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THE OLD BRADFORDIAN

The Old Bradfordians Association Magazine



Excellence:
The best version
of yourself

by John Hollingworth

Archives
Rising Stars
Sports

Events
News
Obituaries

2016-17 Edition

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WELCOME



... from the President

It seems hardly any time since I was invested as president of the OBA, and here I am writing my last article before handing over the reins, in September, to Ian Holland.

Ken Wootton
(1964-71)

It has been a great privilege to lead the OBA through some testing times but also a terrific pleasure. I will take away many happy memories – a trip to Whistler to meet OBs now settled in North America, meeting Sixth Formers to tell them about the OBA, and many more.

My last couple of weeks have been particularly full. The OB London Club have found a new dining venue at the Union Jack Club just opposite Waterloo Station; I had an enjoyable evening with them and would recommend any OB who can get there to do so.

I was at Henley and made contact with Sir David Wootton (OB 1960-69) and Prof. Boris Rankov (OB 1963-69) who are both Stewards; very few schools have two members of the forty or so Stewards who run the regatta. Whilst there I also bumped into the Headmaster and the Chair of Governors who were hosting a number of OBs that I later had the pleasure of meeting.

Closer to home, I was privileged to attend the opening of the David Hockney Gallery at Cartwright Hall. On display was his work 'Labor Omnia Vincit' which once hung outside the Jagger Library and was subject to all kinds of minor physical abuse from many small hands; it makes me shudder to think what could have happened to such a wonderful object.

Finally, I attended the School v OBs cricket match – a splendid contest won by the OBs.

Ken Wootton

... from the Head

Welcome to the latest edition of The Old Bradfordian magazine. The following pages are packed with OB news and give a sense of the diverse and connected community that characterises BGS alumni networks.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the company of OBs at alumni events this past year. As I admitted at one of our recent London gatherings, whilst straining to be heard above 'Thirsty Thursday' drinkers, these occasions are bolstering my social life which would otherwise be a bit thin given my young family at home. Evenings in London and Leeds alongside events at BGS have been very well attended and convivial.

A great deal of positive conversation and action has come from these evenings. Together we have explored avenues for OBs to actively engage with our higher education and careers programme and discussed ways of developing opportunities for bright young people, from all kinds of backgrounds, to benefit from a life changing education at Bradford Grammar School.

Assisting children who would not otherwise be able to attend BGS is one of the ways to ensure the School's future success and it connects us with our noble and historic purpose to serve and advance our community and region. OBs are having a say in these matters and aiding the work of the Headmaster and Governors to shape elements of the vision for BGS. I am hugely grateful for the help I've received in this regard.

BGS believes in bringing communities together and creating the conditions for upward social mobility. We do much but we could do more; we would like to. Collaborative work with schools and community projects locally and widening access speaks to the very essence of our understanding of education as a charitable purpose, rooted in English statute since 1601.



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster





Elizabethan lawmakers identified charitable works for: '... the relief of aged, impotent, and poor people; the maintenance of sick and maimed soldiers and mariners; schools of learning; free schools and scholars in universities; the repair of bridges, ports, havens, causeways, churches, sea banks, and highways; the education and preferment of orphans; the relief, stock, or maintenance of houses of correction; marriages of poor maids; support, aid, and help of young tradesmen, handicraftsmen and persons decayed ...'

Do we recognise our BGS counterparts in these descriptions? I'll leave that up to you. I'm nervous about commenting! But OBs will, I'm sure, get the gist of my message at a time when independent schools like BGS remain in the national and political spotlight and many debate our role in society. BGS was founded to serve the widest possible cross section of families. I'm immensely grateful to those OBs who support us in this worthwhile endeavour.

Ours is a very special school. Increasingly I'm aware of what BGS means to many OBs. Talking to folk at the hugely successfully 1940/50s lunch in May was another one of those occasions when one gets a sense for that deep affection former pupils feel for their alma mater. I enjoyed some wonderful conversations about, for example, the former goings on of the radio and football clubs and even received compliments on my speech, a first (!), for not being 'overly long'. High praise indeed. The food was splendid, the company superb. I greatly look forward to future OB events and having the opportunity to extol the ongoing virtues of BGS and bearing witness to bonds of friendship forged at school that are clearly surviving the test of time.

So, please enjoy all that follows. Keep in touch by completing our OB survey (details available on request if we haven't yet managed to reach you) and I hope to have the pleasure of your company at one of our forthcoming events.

'Hoc Age'

Simon Hindle

Brian Parker

Editor and former Chemistry teacher



Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the 2016-17 edition of the Old Bradfordian – the news magazine for the OBA. Many thanks to everyone who has helped, especially Emma, who was literally thrown in at the deep end!

OBs continue to thrive with the Brownlee brothers leading the way. Alistair winning the first two triathlons held in Leeds with brother Jonny not far behind. Other notable OBs are Abby Mae Parkinson, Team GB cyclist and Deborah Sides, performance analyst. This year marks the first time the magazine has gone digital with only a few hundred hard copies printed.

Hot news just in – Laalithya Vadlamani (2011-15) has just been appointed 'President of the Oxford Union'. Yet another notable achievement for an Old Bradfordian.

I look forward to receiving articles from OBs for next year's magazine.

parkerbbandm@gmail.com



Please note in last year's magazine it was incorrectly stated that the man of the match trophy at the annual OBA v School cricket match was the Jack Ashby trophy.

I apologise for the error.

The trophy is the 'Jack Ashley Memorial Trophy', donated by Mark Ashley (1966-72) in memory of his father.

There may also have been a technical issue in receiving obituaries for this issue. If there are any missing, we do apologise.

Please forward these on to oba@bradfordgrammar.com for the next edition.

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I have worked at BGS now for two years. It has certainly flown and time passes quickly when you're enjoying working in such a beautiful School.

As part of my role within the Communications, Development and Marketing (CDM) team, I am responsible for all BGS publications, including the 'Bradfordian' and 'Hoc Age' magazines. I am thrilled now to be a part of the 'Old Bradfordian' magazine, supporting and co-editing, alongside Brian Parker, Editor and former Chemistry Teacher.

This magazine really brings to the fore aspects of BGS heritage, including our motto 'Hoc Age', providing an authentic impression of the School as it is today, defined by our historic foundations, values and cherished traditions, but also by our innovative and forward-looking approach.

It's a pleasure to be a part of it's continued development.

Emma Wragg
Communications Manager
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I have just started at BGS after having run my own business for three and a half years.

