as a gift. Mr. Whitehead had already privately told the Governors that he would single-handedly fund the Roger Kay Hall. The school only came into being with the support of its local community represented by the Mayor. James Kenyon, MP was a member of the Plans and Site Committee which decided the location of the school and who had been engaged in discussion with the Hulme Trust to ensure that the Girls and Boys Schools would be registered as first grade allowing them to send pupils to university - a move which was being resisted by two Manchester Schools. This leaves Mr. Henry Webb. If any one individual can be seen as absolutely crucial to the successful joining of the two schools, it must be Henry Webb. He had been instrumental in setting up the High School for Girls in 1884, was its Chairman and was Bury's representative on the Hulme Trust always fighting for the rights of the schools and the Borough so that he was credited on his death in 1909 as the man who 'by his persistent advocacy of the claims of Bury to its fair share of the Hulmeian funds assured that we now enjoy the fine buildings and generous endowment necessary to the work of the reconstituted Foundation'. In a further obituary Miss Kitchener wrote: 'Since the amalgamation of the two schools, his work was given equally to boys and girls, but it must always be felt that the education of girls in this town owes almost everything to him'. To these people then we owe a great deal and we remember them with gratitude.

Sarah Chicken: Upper 3 (year 7)
A Family Affair.

I am Sarah Chicken and have been a pupil at Bury Grammar School Girls since 1998. When I joined Kindergarten I became the eighth consecutive generation of the Calrow family to attend the Schools. When I was in Kindergarten I was taught by Mrs. Robinson who told me that she had also taught my mother, Susan Calrow. She did not teach my father but he too was an Old Boy of Bury having joined in 1983 when he moved into the area from County Durham. My mother and father met in 1985 when they were still at school. My Aunt Julie was also an Old Girl. Grandpa is an Old Boy. He is Mr. Derek Calrow and he is now a Governor and Patron of the Centenary Appeal. He met my Grandmother when he was at school and, as you may have guessed by now, she is an Old Girl. Gran looked after all of the girls here between 1965 and 1968 when she was in charge of the school kitchens. It just so happens that my Great-grandfather was also an Old Boy; he was called Reginald Peel Calrow and was a governor as well as Chairman of the Kay Estate Governors between 1961 and 1983. At the request of the Headmistress Miss Dorothy Lester, he presented a form prize to the school. The prize is a hunting scene which was annually paraded across this stage at Prize-giving much to the embarrassment of my mother and aunt when they were at school. My Great-great-grandmother, Bessie Bridge, was one of the early girls attending the High School in the mid 1800's. It was Richard Calrow who started the generations of Calrows rolling in approximately 1764 followed by his son, Thomas, who was born in 1788. In 1857 my ancestor James Richard Calrow was on the Governors' sub committee which helped to select the new Headmaster, Reverend Hildyard. A few weeks ago my grandfather helped to select the next Headmaster, Reverend Steven Harvey. My sister Emily is in the Junior School and Amy, the youngest of us, will be starting in Kindergarten in 2006. My cousin Matthew Jones will also start at the same time. My Grandfather says that Mrs. Robinson should be warned! There are three generations of our family here in the Roger Kay Hall today. I wonder which school my children will attend...



Mr. Stephen Chicken,
Mr. Derek Calrow,
Mrs. Susan Chicken (nee Calrow),
Mrs. Barbara Calrow
Miss Sarah Chicken
and Miss Emily Chicken

Saxophone Quartet: Danielle Gillett, Alex Benn, Ellen Shaw, Mark Harrison
'Premier Quartour', Opus 5 movement 3

John Hutton. Chairman of the Old Boys Association

Even though I am speaking as Chairman of the Old Boys' Association, I cannot claim to have been at the school since 1764. My association is relatively recent although it was 49 years ago bar 2 days that I stepped into the Roger Kay Hall for the very first time to take the entrance exam aged 9 years. I was a pupil from 1957-64 and I remember this building well.... Ours was the last year to be educated in this building although in my case I spent my last 4 years in the new science block over the dining hall. The science block had been completed in my second year at the school and in the first year we were all expected to contribute to an appeal to fund it. Each boy received a card and brought a sum of money each week to buy a 'brick'. Each 'brick' was marked on the card. I could not tell you which were my bricks but I do know that they are still there. There were advantages to being in the science block. Most weeks we would be scolded by our Headmaster, Mr. Robson, for, as he put it, ogling the girls. Biology Sixth was situated above the entrance to the girls dining hall, thus providing a vantage point not only over the tennis courts but also over lunch and swimming bath queues, a point not realized by Misses Batty and Lester. A further memory was of course the JOINT dancing lessons in the Roger Kay Hall and the fact that Yvonne Leach (Waddington) still bears the scars to prove it. I had seven happy years at Bury Grammar School. I was fortunate to be funded by the local authority and so I am very pleased now that the schools are still committed to the bursary scheme which allows boys and girls to attend the schools regardless of parental income. I am also pleased that the Governors are planning to create a sixth form centre for the mutual use of boys and girls in the very heart of the original building. It brings our history around full circle and also takes us forward into the next hundred years of the Schools' partnership.

Betty Kenyon. Chairman of the Old Girls' Association
A Lasting Education.

Like John (Hutton, chairman of BGS OBA) I have had a long and happy association with the school. I came as a pupil from 1950 to 1957. At that time Miss Perigo was Headmistress. Then in 1954 Miss Lester became the Headmistress.

When I look back I realise just how lucky I was to come here. I have a group of friends from my school days, we still meet and some are here this morning. I value their friendship enormously and I know this must be the same for many of you. Aren't we lucky! I must at this point remember Miss Orme and how she translated well-known songs into Latin for a sing-song at the end of her lesson. She was well ahead of her time in this way. She also bequeathed her wonderful photographic archive to the school. Who can possibly forget Miss Watson playing her violin for us to sing French songs? I have to admit I was not good at Latin or French, although Miss Batty struggled valiantly with me. My strong subjects were biology with Miss Annette Taylor and maths with Miss Smale.

I was a teacher here serving under three headmistresses. Every day I was happy to be coming here. I really did not look forward to retiring. I knew I would miss the girls and the friendly staff room. Again in the Junior School staff room I made lasting friendships. I still come into school, not every day, but now it is to look after the archive. As teachers we have an enormous responsibility because we make such an impact on young lives. As a junior schoolteacher at BGS it is good that we are able to follow the girls' progress until they leave school at 18 and even beyond that. My children-- Amanda who is Director of contracts and residential services at the University of Hertfordshire, son Paul who works for Panorama and is at the moment in India on an assignment and Richard who got a first in Chartered Surveying and is in property all attended the school.

As chairman of the OGA I keep in contact with many of our former students. Over the weekend we held a reunion for our former Head Girls and I was struck then as I am every time we meet by their distinguished careers. These are just some taken from their profiles--Human Rights--looking into slavery, writing a French poetry book shortly to be published in Paris, a medieval writings expert, someone else investigating abortion and infanticide in Victorian England, a water polo player at national level, yet another developing jet engines, a late gap year by one--well-- giving up work and travelling the world for 5 years.

As you have probably realised I have much affection for the school. BGS always seems to have been a part of my life. When I hear the hymn 'For all the saints' played at full strength on Founders' Day a shiver goes up my spine. I walk along the corridors and think, what were the hopes and ambitions of the many girls who have been here. You only have to look at the old Honours Boards to see the impact that BGS girls have always had from earliest times. What about the future and the children to come? I just wish my grandchildren lived near enough to be able to come here. Building a new Kindergarten will give the youngest children the best resources for their education. I know that they make phenomenal progress at this stage and indeed that their early experiences of education are the solid foundation for the rest of their lives. I am also looking forward to seeing the new sixth form centre that will be of the 21st century. This will enable the sixth form to experience a college atmosphere in preparation for the wider world.

I share with John the conviction that the direction the school will take for its next century is the right one. As an OG I endorse the bursary scheme most fervently, which gives opportunities to as many bright young people as possible from all walks of life.



Richard Turck: School Captain
(The Bury Grammar Schools 2006)

Although the Boys' School moved into the new buildings in the 1960s, the two schools are as united as ever. Nowadays some sixth formers take their lessons together and we do not have to wait for the afternoon of Founders' Day to see one another as the sixth form common rooms are open to the students of both schools. Both schools annually award a Kay Scholarship and there are many pupils supported by the Schools' bursary scheme. For this we must thank enlightened and generous benefactors who, like their 1906 counterparts, are determined to see as many young people as possible from the local area able to benefit from an academic grammar school education. We are now moving forward and the Schools aim to build a new Kindergarten and a sixth form centre. The Kindergarten will occupy the new site you may have seen being prepared behind the sports hall while the sixth form of both schools will share a new facility created in the heart of this building. The separate entrance will be in the very centre of the front of the school and the facility will include seminar rooms, a lecture theatre and recreational space with our own cafeteria.

Natasha Muszanskyj: Head Girl

In 1906 the people whose vision brought about this building had the satisfaction of knowing that they had achieved everything they set out to do. In order to achieve what we want to do now we must similarly appeal to our community. You will have seen on your programmes the names of Patrons of our appeal who are helping us and they are represented by Mr. Calrow and Mr. & Mrs. Brown on the platform today. There are many more benefactors. For the Governors today finding the £5 million we need for our development must seem a tall order but the commitment of the schools to their future has never been greater. Richard and I will be leaving the school at the end of this year. He aims to study Medicine and I hope to go to Durham to read Law. Wherever life takes us we shall have our roots here. We have both been very proud to serve the schools. As the Head Girl serving in the one hundredth year of the joint schools, my name has just been entered on the honours board you can see at the back of the Roger Kay Hall when you join us all for refreshments. Adjacent to it you will see the board for the next century of Head Girls. It signifies that we are confident of our future. Richard and I wish future pupils the same happiness and fulfilment we have experienced at school and as we join together now in singing the Girls' School Song, I invite you all look up and imagine the children of the future seeing the same Bury Grammar School swan and singing, Sanctas Clavis Fores Aperit.

The School Song (Girls' School) Orchestra

Here in our School
There is a sacred key,
This shall we find who seek it faithfully.
Here may we tread the sacred path of truth
Here may we know the comradeship of youth.
Here find a faith by which the spirit soars
Here turn the key that opens holy doors.
Sanctas clavis fores aperit.

Prayers and thanks from The Chairman of the Governors,
Rev'd John Findon, MA, D.Ph Rector of Bury.

The National Anthem

The Platform party leaves to the playing of

Flute Quartet: 'A Day in the Mountains' Bozza

The Platform Party:

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barry Briggs
The Deputy Mayoress, Councillor Sharon Briggs
The Chairman of Governors, Rev'd Dr. John Findon,
Rector of Bury.
Old Girls' Association President, Betty Kenyon.
Old Boys' Association President, John Hutton.
Patron, Mr. D. Calrow.
Patrons, Mr. & Mrs. S. N. Brown.

The Headmistress, Roberta S. Georghiou, BA, MEd.
The Headmaster, Keith Richards MA

The Governors of The Bury Grammar School in January 2006

Rev'd Dr. J. C Findon
Mrs. S. T. Henry
Mr. S. Hill
Mr. D. Johnson
Mr. B. Allan
Mrs. P. Baumber
Mr. R. D. Calrow
Mr. F. Chaudhry
Mrs. A. M. Davies
Mr. L.A. Goldberg
Miss J. Hartley
Mr. B. Holland
Mrs. P. Lomas
Mr. A. C. Murray
Mrs. B. Peachment
Mr. A. T. Proctor
Mr. J. A. Rigby
Mr. J. H. Spencer
Cllr. R. Walker
Mr. A. West

Mr. D. Harrison

Chairman (St. Mary the Virgin, Bury)
Deputy Chairman (Hulme Trust)
Treasurer (Hulme Trust)
Deputy Treasurer (co-opted)
(University of Salford)
(co-opted)
(Estate Governors of Bury Grammar Schools)
(Bury Metropolitan Borough Council)
(co-opted)
(Victoria University of Manchester)
(co-opted)
(co-opted)
(co-opted)
(co-opted)
(co-opted)
(Victoria University of Manchester)
(Estate Governors of Bury Grammar Schools)
(Estate Governors of Bury Grammar Schools)
(Bury Metropolitan Borough Council)
(co-opted)

Clerk to the Governors

Appeal Patrons

Nick & Pam Brown
Alistair Burt MP
Derek Calrow
Neville Cormack OBE
Mark Elder CBE
Mary Firth OBE DL
Robert Hough DL
Sir Fergus and Lady Joyce Montgomery
Sir Peter Ogden
Harold Riley DL

Paul Rink OBE
Dr Gill Samuels CBE
Geoffrey Shindler
Nicola Shindler
Sir Cyril Smith MBE DL
Colin Snape
Sir David Trippier DL
Victoria Wood OBE
The Yearsley Group
Sir John Zochinis DL

Directors of Music:

Mrs. Dorothy Stoddard, GNSM, LRAM, ARCM
Mr. Christopher Hyde, GRNCM



Artists' impression of our proposed new building of the Sixth Form Centre, Kindergarten and Cygnets Pre-school.