My role in the Communication, Development and Marketing (CDM) team will involve keeping in touch with our alumni and being their first point of call, so I am looking forward to getting involved and meeting many Old Bradfordians over the coming months and years.

Please get in touch if you would like to get involved in our careers programme, if you would like to visit the School or just let us know what you are up to.

Rebecca Bull
Alumni Relations
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Right: BGS Speech Day 2017 guest speaker, OB John Hollingworth (1991-99)

EXCELLENCE: THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF

When Dr Hinchliffe asked me to be the guest speaker at Speech Day earlier this year my immediate reaction was 'have you got the wrong number?' Once it became apparent that he hadn't, that concern was swiftly replaced by another, more pressing one – 'what can I usefully say?'

To be asked to return and address the school suggests that one should have something worth saying – some wisdom worth passing on. At thirty-six and smack bang in the middle of my professional journey, I felt a shade under-qualified for such a privileged task. I was even a little nervous arriving back to such a familiar but unfamiliar place.

Fortunately, I was blessed with brilliant teachers across the board during my time at school and was deeply relieved to see two of them – Julian Reed-Purvis and Kate Wilde – waiting to greet me, my wife and son at reception on the day itself. I was stunned at the idea that they would think I might have forgotten them. BGS certainly leaves its mark on those who pass through its doors.

When I arrived for the final year of Clock House way back in 1991, I was an unprepossessing and decidedly average student. I came from a humble background. I grew up on benefits with a single parent mum near Keighley. She had scrimped and saved enough to pay me through that one year in the hope that the entrance



Bradford
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School



Right: John Hollingworth
and BGS Headmaster
Simon Hinchliffe

Far right: John Hollingworth
presents an award



exams to the Senior School would see me land an assisted place at the School – whereby my fees would be covered by the local authority by dint of being a ‘promising student’.

I managed to come top in the English exam and bottom in the Maths exam which led to an interview with then head of school Mr D.A.G. Smith (DAGS to all and sundry) during which – in between puffs of his pipe – he weighed up whether there was any potential ‘promise’ sitting in front of him that might be worth taking a punt on. I remember him quite literally scratching his head at the prospect of what to do with me. Nobody was more surprised than me that he decided I should benefit from a fully assisted place. Perhaps he was a betting man.

After proudly serving as Head Boy in my final year at the school I went on to take a first class honours degree in English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, and subsequently trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. In the nine years I’ve worked professionally as an actor, I have appeared in ten feature films, 21 different television shows, 14 radio plays and 12 stage



plays. I’m probably best known for my recent work as Captain Henshawe throughout three series of the period drama ‘Poldark’ on BBC One.

Conscious that I was asked back to speak at school during a high point in my career, I resolved to be candid about the difficulties of self-employed life. It’s easy to make life as an actor sound attractive but I’ll let you into a secret: it’s nowhere near as glamorous as it looks in the glossy magazines. For the majority of actors ‘glamorous’ is the last word they would choose to describe their working lives.

I contacted Equity – the actors’ trade union – to check their current employment figures. The results were startling. Only 8% of UK actors work at any given time, which means that 92% are unemployed. An actor works an average of 11.3 weeks a year professionally. Only 6% of Equity members earn over £30,000 a year.

It can be the most fantastically charmed life. When it’s good, it really is great. I have enjoyed exotic stints in Jamaica, Prague, Madrid and – well – Belgium. I’ve also had to live in Bolton for six weeks and suffered weekly touring through Coventry – twice. I have had to graft to get by – for almost as long as I can remember – no matter the glamour of the job I’m on.

One breakthrough theatre job in the heart of London’s West End paid so badly that I had to work in a call centre during the day in order to pay the rent. Then there was the time I rushed back from filming a day on a major Hollywood blockbuster to make my evening shift selling Christmas trees on a roundabout in Ealing. After finishing a series of ‘Poldark’ one Friday I pitched up on a building site the Monday after and ended up staying six months because I was being picky about the acting work I wanted to move on to next.

That’s the truth I’m best qualified to speak to – the lesson that I can most usefully expound. It can be hard out there. And this place – this brilliant school community – trains you for success out there, but it also provides a foundation, a strength and a resilience to get you through the challenging times. The credo that has got me through the demands of my chosen career has been what I learnt at BGS – get your head down and work hard and keep doing. ‘Hoc Age’.

Your task – as students – is to persevere, to keep going. That’s all you need. Don’t work for your parents, or your friends or even for your teachers – work for yourself, because the habit of work is what you need to succeed when you walk out the front door of the school for your last time.

BGS changed my life. It gave me the tools I needed to get ahead. There’s nothing you shouldn’t feel entitled to if you’re willing to put in the hard work for it and keep your feet on the ground. Whatever you do, do it as well as you can. It’s a simple message – but hopefully a useful one.





David Hockney: 80th Birthday



David Hockney celebrated his 80th birthday on 9 July this year. To mark this occasion a permanent gallery has been dedicated to him in Cartwright Hall.



The gallery featured sketches and photographs from his youth and a mechanical dachshund. Hockney said that he always enjoyed visiting Cartwright Hall as it was the only place he could see real paintings.



The major items on show included two sketchbooks, mainly self-portraits from the 1950s when he was at Bradford Grammar School and later at Bradford School of Art. In 1959 he went to study at the Royal College of Art. The gallery also includes interviews with Hockney by the filmmaker Bruno Wollheim.

The editor, Brian Parker, and his wife were lucky enough to be a guest at the opening of the gallery.

1 'I used to love going to Cartwright Hall as a kid, it was the only place in Bradford I could see real paintings' – David Hockney

2 & 3 Self-portraits and photos from Hockney's personal albums are among the pictures on display

4 Brian Parker and his wife's invitation to the opening of the gallery



Memories of BGS: BGS in the 1940s

Malcolm Brook (1944-49)

I joined Thornville, the BGS Prep school, in September 1945 at the age of eight, and came to school by tram from Thornbury to Forster Square, and thence by trolley bus to Thornville, which was situated opposite Manningham Park. Although the war had just ended almost everything was rationed, including petrol, so that nobody came by car – it was either public transport or bicycle.

Foster Square station belonged to the LMS (London Midland and Scottish Railway), and a major hobby for a lot of pupils was trainspotting the magnificent steam trains. The station forecourt had vending machines for Nestlé chocolate bars, but they had been empty since the war began; none of us could imagine a world where you could get chocolate from a machine, without ration coupons!