Foundation Stone Celebrations - Sunday 25th and Monday 26th June 2006



Photo of the original ceremony of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Roger Kay Hall



The original Foundation Stone

One hundred years ago, guests attended a special ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the Roger Kay Hall at Bury Grammar School. The Mayor of Bury and great local benefactors turned out on June 25, 1906, to see the Rt Hon Arthur Stanley, son of the Earl of Derby, and 37 Freemasons mark the beginning of work on the Roger Kay Hall in the newly-built school.

The event was a huge occasion, with members of the public lining the streets and pupils climbing onto the roof of the school to watch.

On Sunday 25th and Monday 26th June this year celebrations were held to mark the Centenary of the Girls' School and the laying of the foundation stone in the Roger Kay Hall.

A special service was held at Bury Parish Church on Sunday, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury, Councillor Jack Walton and Mrs Pat Walton, the head teachers and staff of both divisions of the school, and past and present pupils. Descendants of the three men who helped to bring together the schools were also there. They were: Henry Whitehead, whose single donation of £4000 made it possible to build the central hall, Henry Webb and James Kenyon, MP.

Following the service, the congregation went to Church House to see the plaque marking the home of the Boys' School from 1784 until it moved into the original School building in Bridge Road in 1903. Guests were then invited to the Roger Kay Hall to enjoy a splendid buffet luncheon. Head Girl, Michaela Don and School Captain Matthew Trafford gave speeches and a made a toast to the Schools' future.

The celebrations continued on Monday with an historical re-enactment of the laying of the foundation stone for invited

guests, including Councillor Wilf Davison representing the Mayor of Bury, the Mayors of Rossendale and Rochdale, School Governors, modern benefactors, and members of the Schools.

The ceremony was led by Mr Paul Rink, OBE, a Patron of the schools Centenary Appeal, who holds the same office as Arthur Stanley: Right Worshipful Grand Master; along with the modern equivalents of each of the 37 1906 East Lancashire Freemasons.

After the procession which took place to the Schools' Orchestra playing Handel's *Scipio*, pupils performed a celebratory concert in the Hall that saw the emergence of such talents as Victoria Wood (who is also a Patron) and through which many prominent people have passed in the last century.

The traditional tools of building were used in the ceremony and the new foundation stone will set in motion the Schools' building programme, starting with a Kindergarten and leading on to a Sixth Form Centre at a cost of around £5 million. Full ceremonial costumes were worn, adding colour as well as historical interest to the event.

Bobby Georgiou, Headmistress said: "Our Schools have a fascinating history. We can trace the Boys' School back to the 16th century and the Girls to 1884 but our modern history started one hundred years ago with their joining in this building. It is very important to remember the people of Bury who brought our Schools into being. Without their generosity we would not be here. Now we are appealing for help once more so that we can see through our building programme and ensure that the schools are still pursuing their course of excellence with girls and boys one hundred years from now."



Mrs. Georgiou, Matthew Trafford (School Captain) Hannah Turck (Deputy Head Girl), Revd. John Findon, Mayor & Mayoress of Bury, Mr. Steven Harvey & Phillip Collins (Vice School Captain)



Plaque erected on the Church House behind Bury Parish Church

Foundation Stone Centenary Celebration Concert

Monday 26th June 2006



One hundred years ago, on June 25th 1906, the foundation stone of the Roger Kay Hall was laid. Today The Bury Grammar Schools pay their tribute to all that was achieved then when, despite all the odds, the money had been raised to construct not only this building, which housed both the Boys' and the Girls' Schools, but also this hall.

Tonight we celebrate, through the musical talents of our present pupils, past events which have given us the building we now enjoy, and we look to the future with the laying of the foundation stone for the new Kindergarten of The Bury Grammar Schools, by Paul J E Rink, OBE.

Sharing our past and our future are our honoured guests the Freemasons and we also warmly welcome the Patrons of our Centenary Appeal who seek now with us to secure the future of our Schools, our benefactors whose donations will help future generations of pupils and the descendents of the benefactors 1906.



Order of Procedure

Welcome:	The Mayor and Consort of Rochdale The Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale Councillor and Mrs. Davison representing The Mayor and Mayoress of Bury
Introduction:	Reverend Doctor John Findon (Chairman of Governors) Michaela Don (Head Girl) Matthew Trafford (School Captain) Hannah Turck (Deputy Head Girl)
Orchestral Music:	March from Scipio (G F Handel)
The Procession comprising:	<p>The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies The Provincial Grand Tyler Provincial Grand Stewards Provincial Senior Grand Deacons Officers of the United Grand Lodge of England Provincial Grand Lodge of Lancashire Four Brethren (members / representatives of the School Governing Body) Bearing the Masonic Cornucopia and vessels holding the Corn, Wine, Oil and Salt</p> <p>The Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works with the Maul The Provincial Grand Secretary with the Plate The Provincial Grand Registrar bearing the Masonic Book of Constitutions The Provincial Grand Treasurer bearing a Phial (containing various coins of the realm and other items which will be deposited in the stone) The Provincial Grand Chaplain bearing the Volume of the Sacred Law on a cushion The Provincial Junior Grand Warden with the Plumb Rule The Provincial Senior Grand Warden with the Level The Bury District Chairman The Deputy Grand Superintendent The Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Bury District The Deputy Provincial Grand Master with the Square The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer</p> <p>The Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother, Paul J E Rink, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire</p> <p>The Provincial Grand Standard Bearer</p>
Speakers:	Phillip Collins (Deputy School Captain) Olivia Halstead Harpreet Sahni Hannah Saxon-Sally George Bevan James Cassidy Olivia Ashworth

Foundation Stone Centenary Concert

Programme of Music

Orchestra	The Big Country (Jerome Moross)
Flute Trio	Rondo Schezando (J Haydn) Sneha Chacko, Reeva Rajasanseer, Alice Howarth
String Trio	Minuet and Allegro (GCSE Composition by Tabitha Georghiou) Violin I Johanna Hadley Viola Charlotte Bengier Cello Hannah Bigwood
Vocal Duet	Flower Duet from "Lakme" (Delibes) Soprano 1 Zahra Masood Soprano 2 Shendie McMath
Clarinet Solo	Concertino (3rd Movement) (Gabriel Grovlez) Laura Stoker
String Trio	Allegro in C (AS level composition by Elizabeth Howarth) Violin I Elizabeth Howarth Violin 2 Shendie McMath Cello Alicia Pylypczuk
Choir	Lovely Jimmie (Irish Folk Song arr. Havelock Nelson) Lift Thine Eyes (Mendelssohn) It was a Lover and his Lass (Philip Lane)
Flute Trio	Caribbean Sunrise (AS Composition by Catherine Burgess) Flute 1 Katie Schofield Flute 2 Natalie Robinson Flute 3 Charlotte Fitzgerald
String Trio	Minuet & Trio (GCSE Composition by Harriet Brown) Violin I Johanna Hadley Violin 2 Charlotte Bengier Cello Hannah Bigwood
Saxophone Quartet	Old Seville (James Rae) Alexander Benn, Mark Harrison, Danielle Gillett, Ellen Shaw
Concert Band	James Bond Theme (Monty Norman arr. Frank Erickson) For Your Eyes Only (Bill Conti arr. Frank Erickson) Hootenanny - Folk Festival (Harold L Walters)
The Recession Comprising:	The Mayoral Party Governors and Head Teachers Freemasons
Recessional Music	Crown Imperial (William Walton)



The Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire

RWBro Paul J E Rink, OBE
 VWBro Dr. Nigel G Bramley-Haworth, PGSwdBDeputy
 WBro Philip G Mountford, PSGD
 WBro Jack Price, PSGD
 WBro Howard S Berry, PProvJGW
 WBro E John T Acaster
 WBro Steven Barton
 WBro the Rev'd David J Halford, ProvDepGChap
 WBro Ken A Jones, PAGDC
 WBro M Barry Cuttle, PJGD
 WBro H Alan J Garnett, PJGD
 WBro Andrew Holland, PProvGSwdB
 WBro Michael P Nicholson
 WBro Arthur Renshaw, QPM
 WBro Ken G Hampson
 WBro Alan R Moss, JP
 WBro Peter Tonge
 WBro Dr Simon K Archer
 WBro Alf Blackburn
 WBro Ian RM Connor
 WBro Dr Alan J Highton
 WBro Kai Hughes
 WBro Elliot G Moss
 WBro Ian Ronson, PProvGSuptWks

.....Provincial Grand Master
Provincial Grand Master
Assistant Provincial Grand Master
Deputy Grand Superintendent
District Chairman
Provincial Senior Grand Warden
Provincial Junior Grand Warden
as Provincial Grand Chaplain
Provincial Grand Treasurer
Provincial Grand Registrar
Provincial Grand Secretary
as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon
Provincial Senior Grand Deacon
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer
Provincial Grand Steward
Provincial Grand Steward
Provincial Grand Steward
Provincial Grand Steward
Provincial Grand Steward
Provincial Grand Tyler

WBro Alan Lomas, PProvAGDC (Corn)
 WBro R Derek Calrow, PProv AGDC (Wine)
 WBro John H Spencer, PProvGSuptWks (Oil)
 WBro Howard Balkind, PProvAGSuptWks (Salt)

WBro John N Holy, PJGD
 WBro Neville Rayner, PAGDC
 WBro Roger S Norris, PAGDC
 WBro Fred Beadsworth, PProvJGW
 WBro Kevin A Horne, ProvDepGSec
 WBro Brian W Robinson, PProvGSuptWks, ProvAGPurs
 WBro Peter Richardson, PProvJGD
 WBro Brian Crabtree,
 WBro C Edward Lord, JP



Entry of the Procession



Provincial Grand Master Paul J Rink OBE
and several Worshipful Brothers



Our new Foundation Stone
for the next Century

The Bury Grammar Schools *Working together 1906 - 2006*

Head Teachers

Roberta Georghiou
Steven Harvey

Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

David Harrison

Governors

Revd Dr J C Findon
Mr L A Goldberg
Miss J Hartley
Mr J A Rigby
Mr A C Murray
Mrs P Lomas
Cllr R E Walker
Mr A West
Mr R Ullathorne
Mr A Marshall

Mrs S Henry
Mr J H Spencer
Mr R D Calrow
Mr B Holland
Mrs P M Baumber
Mr B Allan
Mrs A Davies
Mrs B Peachment
Mrs D Hampson
Dr F Chaudry

We should like to record our gratitude to the following patrons of our appeal
and to future patrons and benefactors; their support will help secure our
Schools for future generations.

Appeal Patrons

Nick & Pam Brown
Alistair Burt MP
Derek Calrow
Neville Cormack OBE
Mark Elder CBE
Mary Firth OBE DL
Robert Hough DL
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Sir Peter Ogden
Harold Riley DL

Paul Rink OBE
Dr Gill Samuels CBE
Geoffrey Shindler
Nicola Shindler
Sir Cyril Smith MBE DL
Colin Snape
Sir David Trippier DL
Victoria Wood OBE
The Yearsley Group
Sir John Zochinis DL

With special thanks to Shefali Talukdar Henry, Deputy Chair of Governors,
for sponsoring this event



THE DOROTHY LESTER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2004

My Canadian Gap Project Sophie Livsey, December 2005

One year ago I was preparing myself to go to Canada for 7 months. Nothing to me was as scary as saying goodbye to my friends and family for so long. I arrived at the airport on the 23rd of January to meet up with 2 other English 'gappers' Mike and Dave. The whole plane journey was a blur as the three of us attempted to get know each other, after all we would be spending the next seven months of our lives living, working and socialising together. It was a strange feeling to think that I had a completely clean slate and a brand new stage of my life was beginning.