There were few new toys available during WW2 – all manufacturing resources were devoted to the war effort. However, shortly after joining Thornville the very first post war Dinky Toys appeared in nearby Busby's Department store and caused a minor sensation ... and long queues!

I think I joined the main school in September 1948 in class 3E and another classmate was David Hockney. He was very obviously talented at art and occasionally would draw a cartoon on the blackboard before class started. The cartoons were funny but invariably unflattering and the class would start with the master demanding, 'Hockney, remove that drawing from the blackboard!'

'War surplus' products were sold in special shops in central Bradford at very low prices; they included tents, sleeping bags and inflatable RAF yellow dinghies. They helped make up for the shortage of toys. One day, I came across David and his friends with such a dinghy in the reservoir in Fagley Woods. I had gone there for the fishing, however it was a warm day and I also ended up in the reservoir – the dinghy was fantastic fun!

Early in 1949 Prince Philip officially opened the present BGS building and made a very amusing speech. He arrived with a large ornamental key, opened the main door, found the assembly hall full of pupils and staff, and commented, 'Someone must have got here before me to let you all in'. He then compared the school motto, 'Hoc Age' (get on and do it), to the Navy's equivalent motto of Swing It Till Monday!

'Although the war had just ended almost everything was rationed, including petrol, so that nobody came to school by car – it was either public transport or bicycle.'

In November 1949 the Brook family left Bradford for Devon. I transferred to Exeter School and sadly lost contact with my former BGS classmates. However, my stay at BGS holds many happy memories, in particular two outstanding teachers gave me an enormous urge to visit faraway places. Captain Hare in Thornville and 'Dynamite Dan' Downend in the main school were both absolutely brilliant at teaching Geography and gave me an enthusiasm for travel, which has never ended.

I completed my schooldays at Exeter School and left in 1954 to become a Chartered Accountant, however my urge to visit those faraway places was instrumental in starting my own business – Sparex Ltd in 1965 - making Tractor Accessories and selling them worldwide. The business was successful and was sold in 1981 with seven overseas subsidiaries and customers in over 70 countries.

Together with my son I subsequently started Stovax Ltd, making stoves and fireplaces, and Gazco, which manufactures gas versions of the fires. We also founded Original Style Ltd, which makes ceramic tiles. All of the companies are major exporters and have resulted in more than 1,000 jobs being created in Exeter. Working for them has also given me the opportunity to travel extensively worldwide – at the last count it was 75 countries, with 38 visits to the USA alone. However, much of the credit must go to Messrs Hare and Downend for giving me the travelling bug in the first place! I really was lucky to have been taught by them.



The 1930s decade was one in which there was a great deal of change. At home there had been the Silver Jubilee of King George the Fifth in 1935, followed by the abdication of his successor Edward the Eighth, and the crowning of his brother, George the Sixth.

Memories of BGS: 81 years on

Derek Oldfield (1935-40)





‘... all the masters were wearing academic gowns, many of them in poor condition through ill treatment ...’



Throughout the decade the Bradford Corporation deposited countless lorry loads of clinker and ash collected from the innumerable textile mills in and around Bradford. They were dependent upon steam to power the varieties of machinery employed to convert the City's stable industry of raw wool into worsted cloth in which it led the World. By levelling the Clock House Estate it was possible to develop the excellent sports pitches that are now available, and at the same time provide a site for the new school building that was planned.

Administratively there were to be changes to the staffing and these took place during the second half of the decade.

As a young boy from a local council school who had won a Bradford City Scholarship to BGS, I had to attend an entrance exam and have an interview with the Headmaster during the previous summer term, prior to starting the following September. To be met and greeted by a tall, slim grandfatherly figure with a walrus moustache and clad in an academic gown and mortar board was a new awesome experience as such dress was unknown at my previous Junior School.

To find on my first day at assembly (or morning prayers) that not only did the Headmaster process the length of the Main Hall in Manor Row before removing his head gear when reaching the dais and beginning the service. All the masters other than Bill Smith the PE master, who lined the walls were also wearing academic gowns, many of them in poor condition through ill treatment. Although, on my first Speech Day, which was at Eastbrook Hall (St. Georges Hall – Bradford's Concert Hall – was leased to Gaumont British as a cinema) all the masters were in impeccable gowns together with the hoods relating to their respective degrees.

Doctor Edwards the Headmaster was resplendent in a red gown and mortar board. There were two other Doctors on the Staff, Dr Clement Jones, the Seconder Master, Head of Mathematics and Dr Williams who taught German. I cannot remember whether these two gentlemen also wore different coloured and styled gowns.

Above: Price Hall, the scene of countless assemblies, concerts and performances since its construction in 1947.

As a matter of curiosity, there were also three Jones' on the staff that year, Dr Clement Jones, Mr Ellis Jones, Head of Physics and Mr Lolo Jones who taught Maths.

At the end of the school year in September 1946, there were three retirements of senior staff and one resignation. Dr Edwards, the Headmaster, retired as did Dr Clement Jones, Second Master, and Mr Ellis Jones, Head of Physics. Mr Farrell the Head of Classics resigned to take up a career in the law.

They were replaced by Mr Eric Percival Smith as Headmaster, Mr Charles Hall (the Senior History Master) as Second Master, Mr Eric Ewbank as Senior Classics Master and (I believe) Mr Pocock as Senior Physics Master.

Regrettably, the Headmaster died after about two years and Mr Charles Hall was Acting Headmaster until the appointment of Mr R. B. Graham in, I think, 1938-39. During my four years and eight months in the School before leaving in April 1940 there were three Headmasters and one Acting Head.

During my time at School, the blazer and cap badges were in the form of the School's monogram surmounted by a crown and were embroidered in the wearer's House colours. In those years all boys were required to wear caps unless they were members of the Sixth Form. The new general badge for both blazer and cap was introduced, I believe, about the time that Mr R. B. Graham became Headmaster, and has only recently been replaced.

In 1936, just before his retirement, Dr Edwards cut the first sod to prepare for the foundations of the new school building. The Foundation Stone was laid by Sir Henry Price in the following year. He had given a donation of £30,000 for the new Main hall (now known as the Price Hall) and building then took place until 1939 when it was finished.

During the War years 'Dig for Victory' was undertaken in the field opposite St. Peters Church in Moorhead Lane, Saltaire. It was virgin land and had to be dug two spits deep, initially under the watchful eye of Mr Eric Ewbank. It is now the site of the flat called 'Petersgarth'.