I got the placement with an organisation called 'GAP' who arranged for me to work for a YMCA camp in Alberta. I'd had to save for the flight and GAP fee and live off a minimal wage, so the money I received from winning the Travel Scholarship was much appreciated. The camp was right at the edge of the Rocky Mountains and the views around the camp were amazing. No matter where you stood there was always a mountain in sight.

For the first three months I was living in a chalet with four other gappers. Three of us were English (me, Mike and Dave) and the other two were Australians (Lizzie and Sam.) We immediately formed a strong bond as we were all in the same boat and were a bit isolated from the other side of the camp. We had a great three months living together and, because the winter season has such a small staff team of about twenty people and the drinking age in Alberta (unlike British Columbia unfortunately!) is 18 like at home, alcohol was permitted on site during our time off at weekends. We had some great parties that always seemed to end up with someone running around in the snow...

The winter season was probably my favourite time at camp. The programme we were running was called 'Eco-School' where different school groups would come out from Tuesday morning to Friday morning. We each got a group of around 12 kids aged from 9 to 12 years old and had to teach them about different aspects of the Canadian environment. We also had to teach them how to work in a group and how to respect each other. The kids all stayed in lodges two kilometres away from our 'gapper house' and it was our job to wake them up in the morning and be with them till we put them to bed at night. A full time job! I loved being in charge of reading the bedtime stories but wasn't so good at being tough with them when they just would not be quiet! The bike ride home in the pitch black swerving through the snow was always fun!

Some of the schools were in underprivileged areas of Calgary so the kids sometimes came very ill equipped. We had to take our groups on a day hike where you would show them different animal footprints in the snow, bear

scratchings in the trees and what all the different trees were. It all sounds very simple and easy looking back but trying to keep 12 kids interested when it's -20 degrees outside was no picnic! It also didn't help when a teacher decided to watch you stumble over your words because, to be honest, I didn't know all that much about the Canadian trees when I'd never really known much about British ones. Some moments were very interesting...

We got a week off in the middle of the winter season so the four other gappers and I went skiing in Banff. Skiing among the dramatic Rocky Mountains was awe-inspiring. We had a great time, except when Lizzie lost her snowboard down the slope on her first run. Also I'd never skied before so when the guys took me to the top of a mountain and left me, that wasn't too amusing either; but other than that it was a very much appreciated (and needed) week off.

I loved the winter because it was all I expected of Canada and more. The views were incredible with the snow-capped mountains and the staff team was amazingly close because we did everything together. Then springtime came and about 100 members of staff moved onto camp. Three more gappers joined our 'gapper crew', two from Australia and one more from good old England! We had a tight rivalry between the Brits and the Ozzys the whole time we were there and it was always fun telling our kids that Australia was where we used to send all the convicts!

The spring season wasn't much different from winter except we all had to move out of our cosy homes to live in... Tipis! They were huge tent like structures made from wooden poles with canvas outside them and had big fire pits in the middle. This is what I lived in for four months so I never complain about my uni flat now. The other difference from winter was that instead of a nice, small staff team a whole bunch of people moved in. It felt a bit like my home had been intruded on and that took a bit of getting used to. Also, we five gappers who had been living together for three months were now split up into our own separate tipis. Prising us apart was a difficult feat!

Different schools came for four school days like in the winter and the programme was pretty much the same except on a much wider scale. We filled the main lodge at meal times and it seemed a lot more hectic somehow. We also slept in the tipis with our group of kids (except now we had smaller groups of only eight children per tipi) so our time away from them was minimal. All would have run pretty smoothly if the rain hadn't come. I'm pretty used to the rain, after living in Manchester all my life, but when it rains constantly for about a month and you're living outside,

morale soon starts to falter (especially with a group of ten year-olds). Sitting by a fire desperately trying to dry kids' soaking shoes every night meant we spent the rest of our time trying to keep everyone as dry as possible. Then the tipis started leaking...

When the end of the spring season came we were all ready for our two weeks off; except it wasn't really two weeks because one week was taken up with wilderness first aid training. We had to know how to make a leg splint out of a branch and a bit of handy string, what to do when a mother bear and her cub get in your way (or you're in their way!) or how to fend off an angry Australian when you've just explained why the British are fundamentally superior to them! In our second week off the five of us Gap Girls (our name to the entire camp!) got on the bus and went to Vancouver, in British Columbia; the nicest place in the world to live, apparently. We spent a day or two seeing Vancouver city then hopped on a ferry to Vancouver Island and travelled on a bus to Tofino, the Canadian surfing capital. We decided to buy a cheap tent and camp out to save on money but realised shortly afterwards that we didn't have sleeping bags or mats. Those nights were not the most comfortable of nights, but it was great fun sleeping by the beach and relaxing during the day. We were not looking forward to the 20 hour bus journey back until we found a much more fun alternative. The five of us chipped in the money and bought an 18-year old Toyota Tercel with a broken window. The three of us with driving licences took it in turns to drive back to camp, stopping at Whistler and Jasper on the way. I will never forget the looks on everyone's faces back at camp when we got out of the car.

When we got back it was straight into a week's training for summer camp. Instead of having to look after your group on your own you got assigned a partner to take the pressure off a little, because now you had a group for two weeks at a time, with only one full day off in between each session. It was very exhausting. We lead fun activities such as horse riding, rock climbing, overnight hikes, swimming in the lake

and any other spontaneous activities you could think of, and, trust me, with those kinds of attention spans you had to be quick on your feet. At the end of every two weeks the whole camp had a night off and the hundreds of staff would all pile into one bar in the nearest town, and, through exhaustion and lack of socialisation, just take over! The summer flew by very quickly and we all got more and more tired (more tired in fact than I had previously thought it possible to be without actually being asleep).

I couldn't believe it when it was time for me to pack up my belongings and say goodbye to people who I had spent the last seven months with. The thought of going back to England was frightening in itself. I wasn't quite sure how I would slot back into life with my old friends and family again. Waving goodbye to a phase of my life which could never be repeated and to people who I probably would never see again was very upsetting. But here I am, writing this report and looking back at photos not quite believing what I achieved.

My Canada experience already seems very far away and now I'm thinking about when I can get to Australia for my next big adventure.



Betty Kenyon and Pam Brown present
Sophie with her travel scholarship

THE DOROTHY LESTER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP - How it all began

Miss Dorothy Lester was Headmistress of the Girls School in 1954 until retiring in 1979. Miss Lester was much loved by her 'girls' and the Old Girls Association wanted to create a fitting and lasting memorial to her; Miss Lester loved to travel and so it was decided in 2002 that a travel scholarship was to be set up in her name.

The Dorothy Lester Travel Scholarship is open to all girls in the Upper and Lower VI. The girls have to submit, as part of their application a detailed travel plan which shows initiative, enterprise and the educational value of the trip.

The girl can be travelling alone or part of a group either abroad or here in the UK; the expedition should be in the main organised by the girl concerned and not part of a 'package holiday' or other such standard trips organised by a travel firm.



The selection is made by the Old Girls Association Committee and asks that the chosen girl produce a report or presentation of her travel experiences.



THE DOROTHY LESTER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2005

My Australian Gap Project Georgina Bolton

Dear Mrs. Kenyon, OGA and Mrs. Georgiou,

G'day from a not-so-sunny Melbourne Down Under! This is Georgina Bolton, winner of the 2005 Dorothy Lester Travel Scholarship. I've now been in Australia for 3^{1/2} months, with only 6 weeks left at my school placement in Melbourne. I'm at a grammar school called Carey Baptist Grammar School, a co-ed school of around 2000 students ranging from kindergarten up to year 12, so it is a very large and busy school!



I've been spending a lot of my time in the junior school with classes ranging from prep - year 4, mainly as a classroom assistant, helping students with their work, whatever that might be or doing odd jobs for the teacher. I also do a lot of work in the middle school - mainly in PE lessons. I really enjoy PE lessons, as I take more of an 'active role' in these lessons, though sometimes it can prove quite challenging. Only last week I had to teach a group of year 9 kids how to high jump although never having done it myself and only having seen one short 5min video on it! The kids seemed to understand what I was talking about luckily! In middle school I also work with a few year 7 boys in the Learning Skills Unit, where specific kids will come and get help with their work if they are struggling. This work I find particularly enjoyable as I'm working on a one-to-one basis with them and it's very rewarding helping them with things they don't understand or find difficult and suddenly once you've explained it to them a different way they start to understand whatever it might be! I've had to try and recall as much GCSE maths as I can remember and Pythagoras's theorem seems to crop up a lot! I've also become very familiar with the book 'Holes' as several of them are reading it! Another major aspect of school life at Carey is extra curricular activities. The school is very strict in making sure every year 7-12 student takes part in extra curricular sport activities, something I think every school should really implement! Last year I helped with the year 10 tennis team and this year I am helping to coach one of the year 10 netball teams. Outdoor Camps also play a large part of school at Carey, and in fact in a lot of schools in Australia from what I have gathered, as Australia is so big on being outdoors, and participating in sports etc. The school has a camp in the Gippsland lakes in eastern Victoria, about 4 hours east of Melbourne. Students ranging from years 4-10 all take part in some sort of camp each year, which all emphasize outdoor activities and the appreciation of the surrounding environment. Particularly in junior school, camps build up the students' skills in camping and living in the outdoors in preparation for middle/senior school camps. So far, I have been on 2 year 7 camps, one in February and the other recently in April. Some of the activities include sailing, canoeing and raft building/racing. For 3 days we went on expedition - 'expo' and started off by canoeing across Lake Victoria, a distance of about 8km to get to our first campsite. The kids are all taught how to setup their tents, how to waterproof and pack their backpacks effectively, how to build a fire and cook their food using billys and trangeas and most importantly, 'eco-friendliness' and the consequences of camping and human impact on the environment. We also had a hike along 90 Mile Beach, the longest beach in Australia, to get to our 2nd nights campsite. On that night we had to be up at 4am to pack up our tents and backpacks so we could get the boat back to camp in time to watch the sunrise - a beautiful experience! I rather think the kids would have preferred to sleep in though, rather than watch the sunrise! I have found going on these camps by far my favourite part of my time at school so far, being such an outdoors person myself! In about 2 weeks I'm going on a year 4 camp to Sovereign Hill, a country town in north east Victoria. Camps I find are a great way to get to know the kids better, something that is otherwise quite hard to do in the classroom environment. The school holidays gave me a chance to get away from Melbourne for a couple of weeks. I went up to Adelaide for a short time then across to Sydney, the hi-light of which was definitely seeing circular quay and the harbour front (where the opera house and bridge are) for the first time at night all lit up - it was so beautiful! Also another hi-light was actually climbing Sydney Harbour Bridge, a truly unforgettable experience and very high! I returned to Melbourne just in time to see the end weekend of the Commonwealth Games, managing to see the penultimate night of the athletics and the closing ceremony which was absolutely fantastic! I was also lucky to be able to get over to Western Australia to Perth on the Easter weekend, a few weeks later after the holidays, - a very long way for such a short period of time, but make the most of your opportunities I say! Just think how far you can get from the UK in Europe on a 4^{1/2} hour plane trip and I'd only just made it to the west coast of Australia! It just goes to show how incredibly vast Australia is! Melbourne is such an awesome city, it has so much to do and see and there's always something going on here, whether it be the Australian Open tennis, the Australian Grand Prix or the Commonwealth Games. At the moment the city is full of funny people as it's the Melbourne International Comedy festival, so the city is once again buzzing! I feel very lucky to have been placed at such a great school and area and Carey and Melbourne both feel very much like home to me now, I shall be extremely sad to leave. Although, I do have 8 weeks of further travelling after to look forward to, stops being made at Ayers Rock/Alice Springs, Darwin, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef and various places down the east coast of Australia back to Melbourne. So far my time in Australia has been fantastic and I feel very lucky to have been welcomed so much into the community at Carey, not dissimilar to the feel of BGS. I would like to thank the Old Girls Association once again for helping me achieve my gap year in Australia, though it is very much far from over.

OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Margaret Nisbet (nee Vickery) 1930s, wrote to tell us of the death of her sister Ruth. Margaret is in her 90s. She writes "We were both pupils during Miss Neild's headship and have been proud of all that BGS stood for".

Mandy Alexiou (nee Rowson) married in 1994. She has two children, Charlie, 5 and Sophia, 2. She is a Free-lance Occupational Psychologist and lives in Banstead, Surrey.

Deborah Anderton (nee Allen) and Jeanette Lewis (nee Allen) 1985. The twins had a double wedding in May 2005; Jeanette's husband is an Old Boy, Guy Lewis. Deborah is a Senior Business Analyst at CWS and Jeanette is an Auditor working for the Audit Commission. They both love to ski, yacht and motor boat.

Helen Blanchflower (nee Tunstall) 1985, lives in Bamford and works as a free-lance food service consultant as well as running a property rental business.

Helen Bradshaw (nee Montgomery) 1985, married in 1990 and has two children, Danielle and Jacob. She is a Management Accountant and lives in Haslingden now.

Angelique Bret 1990, was married in Spain in May last year. She is still working in London but will eventually move to Ilkley where her husband works for his family's business.

Michelle Bret 1992, will be married to Christian in Rochdale in July of this year.

Kathryn Cain (nee Hardman) left school in 1996. She went on to study Music, Business Studies and Art. She married Gordon Cain in 1998. She now has two boys, Jordan and Connor. At the moment she is running her own hairdressing business. The family are making arrangements to emigrate to Australia.

Anna-Jane Casey 1983, was part of the "brilliantly slick and accomplished" production of "Sunday in the Park with George" a musical about George Seurat's theory of pointillism and his painting La Grand Jatte. Anna-Jane plays Dot, Seurat's Parisian mistress. The Sondheim production has two parts. In the first Seurat obsessively creates his masterpiece in Paris with a series of vignettes bringing the figures to life, especially his pregnant, working-class, mistress, Dot. Dot runs off to America, exasperated by Seurat's inability to engage emotionally. The second part is set in the 1990s and focuses on Seurat's fictitious great grand-son, a young artist who inherits a book of his ancestor's jottings. In a reverie he encounters Dot and through her is reconciled to the competing claims of messy real life and pure aesthetics. Anna-Jane Casey is described as "delightful" as Dot in this great show for Sondheim fans.

Telegraph Arts section review by Rupert Christiansen.



Anna-Jane Casey as Dot
And Daniel Evans as
George Seurat

Liz Cheetham (nee Tomlinson) 1967, is now a Health and Safety Consultant, specialising in the Printing Industry. She lives in Holcombe Brook. She comes from a family with 5 generations at BGS. Her father and her uncle were both Old Boys and her mother Margaret Tomlinson, left the girls' school in 1937. Margaret and Harold Tomlinson are in their 80s and live in Greenmount. Harold, former Managing Director of the Bury Times, still plays golf. He joined the Bury Times after the war and became General Manager, taking over as Managing Director when the owner died. Margaret worked in insurance for A.C.Rose in Manchester. The couple met travelling to Manchester from Holcombe Brook by bus. Their granddaughter, Liz's daughter, Kathryn Cheetham 1993, is now a buyer for PC World.

Fiona Cooper 1980, went up to Manchester to read Medicine, winning a junior scholarship. In 1990 she joined General Practice becoming Senior Partner in 1996. Fiona moved to Palliative Medicine in 2002 at Springfield Hospice in Rochdale and became Medical Director in 2004. She still lives in Rochdale.

Claire Duckworth 1999, is now Principal second violinist with the London Philharmonic based at the Royal Festival Hall. She has a flat in London. In January she played with the Halle as guest Principal second violin.

Margaret Dunne (nee Davenport) 1952-59 works from home providing specialised tuition to children needing help with basic literacy or numeracy, or wanting preparation for examinations such as the 11+. She has a small purpose built schoolroom attached to the house and finds the activity extremely absorbing and rewarding. She has been a magistrate for more than 20 years and currently sits on the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Bench. She sits weekly in the Criminal court but specialises in Family work. She was Chairman of the Rossendale Family Panel, following amalgamation became Chairman of the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Panel and since December 2004 has been Chairman of the newly formed East Lancashire Panel, which also takes in Magistrates from Blackburn, Darwen and Hyndburn.

Helen Eldon (nee Crawley) 1985, lives in Enfield, Middlesex. She is married with two girls and is a part-time General Practitioner.

Chrissie Gittins 1963 - 72, read her short story, "Between here and Knitwear" on BBC Radio 4 on Dec 22nd 2005 as part of a week of stories with a twist. This one had a most unexpected twist! Her radio play "Dinner with the Iguanodon" went out on January 11th, also on Radio 4. It was set in Crystal Palace Prehistoric Monster Park and led up to the seven course dinner which was held in the mold of the iguanodon on New Year's Eve in 1853. (I commend Chrissie's work to any who have not heard it yet and also recommend her Children's "Now you See me, Now You" details on her web site, www.chrissiegittins.co.uk)

Vidhu Gupta 1996, is a Dentist in London.



Sara Harrison (nee Renwick) 1985, married in 1989 and has two children, 15 and 8. She qualified as a nurse in 1988 and gained an MSc in 2005. She is a ward manager at Fairfield General Hospital.

Lesley Haworth 1980 - 88, was made a partner at Hammonds Solicitors in London in May 2005. Her department is Commercial Property. She took her degree at Brunel University and followed that up at Law School in York. Her mother writes "Thank you BGS for the grounding which instilled the right attitude in doing your very best and achieving your goals."

Eleanor Heatley 1996, entered a career in law after her work experience with Ashley Murray (old boy and former Governor of the schools), barrister on the Liverpool Circuit of Oriol Chambers in Liverpool. She has now passed the bar exam and is currently seconded to Brussels as part of an international scholarship, funded by the European Palais de Justice.

Carol Hunt (nee Jones), 1974 lives in Manley, outside Chester and has been married for 28 years. She has two grown-up children, Daniel, 25 living in London and Jessica, 23 in Inverness so Carol spends plenty of time travelling. She has been teaching for 27 years but now that the family have moved away she is cutting down on work to allow more time for leisure and relaxation - well that is the intention!

Enid Hunt (nee Fairhurst), graduated in 2004 with an MSt (Master of Studies) in local and Regional History at Cambridge University. This has involved two years part-time study at the Institute of Continuing Education. I found writing the first essay extremely daunting as it was forty years since I did my first degree. My interest in the subject evolved from family history research, and my dissertation, Social and Economic Change in Bassingham, Lincolnshire, 1851 - 1901, was based on the village where my grandmother grew up before moving to Manchester. I am still engaged in family history research, and sing in two choirs in North London.

Natasha Hutton 1992 - 2000, began studying at BGS in the final year of the Junior School. Her goal was always to be a doctor one day and she qualified as an MB ChB from the University of Dundee in May 2005. She took up a post as a Junior Doctor at Perth Royal Infirmary in August 2005.

Anna Jacobs (nee Anne Sheridan) 1959, article, written for Lancashire Life, is included as a separate item in the record. It explains how her Lancashire roots continue to inspire her as she writes, thousands of miles away in Australia.

Valerie Jackson (nee Jones) 1976, lives in Derbyshire, is married and has a daughter called Megan, now 11 years old. Valerie works as a Training Consultant in the insurance industry. She has her own training company. She is still in touch with Barbara Harrod (nee Jack) 1976, who lives and works in London as a PA.

Stephanie Jackson 2000, is living at home while she studies for her PGCE. Her teaching practice was at Bolton Girls School.

Shona Kerfoot 1994, has just completed a Masters in Human Resources Management and gained UPD status. She lives and works in Manchester.

Cheryl Kershaw (nee Lyons) 1985, married in 1995 and has two children, Amy 7 and Adam 2. She lives in Worsley and is an

Accountant.

Judith Lightfoot (nee Marsland) 1985, was married in 1995. She has a BSc Mechanical Engineering from UMIST and has worked for BNFL since university. She is now Systems Auditor and lives in Blackpool.

Kirsty Lord 1995, graduated from Cambridge with a degree in Geography in 1998 and then worked for a management consultancy in London and Boston for 3 years. After this she joined GlaxoSmith Kline where she has been for 5 years and now works as the portfolio manager for Respiratory and Neuroscience drugs. She recently bought a new house in west London with her boyfriend and spends her spare time helping with her local Brownie Pack, learning Spanish (passing her GCSE last year!) and planning holidays. Her most recent trip was to India.

Claire Lovell (nee Taylor) 1998. Life is going well. Since leaving BGS I have completed an M.A. in Engineering. I've got married and travelled around Australia and Thailand for 6 months. Then I started work at Rolls Royce, Derby. Now I've set up home in Alfreton, Derbs. At the moment I am an engineer at R.R. designing civil and military aircraft engines and in parallel completing a doctorate.

Helen Martin 1995, who married in December 2003 and is now Helen Finney, gave birth to a son, Joseph Robert, on July 2nd 2005. Helen and her husband Andrew have recently moved to Ramsbottom. She continues to work part time as a chartered accountant but is enjoying life as a parent very much.

Elizabeth Maudesly 1992, returned from Australia, where she had been for almost two years, in August, to take a Modern Languages PGCE. After her graduation she worked first in London and then went to Bolivia to work for a charitable organisation, making a website of artisans amongst other things. She learned economic Spanish and spent some time in rural area of the country.

Sarah Mayne (nee Woodward) now has a daughter, Natasha Emily, born on February 7th 2006. Her son, Jacob, will be three in July 2006. Sarah is planning to return to full time work in September. She is still with KPMG as an assistant manager and has a group of clients for whom she organises their audits.

Lenka McNutt, married to Angus Burnett on April 22nd, 2006

Tara McNutt, married to Stefan Bedelian on September 3rd 2005.

(Spotted in Lancashire Magazine, the wedding of sisters who are both Old Girls.)



Patricia Metcalfe (nee Brierley) 1967, lives in Ainsworth and her daughter, Jane Carroll (nee Metcalfe) 1992 lives nearby in Tootington.

Taryn Mitchell 1994, has just returned to work from maternity leave after the birth of her second child, a son, Kal, in December 2004. She is now back living in Littleborough having bought her parents family house!

Virginia Ruth Nuttall (nee Taylor) 1955, thanks Betty Kenyon for arranging the tables for the lunch. She found herself sitting opposite Joan Wilkinson (nee Hill) 1940, who remembered taking Virginia's sisters Pat Taylor and Judith Taylor and other members of the tribe from Heywood on the train to Bury during the war. She remembered seeing Ruth in her pram! Sheila Catterall (nee Morris) 1945, remembered coming to the Taylor house in Heywood to parties with Ruth's sisters and cousins. Because Ruth left the area when she was 18, it was quite a surprise to meet people who knew of her childhood. A very pleasant one.

Lindsay Roche (nee Pickston) 1985, left school after completing her O levels. She went onto Peel College and Sheffield University to study Mechanical Engineering. Lindsay currently works for Westinghouse as a Business Improvement Leader. She is married to Nick and lives in Garstang near Lancaster with their two boys Cameron 8 and Sebastian 5.

Lynne Rowlinson (nee Rainbow) 1985, was married in 1991 and has two children, Matthew 10 and Joshua 8. Both boys go to BGS boys. Lynne is an Accountant, joint partner in their own practice with her husband, David. Helen Blanchflower is the childrens' Godmother.

Christian Robson 1989, gave birth to twin sons during 2005. Her parents, John (former headmaster of BGS) and Ruth are thrilled.

Freya Shindler 1985, married in 1994 and has two children, Georgia, 8 and Nath, 6. She qualified as a pharmacist but now works in television.

Katharine Skinner married Henry Brace at Hertford College chapel, Oxford on September 3rd 2005. They met at Hertford College in 1995 when she was a fresher and he was in his second year. They now live and work in London and are both in the world of finance. Katharine works for Catella, as asset/wealth management group which is Swedish. She has been dealing with specialised tax and investments of sports stars, mainly golf, but also she has some clients in motor racing and modelling. She has been promoted to a new management team taking the business forward into other areas such as entertainment. She really loves the job. Henry works in the corporate finance department of BT. He is in charge of investor relations and communications and authorises all financial press releases for the Chief Exec.