To conform to Government regulations the School had to be divided between a number of buildings. Some of the scholars had been evacuated to Giggleswick School (I suspect that they were mainly junior pupils from Thornville). The rest of Thornville scholars were moved to St. Peters Church Hall whilst Thornville and Clock House (until then the Headmaster's residence) each had a limited number of senior pupils as did the main school in Manor Row where the Sixth Forms were housed.

The building was commandeered during the second World War as a Primary Training Centre for the first six weeks training of conscripts into the Army. The School did not move in until the end of 1948 when there had been a great deal of refurbishment and it was officially opened by The Duke of Edinburgh in 1949.

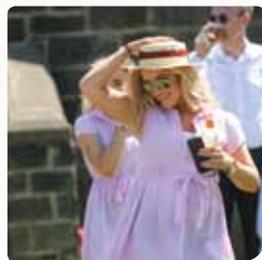




These images provide a brief snapshot of the many wonderful moments from the past year at BGS.



Bradford Grammar School



RISING STARS



We love to keep in touch with Old Bradfordians and follow their careers beyond BGS with interest.

Here three OBs reflect on their experiences ...

DEBORAH SIDES

Cycling Performance Analyst for the British Cycling Team, Deborah Sides, attended Bradford Grammar School.

'I came to BGS for Sixth Form and I really wanted to study the A Level PE course which I'd heard was great at the School. I knew I could also get the support I needed to balance this alongside the academic side of things including Biology, Chemistry and Psychology, all of which I wanted to study.

I absolutely loved it at BGS. The sports facilities are renowned and I played every sport under the sun. I was also lucky to have the opportunities that BGS opened up for me when it came to looking for good universities. I ended up studying Sport and Exercise Science at Bath University for four years. This included an industry placement in Australia, and it was fabulous to get hands-on experience in an area that I love. The School helped me in that I had all the qualifications and experience I needed.

So I was at the top of my game when it came to applying for a job — as these jobs are quite rare to come by.



DEBORAH SIDES
(2004-11)

—
Cycling Performance
Analyst for the British
Cycling Team

—
Sport and Exercise
Science, Bath

I owe a lot to the School, the A Level PE programme together with Biomechanics was fantastic and I loved every minute of it. The movement and physics of sport, it's all so interesting.

The teachers also supported me with my work experience and selection of universities. They treat you as an individual and tailor their support to your needs. Even now, the teachers stay in touch and support me. They like to know what I'm getting up to. You're not just a name, they really care about you and your future.

At School I did a lot of work experience and really got my name out there with lots of different sports teams, and the same went for university. The year out in Australia was an unpaid year trying to get the best work experience I could. It's about speaking to everyone you can. Making those contacts.

After university I completed a PhD. I worked with British Athletics for three years and then British Cycling for three years. My path was laid out nicely for me, but it's all about being in the right position — that's where BGS came into the mix.

I cycle myself and could see how the Cycling Performance Analyst position for the British Cycling Team was the pinnacle of jobs in this field.

Cycling is Team GB's most successful Olympic Sport, so I knew I wanted to reach for that. I remember standing in the Sixth Form Centre on the day that London won the 2012 Olympics bid and thinking — 'That's where I want to work'. My dream came true, I was at London 2012 and then Rio 2016.

I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT AT BGS, THE SPORTS FACILITIES ARE RENOWNED AND I PLAYED EVERY SPORT AVAILABLE TO ME UNDER THE SUN

There are two Analysts for the British Cycling Team including myself, so we both attend all the training sessions, travel to all competitions and video the cyclists' performance. We then break this all down, looking at the times they're producing and the technical work (the powers they're producing on the bikes). We also work alongside the team pursuit squads, especially when trying to get that Olympic Gold medal. Both the women and men's teams won Gold at Rio which was fantastic. It's really exciting to be in a job like this!

When you analyse the cyclists you take down all their training data and put this into a database. Then you look for trends and patterns in their performance to try and see which training is most beneficial. All the training is individualised, based on the athletes and their position in the team. The data I capture helps to decide who makes the team selections for the Olympics, so you'll start with eight cyclists and eventually this is narrowed down to four, based on all the data gathered.

It's also interesting to look at the opposition, so I analyse other countries to predict what they're going to do at the Olympic games, so that we can try to be faster. At Rio we were — which was great.

Next, we'll start all over again for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and look at different ways of doing the sports analysis to stay at the forefront of Olympic success.

We're constantly thinking of new ideas and we'll have younger athletes coming in. I spoke to a BGS pupil today who's interested in cycling, so it's lovely to pass all this experience and knowledge on to current BGS pupils.'

ABBY-MAE PARKINSON
(2005-14)

—
Team GB Cyclist

ABBY-MAE PARKINSON

Cyclist Abby-Mae has recently been chosen for Team GB.

'I started in Clock House in 2005 and clearly remember Mr and Mrs Reddish, who really got me into running. When I moved over to Senior School, it was Mr Lines who I went out running with a lot. The PE department here is amazing. I loved that everyone was and still is interested in what I'm up to. I always get tweets from staff supporting me.

It's hard to highlight just a couple of teachers as there were so many who helped me, but Mr Hooper, Mr Hanson and Dr Shepherd stand out as being flexible and understanding of my other commitments. However, I'm grateful to all of my teachers — I loved my time at BGS. I'm still in touch with my old classmates but I'm hardly in the UK so it can be difficult sometimes. I keep in touch mainly through social media.

At A Level I studied Geography, PE and Biology. The School put on PE A Level just for me and I took Biology as I was interested in physiotherapy, which I may still do in the future. Mr Wilde and Mr Galley supported me in finding universities which had good physiotherapy courses, but of course my passion is cycling.

My biggest achievement was earlier this year when I rode the Giro Rosa, the biggest stage race for women, and I finished just outside the top ten in the U23 category. I did the Worlds and the Europeans as a junior last year and I was national champion.

I'm now with my new team 'Drops', living in Nice and training out there. I'm also looking forward to improving my results and I completed the Tour de Yorkshire this year.'





ANTHONY SMITH

'My parents decided to move me out of my previous school at the start of my third year, a decision I was pretty happy with, and we began looking at different schools. One of the schools we visited was BGS and the place totally blew me away.'

Walking into the Price Hall I thought I had stepped onto the Hogwarts set, and the sports, arts and D&T facilities had me itching to move across. Everyone was so friendly, especially the Head Stephen Davidson, who had a real impact on our choice of making the move across to BGS. I was actually quite borderline on the induction exam, so undoubtedly BGS took a bit of a risk on inviting me in. I never found out who made that decision on my behalf, so, whoever it was, thank you! You really changed my life.

I have far too many excellent memories to pick a favourite. Senior ski trips were a particular highlight for me. BGS is where I learnt to ski, which has really become a bit of a passion for me, so I have a lot to thank BGS for in that respect. Another would be the time I spent with the rugby team. Mr Galley, Mr Wilde and the rest of the PE squad were incredible with the students, and provided the most amazing atmosphere to learn the sport.

ANTHONY SMITH
(2005-10)

Rolls-Royce
Engineering
Graduate



I WAS ACTUALLY QUITE BORDERLINE ON THE INDUCTION EXAM, SO UNDOUBTEDLY BGS TOOK A BIT OF A RISK ON INVITING ME IN

Whilst at university I made the difficult decision between industry and academia – finally choosing to go into industry rather than embarking on a PhD, and started my graduate programme at Rolls-Royce, working primarily in the Civil Large Engines group, which really is a dream come true. I'm loving the work, having started on a particularly challenging area of the engine (the enormous bearings the different engine systems spin on), and I'm thoroughly looking forward to my next attachment in the turbines department, continuing to work on new materials and concepts, as yet never before used in gas turbine engines.

My greatest professional achievements to date have been my degree results - graduating top of my class with the seven awards. On a personal level, winning a university ski competition, and being part of a group which has just released a feature length ski movie have been awesome.

BGS gave me the free reign to really challenge myself, and be challenged by my teachers.

It gave me the confidence in my intellectual ability, and direction in which to channel it. Without the input from my teachers, and the opportunities provided by the staff, I don't think I would have thought to take the career path I have. It's something I'm finding so much enjoyment in currently.

The School gave me a great deal of confidence to build my social life, and provided me with so much opportunity for fun, something I've definitely tried to carry through into life post BGS.

Everything from playing rugby in the court yard, to lounging around in the Sixth Form Centre, to working out with the Physics Olympiad, to playing tennis and hockey, all the way through to donning morph suits on the last day of school and charging around. BGS was, indeed, an incredible place to go to school.

When I left school I took a year out before heading to university. I did a ski season in France, working as a chalet host/chef which was cracking. Post ski season I went to work for PGL Barton Hall in Torquay, spending any time I had away from throwing kids out of windows on zip-lines, or coaxing them to jump out at trapeze bars, surfing Devon and Cornwall.

I then started my Masters in Materials Engineering, having a thoroughly enjoyable time at Loughborough University whilst holding down my degree. I managed to graduate top in my class with a first class Master's degree, winning five university awards, and receiving nominations for an enterprise award and a national award with my professional institution (IOM3) for the UK's best materials graduate. Whilst at Loughborough I also secured a research bursary and was employed by the university to conduct some research into a material with nuclear energy and automotive applications.

NEWS

BGS puts OBs at heart of engagement

The School is taking alumni and student engagement one-step further with Graduway, a cloud based online platform. This enables BGS leavers and alumni to be the first in Yorkshire to have access to this new type of networking.

The Bradford Grammar School (BGS) branded networking site, BGS-alumni.com, encourages Old Bradfordians to set up or import their profiles from LinkedIn, develop professional connections with one another, mentor pupils or young graduates and invite others to sign up.

'We want to offer our students and alumni a one-stop-shop of real value,' says BGS Head of Higher Education and Careers, Sarah Flaherty, 'Our alumni and careers programme both have a role to play in boosting graduate opportunity, employability and working more closely together – this is where Graduway comes in.'

“...”

We're delighted to be partnering with BGS, our first partner school in Yorkshire, to power their alumni network.

'It provides a platform that will bridge the gap, empowering a valuable network for sharing expertise, knowledge and experience. It's also recognised as a thought leader in alumni relations so we know we're tapping into an extremely intuitive and engaging system.'

BGS believes in involving their valuable alumni more innovatively in school activities and providing opportunities for them to support current pupils. This includes networking lunches, seminars, speaking at or hosting events, and increasingly practical one-to-one or small group mentoring.

BGS Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, said: 'The affection that Old Bradfordians (OBs) feel towards their alma mater is palpable and one of our many strengths. We are deeply grateful to those OBs who support the School by donating generously to our fee assistance programme, giving talks, offering work experience, and attending careers events. Many OBs want to give something back.'

'Our alumni are at the heart of BGS strategy for the future, helping the School to improve the employability of our students and supporting philanthropy; Graduway is helping us to undertake this valuable work.'



One of the School's key ambitions is to increase the amount of fee assistance it offers to children from variety of backgrounds. BGS-alumni.com will play a major role in engaging alumni who wish to give something back.

'Our BGS assisted places have the power to transform lives; instilling ambition and opening doors to future careers that otherwise would have remained closed. We must continue to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to flourish. Widening access to a school like ours remains at the core of our values, foundation and charitable purpose and we thank those who work with us supporting this important work for one of the iconic schools of the north.'

'Graduway allows us to engage with our alumni on a deeper level, to broaden and develop relationships. We take great pride in thanking our alumni for contributing much to the School's development; the positive impact they have on our school and the wider community cannot be understated.'

Daniel Cohen, Graduway CEO said: 'We're delighted to be partnering with Bradford Grammar School, our first partner school in Yorkshire, to power their alumni network. This is a fantastic opportunity for both their students and alumni to build a world class career network that stretches from Yorkshire across the world.'

Above: Glimpses of the new Graduway site – a cloud-based online platform for BGS alumni

Join Graduway at bgs-alumni.com

Old Bradfordians Club London

If you're a recent BGS leaver – and therefore now an Old Bradfordian – this will be your first Old Bradfordian publication. Welcome!

The Old Bradfordians Association and Old Bradfordians Club London are two distinct organisations to help Old Bradfordians keep in touch and offer great social and networking opportunities.

James Williams
(1980-90)
Old Bradfordians' Club
London President

As the President of the Old Bradfordians Club London, I'd like to share more about who we are and what we can do for you.

The OB Club London welcomes Old Bradfordians who are visiting, working or studying in the capital to meet up and enjoy a regular programme of events throughout the year. We also extend a warm welcome to partners, friends and family of Old Bradfordians to all events.

These include regular dinners at the Union Jack Club near Waterloo, and this year's Annual Dinner on Friday 24 November at the Carlton Club where we're delighted to welcome two guest speakers – the Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe, and Old Bradfordian, actor, writer and producer John Hollingworth, whom you may recognise as Captain Henshawe in the BBC adaptation of 'Poldark'.