Anne Slater 1938 - 44, wrote to tell us of the death of her friend Jean Walker (nee Bailey). She remembers that the London Branch of the OGA was disbanded during the war. After the war it was decided to start again and she went with Miss Taylor, Miss Hepworth and Jean down to London, to the Russell Hotel for a reunion and dinner. Margaret Bridges (nee Acroyd), was living in Worthing at that time and came to London to meet them.

Carol Soesan (nee Warburton) 1974, has been married to Phillip (a member of the Ambulance Service) for 28 years. They have two children, Jonathan, 27, a manager in the Leisure Sector and Caroline, 25, a teacher of RE. Carol has been Bursar at Philips High School in Whitefield for the last 15 years. She enjoys singing in her church choir and dancing in her spare time. She is also a Governor of the School.

Roberta Szourou 1960-67, I was a pupil at BGS from 1960 to 1967 when Miss Lester was headmistress. I went on to get an honours degree and I have lived in France since graduation at Nottingham. Today I teach communication to computer science students at Grenoble University and will shortly be opening a Chambres d'hotels (Bed and Breakfast) for English and American businessmen and scientists who come to Grenoble. I feel I have a rich and varied life and BGS needn't be ashamed of me!

Fay Tattersall 1999, is now Fay Park-Wesley and finishes her training in 2006. She plans three months in Australia.

Ethelwyn Taylor (nee Warburton) 1955 has just become a grandparent for the 9th time. The latest one, a boy who hails from Scotland.

Helen Thomas 1996 took a degree in Chemistry at Liverpool and is now a chartered accountant in Liverpool.

Alison Thorpe 1993-8, is on her way to becoming a clinical psychologist. Since graduating from Lancaster University, Alison has achieved an MSc distinction in psychological research methods and is working as a trainee clinical psychologist. She hopes to have a career within the NHS in the Manchester area. Alison Thorpe is currently doing her doctorate in Psychology and is working at Manchester Royal Infirmary where she is fulfilled and challenged in dealing with very disturbed adults.

Rosalind Thorpe, has completed her degree in management and Business studies at Salford University. She has a place on the Law Conversion course at Manchester University and intends to do her BVC and pupillage in order to become a barrister. During this summer she is gaining experience with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Sam Ward (nee Smith), has been married to Colin for 14 years. She heads up marketing for a toy company, Smoby, in Bristol. Currently they live in Newbury enjoying socialising, cooking, going to the gym and avoiding children!

Sally Wilkinson 1996 is a chartered accountant working for K.P.M.G. in Manchester after her Leeds degree in Bio-technology.

Mandy Williams (nee Caplan) 1980, graduated in Medicine from the University of Nottingham in 1985. She did her post-graduate training in Manchester and has been a partner in a General Practice in Crumpsall since 1989. She is now Senior Partner in a practice of three doctors. She met Mike, a pharmacist from Leeds, in 1990, marrying a year later. They have three children, Marc in year 8 at BGS, Helena in year 7 of the Girls' School and Andrew in Year 6 at King David High School. Mandy is helping with Guides again.

Helen Wright 1991, lives in London and is a branch manager with Blossom Hill (Wine).

Jennie Wright 1998, also lives in London and is an account manager for Mind Matrix (Media Marketing).

Susan Wright 1967, is a team leader with Connexions Lancashire (Positive activities for Young People)

Deborah Yates 1985, was a nurse for five years and is now a solicitor. She lives in Manchester with two cats.



A Letter and some Photos from Cassie Seddon (2004) from China in June 2005

Hello! Photos of my school, showing some of my students doing their morning exercises (note how many students I have - 1200). The second photo is the back of the school. I teach all classes on the first, second and third floors. My office is on the fifth floor but I don't spend much time there as I am usually playing basketball or ping-pong with students. The third photo is me with some of my Grade 2 Class 4 students.



Forms of discipline in the school involve standing students in the playground all day, or in the offices..... making them run errands and things. More serious discipline involves hitting the students and I have seen one teacher actually beat up his students, kicking and punching them till they were crying out in pain. This was not a nice sight at all but the teachers tell me there is no other way they can discipline the boys in one class, (my Grade 2 Class7), because they have broken one of the rules. This class is 80% boys and they are, apart from about 5, always in trouble with different teachers. I am lucky that they like me and so are not really naughty with me, sometimes jokingly a bit rude, which livens up the class!!

Now I have three Grade 1 classes. I think this lesson I am going to get them to design their own treasure island with buried treasure and then get them to write how to find the treasure on the island. I am lucky that they love drawing things, so in most lessons, after teaching them new words, I get them to draw or design something related to what I have taught. This doesn't work with the Grade 2s though. They are too "cool" to draw things or even to let on that they are listening in class.

It is really scary how quickly this year has flown by and I am quite sad that I only have a month left. I will miss the students though not having to think up lesson plans.

A Guardian Article on immigrant success, in August 2005, featured Lisa Tse, 1997

"An approach based on cultural values of hard work and getting the family to pull together is familiar to Lisa" they wrote. "With her sisters, Lisa, 27, recently launched Sweet Mandarin, a glamorous cocktail bar and modern Chinese restaurant in Manchester's arty Northern Quarter. She was inspired by her formidable grandmother, Lily Kwok, who made the journey from Hong Kong to Middleton and started a restaurant in the 50s with her two children including Lisa's mother, Mabel. 'We started helping out when we were very young', Lisa says. 'We got used to juggling school with working. Managing lots of things has always been part of our lives'.

Lisa feels that being born in the UK allows her to bring the best of both cultures to her business. 'An emphasis on service is the Chinese part of how we do things. In Chinese culture you don't complain, you just work hard. You are also taught to treat people with kindness and respect. I try to integrate that with Western management techniques where you empower people in their workplace'.

Lisa gave up her job in finance to start Sweet Mandarin. She and her sister, Janet both cook in the kitchen and she had just returned from a trade mission to China. Just eight months from launch the sisters have created four full-time jobs and have set up a partnership with Manchester College of Arts and Technology to offer student placements. They have also instigated heavily-discounted meal-deals on Sundays to encourage local people to meet and help create a safer, friendlier neighbourhood.

Sweet Mandarin is already looking at franchise options, aware that two to three years ahead when every hip and trendy business is renting office space in the currently derelict warehouses of Manchester's Northern Quarter, her investment of time, passion and financial risk is likely to pay off big time."



Lisa Tse

Letter from Oz from Anna Jacobs (BGS Anne Sheridan, 1959)

When I submitted my first novel set in Lancashire to my publisher, I sent an explanatory letter which said "Lancashire made me" to show why a woman living in Australia could write a regional tale set in the north of England. My husband has always said that being a Lancashire lass is an integral part of my character, and something he (a southerner) loves in me. So it's no surprise that I continue to write sagas and modern novels set in my home country, even though I live so far away.

I was born in Rochdale as Anne Sheridan, was educated first at Spotland Primary School and then at Bury Grammar School. I'm definitely "Lancashire made".

When I was small, we lived in various two-up, two-down houses in terraces first built to house mill workers. My maternal grandparents lived in a back-to-back house with a shared lavatory across the joint back-yard. For treats in summer my granddad or aunt would take me for walks on the moors. I still go there often in my imagination.

I exploited this background in my first saga "Salem Street". It began when I was sitting on top of a double-decker bus with my mother, going to book my wedding in Oldham (by then my parents had moved to a bungalow in Shaw). I looked out of the bus window and saw a short street called Salem Street and said, "What a good name for a book! I wonder what the people were like who first lived there?"

I never forgot it and two decades later began to write the story of an imaginary back street of the same name. It had eight narrow terraced houses set in the shadow of the mill wall and my heroine, Annie Gibson, was the first child born there. The book was published in 1994 and it has sold steadily ever since and still regularly reprints. It's the first of five novels about Annie Gibson. So Lancashire made me in another way; as an author.

I wasn't as proud of my home country as I am now until I studied its social and local history myself (not the sort of boring political history of England we studied at school). I'm especially interested in what daily life was like for working class people in the past.

The more I study Lancashire history the prouder I get, and not just about the history of cotton. Many people know vaguely that my home town of Rochdale was the birthplace of the co-operative movement, but they don't usually realise that it's famous world-wide and visited by tourists and students from as far away as Japan. There is a fascinating museum in that first shop, which is all that now remains of Toad Lane. My husband was astounded that the museum has to scratch for funding. It's so important in world history!

I have a connection to Toad Lane, too. My parental grandpa had a barber's shop a few houses down from the museum and I used to play on the little wall outside it as a child. It was a wall to me then but it's more like a doorstep in height. I used to peer into the dusty windows, but never dared to go inside.

A few years ago, when my husband and I were taking part in a TV series on house-swapping, we were filmed going round the museum and I was invited to sign the guest book. Not just any guest book, but the first one from 1848 that only special visitors like the Queen can sign. The TV crew were delighted to catch me in tears of joy over that. I'm so proud to be included in that special book.

My favourite part of Lancashire's history is the reaction of many towns to the cruel new Poor Law of 1834, which required life in a workhouse to be worse than the worst conditions outside it, to discourage pauperism. That would mean half-starving the inmates and treating them cruelly. Quite a few towns refused to implement it, including, among other towns, Todmorden, where the mill owner Fielden led the resistance for decades, until eventually the Poor Laws were softened.

How can anyone fail to be proud of a country where that happened? Naturally I put it in one of my books "Threepenny Dreams", where my heroine is unfairly locked up in the local poorhouse and has only her dreams to sustain her till she can escape and make a new life for herself.

On one of our trips to the UK, I took my husband round my favourite places in what I call "the border country": the moors between Lancashire and Yorkshire. He hadn't realised how beautiful parts of the country are. My ancestors came from Walsden and Todmorden, so we visited the little graveyard at Cross Stones, high above Todmorden, looking for my great-grandmother, Anne Gibson's grave. (Yes, I had used her name for the heroine of my first saga.)

Sadly we didn't find the actual grave, everything was so overgrown. However, standing on top of the moors with a wind "withering" round tumbled gravestones is an experience we haven't forgotten. I can't understand why the moors and the narrow valleys in which such little villages nestle are not more famous. They are beautiful in a stark uncompromising way. I used them particularly in my novels "Calico Road", "Like No Other" and "Down Weavers Lane", and I will no doubt continue to use them.

I emigrated to Western Australia 30 years ago, seeking a warmer climate and a better life for my family. Our personal circumstances there allowed me to achieve my dream of becoming a novelist, but it is northern sagas set in Lancashire that I mainly write and will continue to write, and this enables me to revisit my roots when I return every two years.

I wish now that I could live in both places at once and not need a 24 hour plane journey to reach home. I grow quite homesick for Lancashire at times. It is still my place.





Article from Kathleen Chapman (nee Bell)

BGS 1949-56

After training at U.C.H London as an S.R.N, I married a doctor who happily practised medicine in rural Norfolk for thirty years during what he describes as 'the best of times'. He was regrettably forced into early retirement due to pain from a progressively damaged nerve in his spine.

After 6 months working as Staff Nurse on Casualty at Macclesfield Infirmary, we started our family and we have one son and three daughters. Sadly our youngest daughter Carolyn, died from cancer 4 years ago. We are blessed with 7 grandchildren, 4 boys and 3 girls including Beth, Caro's daughter, who lives with her Daddy in Florida and with whom I recently had the unutterable pleasure of swimming with dolphins. These children are a constant delight to us and I am now known as "Groovy Gran"! I think this stems from the time when I rode behind my son-in-law on his 900cc motor bike and my fervent support of Norwich City Football Club!

Of course, I was a G.P's wife in the days when wives were tied to the telephone and it was an asset being a nurse. I must have saved my husband countless house-calls over the years and was able to reassure hundreds of patients which, in itself, was hugely satisfying. I ran a clinic for three years - a bolt hole for patients with anxiety and/or depression. I had to stop when my husband had a spinal operation and our three girls all decided to get married within as many years! Something had to go and sadly it was the clinic. (I was recovering from M.E. at the time) Phill's retirement mercifully coincided with the arrival of grandchildren. He was also able to walk in the Lake District (his spiritual home), become very much more active within his Rotary Club and we both took up Bowls - a very healthy and sociable pastime!