The Club also contributes to a Sixth Form Scholarship, supports the Robert Miura Bursary Fund to assist pupils through their career at school, and administers the James and Eliza Drummond Studentship Trust to help Old Bradfordians continue their studies at postgraduate level.

We're always delighted to welcome new Old Bradfordians. Club membership is free, the first Dinner is free for new members coming to one of our regular Dinners, and students pay what they can. That has to appeal to us northerners!

During my past three years as President, I've been delighted to have welcomed more younger members to the Club and ladies to our Committee. Engagement with younger OBs is important for the longevity of the Club.

So, whether you want to relax with a bunch of friendly OBs, you're looking for careers advice or passing through the capital when one of our events is on, a network of London Old Bradfordians is here.

To receive emails about our events, or get in touch with ideas for events we could run, email the Hon. Secretary Deborah Williams on dcw7238@aol.com



Louis d'Arcy
(1987-95)
Deputy
Headmaster

A moment of reflection ...

Dear Old Bradfordians, it is my pleasure to be writing to you as I enter my second full year back at BGS as Deputy Headmaster.

It certainly has been and continues to be an exciting period for the School and we are currently celebrating some fantastic GCSE and A level results this summer. We could not be more proud of our students and their success is in no small part down to the extraordinary commitment and capability of my colleagues.

I was struck very early on by the intelligence and ambition of our boys and girls, as well as the extremely high quality of the teaching available to them. Our non-teaching staff also make an invaluable contribution to the life of the School and help to provide the best possible experience for our pupils, their parents and my colleagues. Exciting plans are also currently taking shape to further improve our facilities and help to fulfil our aim of continuous improvement.

Bradford Grammar School certainly remains true to its core values of opportunity, excellence and happiness and the spirit of our motto 'Hoc Age' is alive and well. I have very much enjoyed meeting generations of Old Bradfordians at the various alumni meetings I have attended and share the great affection that they have for the School and the education they received there.

What has been very clear is that most Old Bradfordians hold their former teachers in high esteem and credit them with their successes. I have also delighted in hearing many touching, and at times amusing anecdotes about their times at BGS and have had the privilege of showing a number of Old Bradfordians around the School.

Do please feel free to visit us and take a walk down memory lane.

Best wishes,
Louis d'Arcy



A 1940s and 1950s reunion ...

For the first time the two decade reunions were combined. What a success. Over 100 OBs and guests attended and some OBs came from as far afield as Scotland and Devon.



After collection of name badges at 12.30pm the attendees assembled in the entrance hall where a bar and table/chairs had been set up. Drinking and chatting went on for about an hour when lunch was served in the School dining hall. What a super lunch the school put on with every manner of food and drink. Tales of long past adventures resounded around the dining hall for over an hour while the delicious food was consumed.



After everybody's appetite was sated the President of the OBA, Ken Wootton, gave a short welcome speech followed by a presentation given by the Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe. The afternoon concluded with tours of the School.



E John Davies
(1955-64)

I convey my thanks for this splendid occasion and so well attended. It was a pleasure to assemble in the foyer, an initial opportunity to search for familiar faces. These 'faces' were for me few and far between, possibly because I was much at the younger end of the reunion scale. However, I did meet a past team partner in my old rowing crew. We understandably went back to rowing club memories and subsequent events.

1 Tales of past adventures resounded

2 Lunch was served in the School dining hall

3 From left: Ken Wootton (OBA President) John Hammond (OB) and Brian Parker (Editor of the Old Bradfordian and Former Chemistry Teacher)

At the time of my education at BGS it was singly a boys' school, but I did expect most of the attendees to be accompanied by partners. Alas it turned out to be a largely masculine domain.

Walking through the teacher's corridor on the way to the dining hall, many followed the mounted photographs of past prominent figures. Some brought back memories for me – none more so than W.E Clarkson. I still remember our significant farewell collection from the School and his warm and sincere final speech. I am confident BGS must remain amongst the highest independent schools in the country.

David A Noble
(1963-70)

FirstBus Bradford has honoured an Old Bradfordian, the late Stanley King. Stanley, who died in 2012, was a former councillor and Lord Mayor of Bradford, and was twice appointed as Chairman of the West Yorkshire Transport Authority. He was also a well known transport enthusiast and author. A FirstBus double decker is in service, repainted in the smart blue livery of Bradford City Transport from the 1960's with the name Stanley King painted in large gold letters above the front destination blind. The bus was last seen in Pudsey bus station on a Leeds to Bradford route.

EVENTS

London Club Annual Dinner 2016

On Friday 18 November 2016, the Old Bradfordians London Club was honoured to welcome former Headmaster Stephen Davidson (1996-2012), current Deputy Headmaster Louis d'Arcy (OB), President of the Old Bradfordians Association (OBA) Ken Wootton, and Trevor Smith (OB and former School Governor) as our guest speakers.

We welcomed 84 OBs and Guests, representing a cross-section of all ages, with a notable increase in the number of younger members who had joined the Club during the course of the year.

Over the course of the evening, Stephen gave us witty insights into his time at BGS – particularly enjoyed by those OBs who were under his stewardship – and his recent tenure as High Sheriff of West Yorkshire. Trevor Smith updated us on the WW1 commemoration project and Deputy Headmaster Louis d'Arcy gave an update on the school, which was followed by an update from Ken Wootton, representing the OBA.

As is now customary, the evening began with a champagne reception in the drawing room, before being invited by the President James Williams to the Churchill Room for Dinner at 7.30pm.

Continuing our long history and tradition with The Carlton Club, London, members and guests enjoyed a menu comprised of a starter of smoked salmon with dressed leaves, followed by tournedos of rose county beef with chateau potatoes, swede dauphinoise, red cabbage purée, baby carrots and port wine jus, and a dessert of baked chocolate mousse with butterscotch sauce, chocolate tuile and crème fraîche.

James Williams
(1980-90)

Old Bradfordian Club
London President

The President James Williams closed the Dinner by thanking OBs and their guests for a superb evening, and the Carlton Club for their consistently excellent service.

This year's Annual Dinner takes place on Friday 24 November. Invites will be issued to members via email.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the London Club or you would like to update your contact details with us, please email the Hon. Membership Secretary **Deborah Williams at dcw7238@aol.com**



Careers, networking and guest speakers

Thank you to all Old Bradfordians who have returned to School to offer careers advice and subject knowledge to current pupils.