Our main hobby all our married life has been the Theatre, on both sides of the curtain, so therapeutic apart from anything else. We belonged to various amateur Opera Companies, Oratoria singers and I often 'guest sing' with the Male Voice Choir to which Phil belonged. My desire to perform waned drastically after Caro became ill in 1997 and now we just sing with the church choir and another local mixed choir. Only once have I been persuaded to sing solo since that time. Even Phill telling me it was the best he'd heard me sing doesn't lure me back. I'm happy to be entertained these days and foster the love of theatre in our grandchildren at every opportunity.

Our lives were rather put on hold in 1997 as we were always awaiting the next call to Fort Lauderdale to help out. We joined a huge and wonderful church choir out there who became our 'family away from home' and we were always greeted with such love and warmth - not more so than when we visited, un-announced, this Spring to see Beth and Tim.

About 40 choir members attended and sang at Caro's funeral in 2002 - even though many of them were flying out that day to the UK for a concert tour.

During those awful 5 years, I found I was given the time, not only to paint about a dozen water-colours but to compose the music and lyrics for 'NATIVITY' which was performed at our church and made £2,600.00 for charity. I also had the words published in a book illustrated by an artist friend of ours. It was dedicated to Carolyn and I'm happy to say that she was able to see the finished article.

Since Caro's death I have written a monologue "Beth's Story" which has been performed on Radio Norfolk as well as at small theatre venues. I want to publish that too, as it may help bereaved children. I am in the throes of writing two books. One, 'Maybe Later' is Carolyn's story. I kept diaries but I have had to stop for a while as re-living became too painful. I am determined to finish it one day. The other is a novel based on autobiography - much more light-hearted I hope reflecting my sense of humour! It was to be called 'Daisies in December' for very pertinent reasons - but I find it has already been used and I can't afford a court case!

To the amazement of my friends, as they discovered I was a covert fan of Norwich City Football Club, I bought a season ticket and sit with my eldest granddaughter at all Home games. Phil doesn't share my enthusiasm, so Away matches are a 'no-no' really. The camaraderie at this ground is great and people who normally sit near me came down to the touch line to see me in my wheelchair after I had broken my ankle walking in Madeira in December. I was welcomed back on the terraces, with crutches, with "Its good to see you back after your mid-season injury!" Lovely!

After Caro's death we had time to notice our own ills and following excruciating back pain which has sort of crept up on me I had to undergo an operation for spinal stenosis. The result was pretty good. I have been left with some sciatica and two pretty numb feet, but at least I can walk again.

I regularly attend reunions - both school and Hospital and I thoroughly recommend them. The years fall away and we realise that the experiences of our youth help to forge firm and very dear friendships. As I look around BGS I fervently wish that my daughters and granddaughters could have known the immeasurable gift of attending this school. I always look back with such affection to my years spent there where I managed to pass my O and A levels despite the many distractions of singing, acting and playing sport. I thank Miss Morris and Miss Shuttleworth in particular, for their encouragement and Miss Hoyle for my life long interest in painting.

It is 50 years since I left the 6th Form and began my nursing training. I can't quite believe it. But at 68 I feel just the same inside as I did at 18 - but with a whole wealth of experience at my fingertips. Is 'youth wasted on the young?' Not so much nowadays I feel. The opportunities are legion today, but I'd love to have the energy I had then, added to the knowledge I have now. We'd be a formidable cohort then, wouldn't we girls?

Raise your glasses! Here's to the next century.

SOME FAMILY HISTORY

Mrs.A. Judith Smith (nee Whittaker)

My "honorary" aunt, Mamie Eckersall, formerly Burns (nee Smith) died on 3.2.05 aged 90, in a nursing home in Edinburgh, where she had lived many years. Mamie taught in the prep department at BGS in the 1940s (we are not sure of the exact dates) firstly as Mrs Burns. John Burns was killed in action over Libya in 1941. Whilst at BGS (she taught Form 2) she married Harry Eckersall in 1948. She left (probably at the end of the Easter term 1949) to have her first son Martin who was born in June 1949.

Helen Craig was appointed to take her place, but there was a hiatus, and my mother Gladys Whittaker (still alive, also 90 and going strong) took her place for a term (or maybe a bit longer!) My mother also did some supply for Miss Smale in the senior school, but that would be some time before 1952 and after 1949. I went into Form 1 (Miss Hamilton, also still alive but as

you probably know, in a nursing home) in 1952 and my mother never taught there whilst I was a pupil.

My mother and Mamie were lifelong friends from their schooldays at Bury High School.

I was at BGS from 1952 to 1961, leaving after 2 terms in Lwr XI to take a job in a library. I qualified as a librarian, eventually becoming a Fellow of the Library Association, and finished as Area Librarian at Bolton Libraries in 1994, to devote myself to my "other" job as County Bird Recorder for Greater Manchester, which I took on in 1952. One of my colleagues in this is John Butterworth, whose mother Mrs Butterworth (nee Worrall) also taught in the prep department at some stage in the 1940s or 50s. I enjoyed our class reunion in 2001, which was very well attended thanks to Alison Mortlock's hard work in tracing almost everyone.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF BGS

Valerie Day (nee Pemberton) 1941-48

My first recollection of B.G.S was of Miss Perigo's room and the sofa. I don't know why so many of my generation remember it. I must have sat on it only once, when I was interviewed for a scholarship. Perhaps it was the coal fire and the room seemed more like a sitting room than a study to an 11 year old.

I enjoyed school despite the fact that I was sometimes in trouble and had a tendency to skimp homework and had to face the consequences. To keep us up to scratch we had a system known as 'fornightlies'. All our work was given the following notation:- VG (very good 5 marks), G (good 4 marks), VF (very fair 3 marks), F (fair 2 marks), and P (poor 1 mark). A plus or minus could be added eg. VF+ indicated 3 1/2 marks. Form teachers had the job of collecting the marks and producing a form list - highest to lowest - which Miss Perigo read out in the classroom every two weeks. Her gowned appearance at the door could cause consternation. Would we be found wanting?

Despite having far fewer material goods than girls today we were a very honest society. There were no lockers, games kit was left in racks in the games room and coats and shoes in the cloakroom. Only once can I remember the whole school being summoned to the Roger Kay Hall because something was missing. I can't even remember what it was about except we sat in silence hoping someone would own up.

Miss Perigo also brought the school together for a demonstration on how the school hat should be worn; given by the then Head Girl Doris Coutie. Our grey velour hats should be straight on the head - no tucks, no hat pins and no jaunty angles. Unbelievably I kept mine on with elastic under my chin until I grew old enough to know better. Hats were also worn by the 6th form and when we went on a trip to Paris.

We had 'prayers' every morning. Hymn and bible readings were put on the board and when the bell rang we filed out into

the corridor. Once out of the classroom we were not allowed to speak until we returned. We always knelt when prayers were said and this has stayed with me for life. Even now I only feel right when kneeling, although in the 6th form we did stand. The boys' school used the Roger Kay Hall first and sometimes overran their time. If there was a long wait it was trying having to stand silently. Whispering or general fidgeting could result in the culprit standing out at the front of the hall under the photograph of Miss Kitchener. On her exit Miss Perigo would stop and say a few choice words.

Another punishment was standing by the clock at the end of the top corridor. As this was opposite the stairs to the staff room and in direct view of Miss Perigo's study door it was an uncomfortable place. The clock ticked relentlessly so it was a relief when the bell went for the next lesson.

On reflection we must have been a biddable bunch of girls. Before going into the dining room for lunch we had to queue quietly along bottom corridor. When all was silent we filed in and then waited in silence behind our chairs until grace was said by the Head Girl. The year I was a prefect, prefects supervised the lunch hour. No members of staff were present. I cannot remember any insubordination. Everything appeared to flow smoothly.

As there was still rationing after the war the food was very basic and by today's standards would be considered poor. There was no choice at all and the food was dished out by prefects sitting at the end of long trestle tables.

On Founders' Day we walked, two by two, to the Parish Church. For some obscure reason many girls had new hats, pristine silver-grey with a pile. I still remember the rousing final hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God'.



REMINISCENCE By Celia Morris (nee Gelder)

While trying to tidy up the writing desk recently, I came across my School Certificate presented to me by Miss Isabel M. Laird on the 24th November, 1947 and of course, this led me back through the years to this reminiscence.

As my birthday is at the end of August, I was just 12 years old when I entered BGS Upper School in 1942 (during the 2nd World War), and I certainly remember how different I felt in my new school uniform amongst all the other new girls. It was the beginning for me of what I can now state has proved to be a splendid "comprehensive" education. In that sense I also mean a balanced education. All the standard subjects formed the timetable including French and Latin, games and music. I did not realise at the time that music was going to play such a large part in my life mainly as a "hobby". My mother had been a singer, though in the amateur sense and was keen for me to follow her as I was beginning to show some ability to sing. I had already started piano lessons at BGS during my first year there with a visiting teacher from the Northern School of Music (as it was known then) in Manchester and I remember well when I had my first singing lesson with Miss Cockburn, one of the school's music teachers, which was probably when I was in Upper VA. I was encouraged greatly by her in the different steps to achieve a degree of "relaxation" in the singing technique and this was to stand me in good stead when in years to come I was to perform as a soloist.

On leaving school in 1947 and not really being an 'academic' who could continue into sixth form and then on to University, my parents agreed to let me follow a career in the business world and sent me to Miss Wilkinson's Business College for Gentlewomen (as it was then entitled) in Manchester to learn the basic skills of shorthand, typing, simple double entry bookkeeping, to give the necessary "grounding". I was to qualify (if at all) as a "Secretary" or as today's terminology would put it "a P.A." and I cannot remember there being any failures after a gruelling six months! To my disappointment, my first commercial position was as a junior in a fairly large Sales office of the United Steel Companies (later British Steel) in Manchester, but this was only the beginning of posts in a variety of companies such as Lotus Shoes (after I married in 1952 and moved to Staffordshire) a large company in Stafford of Importers and Exporters of timber and later, after a move to East Midlands (and after we had four children in five years), I had to return to full employment which eventually led to involvement in nursing administration and finally with specialists in the field of Spinal Injuries at Stoke Mandeville Hospital - that's another story.

But throughout all this time of living and working with a growing family, my husband and I were also able to follow a musical career, albeit at amateur status, undertaking solo parts in oratorios, opera and with choral societies. I remember how I had thoroughly enjoyed taking part at first in the Junior and then senior choirs of both House and School so it seemed quite natural to seek out choral societies in the locality wherever we were living at the time. Solo parts with these societies also followed and in 1973 we moved fairly near to London when we had the opportunity to audition for one of the London choruses and by choice we joined the Philharmonic Chorus performing major choral works, often with the Philharmonic orchestra, frequently in London and some could be followed in making recordings for the commercial companies. Over these twelve years, we travelled widely in Europe too taking part in various musical Festivals in the major cities and the chorus was chosen to sing as the opera chorus for five costumed performances held in the Roman Theatre in Orange in Provence, as part of the annual Music Festival held there every summer.

My husband took early retirement in 1985 and we moved from Buckinghamshire to Cumbria and, of course, left the glory days with the Philharmonic behind, but we have continued to sing locally both with much smaller choirs and an opera company here in Cumbria (amateur of course).

So I look back over the years to a life filled with a variety of achievements, not only in an "academic" sense but also and running alongside with all that this has entailed, a wonderful musical "career". During those early years I could not have envisaged how fortunate I was to attend a school with such a broad and balanced curriculum and it is only in retrospect that I realise how important is the mix of academic subjects with sport and music to give the "pudding" the right ingredients for a successful and happy life.

May Bury Grammar School long continue to maintain and value this standard of learning ensuring all its pupils the opportunity of a rewarding and fulfilling future life.

"Jolly Hockeysticks" - a memory shared

Alas, my memories of school days at BGS (1957-1963) all seem to involve my constantly getting into trouble! Not least, is an extraordinary situation I got myself into because of my intense dread of hockey!

I could never understand how seemingly sane girls could relish charging about in all weather conditions, taking wild swipes at a lethally solid "ball" with equally lethal sticks of wood. O.K.... I know the rules state "no swinging sticks above waist high", but I swear the rules never counted on that battlefield! Such was my dread of this most dangerous situation and un-ladylike of sports that I never quite grasped why it was ever on the BGS timetable!