Recent events at the School have included a free science lecture, 'The Birth and Death of a Solar System', by OB Prof. John Richer, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge. The lectures aim to inspire children of all ages and fascinate children and grown-ups alike with the wonderful and weird world of science.

We have been delighted to welcome an array of esteemed speakers such as The Brexit Special Question Time panel event with three local parliamentarians was a unique opportunity for students to engage with a range of robust viewpoints and to quiz those at the forefront of triggering Article 50.

The higher apprenticeships in Law are becoming increasingly popular and we are grateful to local law firms for highlighting this attractive new path into the profession.

If you are interested in offering placements, shadowing, advice or attending a networking event, please contact Sarah Flaherty, Head of Careers and Higher Education, at careers@bradfordgrammar.com

Join Graduway at bgs-alumni.com

“...”

If you are interested in offering placements, shadowing, advice or attending a networking event, please contact us ...



Above: The Rugby Reunion set to become a regular event feature

Rugby Reunion
In October 2016 we welcomed back Old Bradfordians to a Rugby Reunion, which we hope will become a regular feature in the OBA calendar.

Following a buffet lunch and drinks in the DH Room the group wandered down to the playing fields to watch the 1st XV take on Nottingham High School. The result was somewhat disappointing, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the 17 OBs, who were reminiscing about wins and losses (and the infamous 55 straight wins for the '87 team ...)

After the match we returned to the main building for afternoon tea. A trip to the 'Mucky Duck' couldn't be missed, which was followed by a curry in the city centre.

Everyone was keen to see an annual event set in the calendar and to grow the reunion into something huge.

Class of 2016 Reunion

On 5 April 2016, last year's Year 13 leavers came back to BGS for their first reunion. After having lunch and a few drinks, they spoke to teachers and shared their experiences with our current Year 13 students.

OBA Bacchus Golf Cup competition

This annual event took place on a warm but somewhat humid evening. Luckily the thunderstorms forecast failed to materialise.

Year 13 Leavers' Lunch

The annual lunch for Year 13 students took place on 26 May 2017, just before they finished for exam leave. After a slideshow of nostalgic photos and messages, the traditional Tug of War took place on the Governors Lawn. Good luck for the future to the newest Old Bradfordians.

It is always good to meet up with old friends but it would be good to see some new players entering the competition in the future.

There were 12 Old Bradfordians and five guests taking part and the winner of the Bacchus Cup was David Ramsbottom with a score of 37 points. David has been playing in the event for over 20 years and it is the first time he has won. He retired recently and has, therefore, been able to play more golf. The runner up, after a countback, was Andrew Seal with 35 points with Peter Smith coming third. Nicholas Smith won the Guest's prize with a score of 33 points.

If you would like to consider playing in the event in 2018, please email lpearson@bradfordgrammar.com or contact Roy Aspinall on 01226 725409 email royasp26@aol.com

Below: The traditional Tug of War on the Governors Lawn



SPORTS

BGS v Old Bradfordians Swimming and Water polo Match

The Old Bradfordians (with a depleted team) came back to once again challenge the School swimming boys' and girls' teams with the water polo team on Saturday 18 March.

After the family swim, the swimming match began and the School got off to a win in the 50m freestyle with their superstar Johnny Milner, but notable swims were seen from 50 year olds Steve Moorhouse and Jonathan Priestley.

The individual medley came next, one length of each stroke. Tim Hobbs and Jen Bonson came a very creditable 2nd and 3rd respectively. Two lengths backstroke came next and Tim Hobbs, without a break, came a creditable 2nd with Nick Kershaw just missing out in 4th.

100m freestyle was next and The Old Bradfordians put out their best with Jen Bonson and Frankie Williams taking 2nd and 3rd.

Relays next and the Old Bradfordians' team came a creditable 2nd with Tim and Ben Hobbs, Mike Nixon and Johnny Gill in the Medley Relay, A team Jen Bonson, Tim Hobbs, Johnny Gill and Steve Moorhouse. There were very creditable teams in the B team from Ian Walker, Nick Kershaw, Neil Lloyd and Frankie Williams.

The canon was the last event and the School A team managed to win, the Old Bradfordians in 2nd. The oldies were missing their eldest boy, Peter Ackroyd, who for the first time was unable to swim but was cheering on the team.

Water polo next, and after only narrowly winning last year, the Old Bradfordians wanted to keep the winning streak going, not losing a match since 1984!

Chris Nixon and Neil Lloyd shared goalkeeping duties and both made some excellent saves. After two tight quarters the Old Bradfordians were 4-1 up, and then moved away to win 10-5.

Some excellent teamwork from Ian Walker, Johnny Gill, Nick Kershaw, Johnathan Priestly and Jen Bonson pressed the School and Tim Hobbs, not

normally known for his Water Polo skills, scored two goals with Mike Nixon and Frankie Williams scoring one each.

Steve Moorhouse, ex Great Britain player, was the difference scoring the other five goals and without him, the result might have been very different.

Another great day, many thanks to all supporters and especially Bryan Townsend for running the day. Great to see new and old Old Bradfordians take on the School, hopefully some of the newer Old Bradfordians can make it next year, to give the School a closer swimming match.



Richard Birkett Memorial Rugby Match 2017

Despite the fact that the fixture coincided with the Tour de Yorkshire, a good-sized crowd turned up at Bradford Salem Rugby Club on Sunday 30 April to watch the Annual Richard Birkett Memorial Game.

Richard Birkett died suddenly of a heart attack in August 1992. He was an Old Bradfordian and a loyal member of Bradford Salem RFC.

For the 26th time, the trophy was contested between a Bradford Salem Select XV and an Old Bradfordians XV.

The firm pitch at Shay Lane was always likely to suit the younger, fitter and speedier OBs side. The tone was set when centre Joel MacFarlane scored a length of the field try straight from the kick-off!

Then, further tries from Harry Boyd, Kristen Dobson, Struan McKenzie and Kodie Brook gave the OBs a 40-point lead at the break.

The second half was a little more even and 50-year-old former Salem and Wharfedale player, Mark Viner, scored two tries for the Select XV.

However, Ross Kirtland and Boyd responded for the OBs, and, although Salem Select winger Ian Critchley scored a late consolation try, the Old Bradfordians made it a hat-trick of victories as they ran out comfortable 67-17 winners.

The overall record is now 15 wins to Salem, 10 wins to BGS with one draw. The day was slightly marred as Callum Manchester, who was captain of the OBs side on the day, had to go to hospital after breaking his nose following an accidental clash of heads with one of his own team-mates!