No....'ingenuity' was the only game this girl was going to play! I quickly resolved that if I wanted to hang onto my limbs and front teeth, I either played "goalie" or I didn't play at all! (Goalies, of course, were allowed the protection of huge cricket pads and, as a last resort if the ball came hurtling my way, I could always abandon the goal and run in the other direction). With this strategy in mind, I would race to the huge store cupboard on the bottom corridor, in the hope that I would be first to grab the cricket pads. Unfortunately, I wasn't the only one with this strategy, and whenever I lost out in the tussle for the pads, I would hang back until all girls had gone then climb into the cupboard till the coast was clear! I would then sneak off to the area behind the gym for a crafty fag to settle my nerves.

This system worked like a dream for weeks until that fateful day when after everyone had left, Miss Kilcoyne returned to collect something from the cupboard! Horror of horrors! She flung open the door to find me looking sheepish, nestled on the middle shelf! The poor woman, who had always until this point given the impression of being a little tornado, went weak at the knees, shrieked and reeled back against the opposite wall, which she proceeded to slither down! I was mortified and will never forget the sight of those bright red shorts, tanned knees and orange lipstick in such a state of flummox!

I was of course genuinely remorseful as I was whisked off to Miss Lester's study for yet another lecture on how my disgraceful behaviour had let myself, my parents and the School down. Miss Lester's 'disappointed' look was one I had come to know well. However, this time my punishment was amazingly lenient! I had to write an apology to Miss Kilcoyne in recognition of the trauma she has suffered. That's all....even I thought a stronger punishment was in order!

Who knows why I was let off so lightly? I'll never be quite sure, but as I described the horrors of hockey to her, I thought I recognised a strange look of empathy in Miss Lester's eyes? Yes.....I believe she understood!

Sue McCrimmon (nee Davenport)

REUNION LUNCH 2005

Seventeen of the class of "80" attended the annual lunch, travelling from as far away as London and Edinburgh. It was lovely to meet some of our old teachers - Miss Lunt, Mrs Riley and Mrs "Mack". We were well looked after by the current sixth formers, who were very patient with us during our tour of the school, especially when we lingered over photographs and year books in the library. We were very impressed with the extensions to the building and would never have found our way back without our guides. It was comforting to see that the form rooms, sixth form centre and "Domestic Science" rooms had hardly changed. We were all convinced that the gym had shrunk! Two of our number who now teach the piano were very interested in a glimpse back inside the music rooms.

It is now long enough since we left for quite a few people to experience changes in career/lifestyle. Some people were sending children off to University for the first time, whereas others have very young families. (Quite a few who have stayed in the Bury area have children at Bury Grammar.) Some people have stayed in academia or research. Others now run their own business or have their own medical practice. Some have now swapped office jobs for the home.

Eight of us managed to meet up again for drinks and a Chinese meal in the evening. It was great to catch up!

Pat McLanaghan (nee Timmins)

40 YEAR LEAVERS' REUNION

Over the last few years I have read accounts of 'year' reunions in the Old Girls Record and been rather surprised at the degree of emotion which seemed to be involved. Now I understand! Making contact with school friends after so long does stir the emotions - at first apprehension and maybe some confusion - but when it happens, nothing but pleasure!

Encouraged by the calm and supportive Betty Kenyon, I started, after some procrastination, trying to track down 1965 leavers in late summer 2005, for the reunion lunch on the first of October. With only a very few names to start with we managed to contact over a third of the year group as one contact led to another. Some couldn't make it at what was quite short notice and a few didn't want to return to a reunion.

So 14 of us met in a top corridor classroom, the first time most of us had been back to school and the first time many had met for 40 years! And we all instantly recognised each other. What a dramatic experience, walking along the boulevard, up to the main door, along the top corridor (now carpeted!!) and opening the still familiar classroom door to see friendly and immediately recognisable faces!! 'Girls' had come from Sussex, London, Perth, Northampton as well as points a little closer. It was hard to know where to start after so long, but we certainly managed it and were talking so much that we only just made it into the hall for the start of the reunion lunch.

What a lot of ground to cover and how interesting it was to hear what we had all been doing, some had done different jobs at different stages of life, others had pursued a single career; in the group of 14 there was probably a focus on the caring professions. The family/work balance was a recurring theme - our generation of women being probably the first to confront this in such a big way.

The Roger Kay Hall felt so familiar - although it did seem odd to be settling down to lunch and a glass of wine instead of sitting on, or stacking, those green canvas and steel chairs. And whilst some might have initially wondered about singing

the school song, doing so definitely brought a lump to everyone's throat. After a delicious lunch we managed to stop talking for a little while to hear about the school as it is today, the celebrations of 100 years of Bury Grammar School Girls in 2006 and about plans for the future. One particular aspect of interest was the now much closer co-operation between the girls' and boys' schools, extending as far as the reunion lunch. We were told that the boys would be joining us after lunch and felt a quiver of excitement as we remembered the sixth form heart throbs we had fancied from afar! The door opened and in came some smiling grey haired chaps of about our age - a timely reality check!!

The reunion left us with such positive, warm and friendly feelings that I think it will happen again. And it feels a challenge to track down more of the year that started in 1958!

Judy Lee (maiden name retained)





THE CLASS OF '36

Lilian Olivia Parr, who died in January 2004 was a member of the Class of '36. She entered Bury Grammar School in 1929 when her parents moved to Brightmet, and she remained in the same house for 76 years. It was Lilian who made it possible for the Class of '36 to remain an entity for 64 years.

When most of the class were leaving school in July 1936 (five of us remaining for a further year being too young to go to college) we decided that we wished to keep in touch with one another, and, during that summer we arranged picnics on Holcombe Hill and in Ashworth Valley, followed by meetings in local cafes and cinemas.

As Lilian, who was very deaf, was not pursuing a career and continuing to live at home with her parents, she volunteered to arrange future meetings and, gradually, a pattern emerged whereby we met at least twice a year, in the summer vacations and at Christmas time when most of us returned to visit parents in the Bury area. At first, all meetings were held locally, usually at the house of a member of the group.

For our summer meetings, we began, after the war, to venture further afield, visiting in turn those who were now residing in other parts of the country. Some times we visited for the day, at other times for the weekend, according to the distances involved.

Miss Pemberton made a point of always being with us until

her death and indeed often took her turn at entertaining us. On several occasions we spent weekends at Oberhaddon visiting Miss Neild, who along with other members of staff joined us for special anniversaries. For our 50th and 60th reunions, we spent weekends in the Bury area, visiting School, where we were warmly welcomed by Miss Batty and Miss Lawley.

Latterly, we have met locally for all our reunions as travelling became a problem, and even these meetings came to an end in 2000 when there were only two members left in the area to offer hospitality. So sadly, after 64 years those of us who are left have to keep in touch by letter or telephone.

Early on, Dorothy Kelly (Sacker) designed a cover in School colours and with the school crest, for a book in which are recorded all our meetings, as well as marriages, births and deaths. This book is now in the school archives.

Without Lilian to plan our meetings and travel arrangements, it is doubtful if our group would have continued to meet for so long, and we, her lifelong friends, owe her a great debt of gratitude. The friendships forged at BGS and the values we learned there have stood us in good stead all our lives and have been a great influence on the lives of all of us.

Mrs. Ethel Hart (nee Taylor)

GREETINGS FROM VICKY SHEPHERD

(Extracts from a letter from Vicky)

St. Cuthbert's Day, 20th March, 2006. Judith Brierley, Mrs. Moore and Vicky Sudall, Mrs. Shepherd steward the Egyptian Landscapes Tapestry Exhibition at Brunei Gallery, The School of Oriental Studies, London, celebrating 50 years of Tapestry Weaving at the Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre, Cairo.

Judith has been a member of N.A.D.F.A.S., the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts, for many years and Vicky became a member in 2005 of their Faversham Branch. Kent Area Branches were invited to provide Stewards for this Exhibition and so on a fine cold Friday, 24th February, we met up at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, and were delighted to see Rolf Harris's painting of our Queen. We had both watched Rolf's programmes on T.V. and yes it is a splendid painting.

The Queen's Collection of Canelettos were on display and Judith pointed out to me fine pencil lines he used to get perspective in his drawings. Venice is on my wish list to visit!

We took over from other N.A.D.F.A.S. members and had time to have a quick look round. The Tapestries were stunning. We met many interesting visitors especially a Granny who was staying with her daughter in London and brought the grandchildren after school to look round and finish the Worksheet provided for children which they had begun the day before! "In 1941 an Egyptian Architect, Ramses Wissa Wassef, was commissioned to design a school in the poor but historic district of Old Cairo. He gained permission for youngsters to learn to weave at the end of the school day. Thus began the "experiment in creativity" Wissa Wassef imposed three rules: no

preliminary sketches or cartoons, no external aesthetic influences, and no critical interference from adults." In 1952 a new workshop was built in Harrania, 10 miles from the centre of Cairo. Today 50 people work at the Art Centre as high-warp weavers, cotton weavers and batik artists led by the second generation of the Wissa Wassef family. The designs were Egyptians scenes, village life, the flora and fauna of the country and using local fibres and the traditional skills. I was thrilled as I had visited Cairo in 1962 when we lived in Cyprus and these were so many of the scenes I had seen. Judith has visited Egypt and found the Middle East fascinating in all its complexity. She has also been to Israel, Jordan and Syria and would like to go back to Egypt sometime. We are fortunate to be able to spend a day in London and to be offered these opportunities. Thank you Judith for recommending me to join you. It was a lovely day. One day in February Gilbert, my husband, and I took friends to visit Poperinge and Ypres for the day. The original house is still as it was in World War 1 days and you can imagine what an oasis it was in those turbulent times. I find it all very poignant especially the Upper Room, the Chapel, and yes, I can still manage those narrow rickety stairs! We headed for Ypres, just a few miles away, and toured the exhibits in the Cloth Hall. Another moving experience, we found St. George's Church and I was delighted to see the brass plate to our Old Boys who died on the Salient. What brave young men they were. It is in the middle of the South Wall. We walked to the Menin Gate which is vast and all those names I find staggering. I would like to thank all who organised the wonderful Reunion on 1st October.

16 of our year were there so it was great to catch up with them and others who I knew. Whenever I "come home" to Lancashire there seems so much to do and see. Once more my brother and sister-in-law looked after me and we visited two of the latest additions to the family, making me a great-aunt! We also went on the East Lancashire Railway and enjoyed the views. I wonder how many Old Girls saw the article on B.G.S. in This

England Winter Edition?

I was pleased to be sent the article about the dedication of the Head Girls Boards in the Lancashire Life and to see Elizabeth and Gerald smiling away. Elizabeth had sent me the programme and said how much they enjoyed it. Shirley was there in a photo too, we both guide at Canterbury Cathedral. Old Girls of BGS get everywhere!



Bury Grammar School Bridge Club

One of the best-kept secrets of Bury Grammar School is that there is a congenial and informal get-together of Bridge players on the first Wednesday of every month. The club, which accommodates all standards of players, has been running for over 20 years and is now seeking to enlarge its membership. It is an opportunity for anyone who enjoys a game of bridge to come along and join us. You do not have to be a good player as the atmosphere is far removed from being 'cut-throat'.

Starting at 7.30pm, there are 4 half-hour sessions with a break for coffee and biscuits in the middle. The venue is in the Junior Common Room (JCR), which is situated behind the baths in The Boys School.

The next meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 6th September
Wednesday 4th October
Wednesday 1st November
Wednesday 6th December

Just turn up or if you would like further details please phone Stephen or Phyllis Bleakley on 01706 644032

For All our Swimmers

Both Old Boys and Girls are invited to take a dip in our very own heated swimming pool located just off Bridge Road.

The pool will be open for Alumni each Wednesday evening between 7pm and 9pm and costs as little as £1.00 per Adult and only 50p per child payable on the door.

You are more than welcome to join us anytime but if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Rob Yates (1954 Leaver) on 0161 7647626



BIRTHS

July 2005
September 2005
December 2005

Helen Finney (nee Martin) a son, Joseph Robert
Sally Thomas (nee Neiningner) a son, Henry Joseph
Kay Chappell (nee Boardman) and David Chappell, Jack
a son by adoption, born on 30th December 2004.
Katherine Williams, a son, Alexander Stevenson

February 2006

MARRIAGES

Feb 2003
Feb 2005
May 2005
May 2005
May 2005
July 2005

Joanne Gathercole	to	Alastair Walker
Lynsey Blood	to	Arnoud Van Foreest
Susi Wells (1992)	to	Johnny Noot
Deborah Allen (1985),		now Anderton
Jeanette Allen (1985),	to	Guy Lewis
Rachel Rigby (1993)	to	Tim Mills in York

DEATHS

1999
September 2003
November 2003

Alice George (nee Shaw)
Edith Bell (nee Bielby) 1932
Christine Lee (nee Bird)
Barbara Holt
Margaret Willcocks (nee Day)
Grace Close (nee Hadfield)
Mamie Eckersall formerly Burns (nee Smith)
Ruth T Vickery MBE
Jean Swain (nee Temperley)
Muriel Sharples (nee Ormerod)
Jean Walker (nee Bailey)
(Jean's husband informed us that she was a very proud Old Girl of BGS and frequently reminisced about her time at BGS during the 1940's)
Dr. Beryl Barlow
Miss Joan Hamilton (former teacher and Head of Kindergarten)
Elaine Tinline(nee Bridge)

September 2005
February 2005
February 2005
February 2005
June 2005
July 2005
January 2006

February 2006
June 2006
July 2006

CONSTITUTION

1. The Bury Grammar School Old Girls' Association shall consist of all past pupils of the School who have paid a subscription of £30.00 for a life membership (Amended 2005) or a reduced subscription of £10 for persons over 60 years of age. (Amended 2004)
2. Past Headmistresses become Honorary members of the Association. Members of the Staff are eligible for full membership of the Association, but no more than two may serve on the committee at the same time. (Amended 1951) Members of Staff who are members of the Association and reach retirement age while still teaching at Bury Grammar School shall become Honorary members of the Association. Also members who reach their 80th birthday shall become Honorary members of the Association. (Amended 1951)
3. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a committee consisting of: - A President, who is the Headmistress, Two Secretaries, One Treasurer, Fourteen members of Committee. No business shall be done in connection with the Society, unless a quorum is present consisting of one quarter of the Committee.
4. The officers, with the exception of the President, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Two Secretaries are to be appointed, one elected each year. Each Secretary serves for two years and then retires, but is eligible for re-election. The Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. There is to be a committee of fourteen members elected annually. Each member is required to serve for three consecutive years and then retires, but is eligible for immediate re-election at the annual meeting. Members of the Committee who do not attend 50 per cent of the committee meetings will be deemed to have resigned. (Amended 2000)

5. A certain number of meetings shall be arranged during the year, one to be on May 6th, or the nearest possible date.
6. The funds of the Society shall be devoted to the expenses of the Society and to such other purpose as the members shall decide at the Annual Meeting.
7. The Record shall be issued in time for the Annual Meeting and shall be distributed to all members who have paid their subscriptions.
8. Alterations to the Rules of this Constitution can be made at the Annual General Meeting, provided notice has been given in writing to the Secretary a month in advance.

In Memoriam

ELAINE TINLINE (nee Bridge)
1911 - 2006

Elaine Tinline, nee Bridge was born in Bury on 22nd June 1911, the coronation day of King George V and Queen Mary.

She attended Bury Grammar School from 1916 to 1927. She married John Tinline in April 1939 and had two children, Edward and Margaret. John was a building contractor in Bury.

She enjoyed sewing, making all her own clothes, painting and gardening. They had a cottage in Anglesey and on John's retirement lived there for two years before returning to their roots and taking up residence in Whitefield.

After John's death in 1986 she moved to the Wirral to be near to Edward, his wife Sue and their three sons. In 2005 she moved to Durham to be near to Margaret, husband John and their three sons.

She died peacefully on 16th July 2006 in a nursing home in Durham.

In Memoriam

CHRISTINE LEE (nee Bird) 1911-2003

Christine Lee (nee Bird) was born in October 1911 in Ainsworth Road, Bury, youngest of four siblings. The family moved to Summerseat a few years later and Christine lived there until her marriage in 1939. I remember her telling me of her first experience of education when she was 5 or 6 and went to stay with a great aunt in Yorkshire. She was sent to a 'dame school' in Birstall where, amongst other things, the pupils learnt long extracts from the Bible and wrote on slates.

Christine attended Bury Grammar School from around 1918 to 1929, during the time of Miss Kitchener and Miss Nield. Her older sister, Mary, also attended and her two brothers went to the boys' school. Until the end of her days Mum would speak of Miss Nield with respect and a degree of fear. But clearly she enjoyed her days at the school immensely and valued the education she received there. My brother and I both attended the schools and Mum maintained her interest in their fortunes until the end of her life. She was delighted that there is still a member of the family - my cousin's granddaughter, Lucy Bird - at the school.

After school Christine wanted to study art at the Slade in London (and I think was encouraged to do so by the art mistress at school) but was persuaded by her parents that domestic science teacher training would be more appropriate. She duly studied domestic science at college in Manchester at the start of the 1930's. Part of this education reflected an Edwardian way of life (and probably the Edwardian training of the formidable women who taught!); instruction included how to iron starched men's winged collars with flat irons and how to organize servants serve at table - 'housemaid remove the cruet' was an oft-repeated joke in our household. Mum then taught in Chadderton, north Manchester until her marriage in 1939. She married my father, Ronald, also from Summerseat and a teacher and a former pupil of the boys' school, and moved to Stockport.

After her marriage, Christine devoted herself to husband, home and family, although initially combining this with 'war work' in a canteen. After some years in Stockport the family moved back to Radcliffe and Dad had a headship in Whitefield. Christine's life through these years and indeed to the end of her 92 years was principally about caring for others, both her immediate and extended family and beyond through Inner Wheel and Church activities. And, as time went by, she was able to express some of the creativity she had always had; she became a talented silversmith and she was a fine needlewoman - all her grandchildren were well supplied with wonderful soft toys. And she was a great cook in the classic old fashioned (and now very fashionable) Lancashire way - steak & cowheel pie, Lancashire hotpot, tripe and onions.

Christine had an extremely positive attitude towards life and unfailing good humour, cheerfulness and resilience. Even at 92, hardly able to see and able to walk only with great difficulty, she radiated these qualities and inspired those around her.

Judy Lee

MURIEL SHARPLES (nee Ormerod)

A letter from Florida, from the son of Muriel Sharples who died on July 15th 2005.

Muriel led a modest but very varied and interesting life. After marrying Arthur Sharples in 1935, she and her husband moved to South Africa where I arrived. Arthur's untimely death in 1940 left her a widow for the rest of her days. We returned to England on troop ships in 1944 in time to experience the flying bomb that hit Tottington on Christmas Eve that year.

For many years she worked in the family business, Thomas Ormerod & Co, in Tottington. In 1961, while I was at College in the US, she obtained a position as governess to the Mallinckrodt family in St. Louis. She later became the care-giver to the husband of a wealthy family in San Diego and took courses in nursing.

Eventually she returned to England and became a house-mother in the Boarding Department of Claremont School in Surrey. In the mid 70's she returned home to Tottington to care for her father. After he passed away, she retired to the Lake District and enjoyed the charms of Grange-over-Sands.

In 1985, she accepted our invitation to join us in the U.S. where I was working for the Du Pont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. When I retired from Du Pont in 1992, she moved to Florida to be close by us in St. Petersburg. She had an apartment with a view of Tampa Bay and enjoyed many years in a sub-tropical climate that reminded her of South Africa. She kept in close touch with the rest of her family in England and watched tennis and golf avidly while knitting shawls for her grandchildren.

Thank you for your interest in her life story.

Sincerely,
Michael Sharples

E. JOAN HAMILTON 1916-2006

Joan entered Bury Grammar School (Girls) as a pupil during the 1920's. When Marjorie Greenhalgh (Boardman) joined the Upper Thirds in 1931, she remembered that Joan was in the Sixth Form. On leaving school, Joan attended Bangor Training College, returning to Bury in the 1940's to teach locally. After gaining further qualification, she joined the Preparatory Department under the Headship of Bessie Farrow and following Miss Farrow's retirement Joan became Head of the Department.

In those days the number of pupils in the Prep was small by today's standard, then there were six forms of children aged between five and eleven years, the first three forms consisting of both boys and girls, the boys then leaving to go "across the road" when a further intake of girls was made. A few years ago Joan said of those days, "we were like one big happy family". Summer outings were memorable and mostly the sun shone! On occasion the older children would walk over Whalley Nabb, whilst the youngest picnicked by the stream in Downham. The first expedition to Chester Zoo made by the whole Department in three coaches was a great adventure.

Joan had many friends and her interests were varied. She loved the holidays taken soon after the war in Europe, led by "Doc" Meyer from the Boys' School. Later, with a friend, she would bicycle in France during the summer holidays. In the autumn and winter terms she enjoyed acting with The Clavians in the Roger Kay Hall. After moving to Greenmount, Joan became a keen golfer and in retirement she took violin lessons. Finding an elusive Kingfisher after much patient bird watching was a bonus, as was seeing Waxwings locally one winter.

Sadly Joan's health deteriorated some years ago and she moved into Abbeywood Residential Home in Tottington where friends, many from school, continued to visit her. Joan died in June this year, the year in which she would have been ninety.

Joan's loyalty to the School was strong and she valued tradition. She passed on these and other of her qualities to the children in her Preparatory Department to those fortunate pupils who were members of her "happy family".

Margaret Stephenson

EDITORIAL

I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this special Centenary Edition of our Record and having read through the contents I am sure you will be in awe of all our many achievements during the past century and very proud to be associated with such a wonderful school.

If anyone would like more in depth information regarding our history, I can thoroughly recommend a book, Bury Grammar School, A History, c.1570-1976, by Ian Fallows an 'Old Boy', which is well documented and gives a fascinating and interesting account of our development. It is wonderful for dipping into now and then.

As you will have seen, we have enjoyed some very spectacular ceremonies this year and I feel very privileged to have witnessed and been part of them. The pupils and staff that I have met during the course of compiling the Record, not to mention 'old girls' are an inspiration and I personally have no doubt that we will go forward into the next century even stronger.

There are far too many people to thank individually this year so our thanks go unreservedly to the many people who

have contributed, assisted and supported us in producing this edition. However, I must name a few and in particular Miss Lawley and Mrs Kenyon for their vital link to 'old girls' and their news. Our thanks are also extended to the girls in the Development Office, Louise, Michelle and particularly Francine Healey for the magnificent job they do in promoting the school and forging new relationships with 'old girls' and assisting us to maintain our communications with you all. Their help has been invaluable.

Finally, our very special thanks must go to school and Mrs Georgiou for her unstinting support and generosity during this very busy year and without whose help this Centenary Record would not have been published.

We hope that many of you will visit us in the not too distant future to witness and support us in our new building developments and please take advantage of the numerous contacts and facilities we have with which to track down old friends.

Thank you all once again for making this Record so special.

Pam Brown

Bury Grammar School, A History

c. 1570-1976, by Ian Fallows



THIS excellent book of over 500 pages is a scholarly and fascinating account of the development of a shadowy little sixteenth century school into the large and prestigious dual foundation of today. Bury Grammar School serves a wide area of East Lancashire and enjoys a considerable

reputation for academic excellence and service to the community. For over four centuries the school has been central to the life of this northern town; descendants of families which supported it in the 1600s continue to support it today; the Rector of Bury is a Governor, as he was when the earliest school croft nestled behind the Parish Church.

Well-documented, illustrated and indexed, it is a story to appeal not only to alumni, the people of Bury and the descendants of those who have shared in the school's long history, but to all who might want to understand why the great northern grammar schools have been and continue to be such powerful contributors to our educational system.

If you wish to make a purchase the price is £19.95, plus £7.25 post and packing (UK and EEC only). Please send cheque/postal order made payable to Bury Grammar Schools, with your name and correct postal address to: The Bursar, Bury Grammar Schools, Farraday House, Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0HG. Alternatively, collect your copy from the School Office or the Bursar's Office.



"They will encounter a world in which changes occur so rapidly that they may find it hard to keep up the pace but they will succeed because they have learned to live by a Bury Grammar School clock which tells them to use every minute and to use it well"

R.S.G.