In Callum's absence, Richard Birkett's widow, Marilyn, presented the winning trophy to Dan Scarbrough who thanked the players for turning up and producing such a hugely entertaining afternoon.

Neil Klenk
(1972-79)



REMEMBERING ...

We record with sadness the deaths of the following Old Bradfordians and offer our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Obituaries

With thanks to David Moore, Obituaries Editor

Dr Andrew J E Bell (1971-81)

Andrew died suddenly at his home in Las Vegas, aged 54, where he was Associate Professor of History at the University of Nevada. A classicist, he won a Platmore Scholarship to Brasenose College Oxford, graduating in Literae Humaniores with a first class degree in 'Mods'. He follows a long tradition of fine classicists to emerge at BGS. He later became a Teaching Fellow at Marlboro College Vermont for three years before obtaining a History Doctorate at Stanford University.

His thesis, 'Spectacular Power in the Greek and Roman City' (2004), was published by Oxford University Press and subsequently (2006) in a paperback edition. He contributed various articles to Classical Journals, most recently to the 'Cambridge Companion to Cicero'.

The Chair of the University of Las Vegas History Department wrote the following

tribute about Andrew to his colleagues:

'For over twenty years, Andrew was a core member of our department and made significant contributions to our success and intellectual life. He was unendingly curious, and, in an age of growing specialisation, his breadth of knowledge was truly astounding. He touched a remarkable number of students, who adored him as an instructor. He brought an enthusiasm for antiquity and the medieval period to a world obsessed with the present. He had a tremendous sense of humour and a disarming warmth. He was a phenomenal talent and a remarkable person. Many of us will feel a great void in his absence.'

There will be a memorial service for Andrew in the University's Fall Semester.

David Buckingham (1945-56)

David, a regular attendee of the 1940s reunion, died on 30 July 2016.

Rowland Geoffrey Lumb (1936-40)

Rowland, known to everyone as 'Geoff', died peacefully at his home on 13 April 2017 aged 92. He lived in Nottingham and leaves behind a partner of 30 years, Beryl.

Keith Pennington (1939-44)

Keith died in May 2017. Keith had fond memories of the 'Old School' in Manor Row, as he revealed in a letter to the President in May 2014, when he was no longer able to attend reunions. He recalled nostalgically his first day at BGS on 3 September 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War, when the 11 year olds were evacuated to premises in Moorhead Lane in Shipley for 1939-40. He was a scholarship boy under a Benefaction Scheme set up in 1860 and still operational in 1939. He remembered the Headmaster, R B Graham, who at that time lived in Clock House; the façade of the then unfinished new school in Keighley Road impressed him with its 'magnificent architectural grandeur'. The 'Dig for Britain'

campaign and the growing of potatoes on the School grounds, enthusiastically supported by the Headmaster, was imprinted in his memory.



Sir Kenneth Duncan Morrison CBE (1943-50)

One of the School's most distinguished former pupils, Sir Kenneth Duncan Morrison CBE, died on 1 February 2017 aged 85.

Widely known as 'Ken' by friends, colleagues and customers alike, he transformed his father's Bradford market-stall grocery business into a FTSE 100 supermarket chain, which he ran with huge success for more than half a century. He enjoyed unrivalled respect and affection from all who knew him, whether as a colleague, customer or, even, competitor.

Sir Ken began working in the family business while at school, aged nine, during the evenings and school holidays. He helped his father on his market stall during the day and checked the quality of the eggs with a candle light at night. Retailing was in his blood. With typical modesty, he later observed, 'I had no formal education for anything ... I learned my craft at the dining room table with my dad talking about things.'

He joined the business full time in 1952, after National Service in the Army, becoming manager of the group in 1956 during his father's serious illness.

The first self-service shop opened in 1958 followed by the first supermarket, which opened in 1961 in a converted Bradford cinema. Morrisons then grew into a chain of more than 100 stores by the millennium. The Morrison name became a by-word for successful northern business.

At the heart of the Morrison formula were three Sir Ken's key concepts – value, quality and customers.

Focusing on offering excellent value to working-class households, Morrisons kept costs in the business to an absolute minimum – so much so, there was allegedly a policy that telephone calls should not be returned; the caller was always asked to phone back later.

Value, however, was not achieved at the cost of quality. Careful control of sourcing, with many provisions coming directly from within the group, meant that quality could be assured. Sir Ken played his own part, frequently arriving unannounced at stores and, to the bemusement of those around, opening packs of food to check their freshness and rooting through the bins.

Not least, he understood his customers. Definitely

more at home on the shop floor than in the Boardroom, he was genuinely interested in other people and what they thought. He adopted the same approach to his workforce, always wanting the best from them, and the best for them.

Famed for his distinctive management style and Yorkshire directness, Sir Ken rejected modern business theory in favour of an approach that was much more personal and practical, observing: 'If you don't know how to run your own business, it's time to give up, isn't it?' On another occasion, he mused that he could get a couple of checkout assistants for the cost of a non-executive director.

He wanted to remain true to the family's market-stall philosophy – inside the supermarkets, fresh food was sold from individual sites aptly named 'Market Street' designed to look like stalls, including in-store pie shops.

A sharp brain, a critical eye for detail and sound common sense were more important than management theories and mantra. It might be described as a rolled-up sleeves style of management. Sir Ken went further – invariably attired in a short-sleeved shirt with regulation company tie – his focused and down-to-earth manner came to personify the values that underpinned the hugely successful business.

As Chairman and Chief Executive, with a small team of long-serving lieutenants, he led Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC through a remarkable period of growth, with ever-increasing numbers of customers and plaudits from City investors intrigued by his formula for success.

Growth, however, also brought challenges, none more so than when taking over the larger Safeway chain in 2004. For a period, profits suffered and investors were uneasy. However, the company had recovered by 2006. Sir Ken relinquished daily control in 2008 and subsequently assumed the honorary post of Life President.

However, even in this latter role, Sir Ken's presence loomed large, keeping in touch with the new executive team through his regular Friday fish-and-chip lunches. He didn't hide his dislike of some of the quirkier initiatives during the last ten years and must have been relieved to see a return to his more traditional approaches in more recent times, alongside an improvement in sales and profits.

He was awarded the CBE in 1990 followed by a knighthood in the New Year's honours list in 2000 for services to the retail industry.

Andrew Higginson, current chairman of Morrisons, described Sir Ken as 'an inspirational leader and the driving force behind Morrisons for over half a century. Although he retired

several years ago, his legacy is evident every day and in every aspect of our business. Ken will be remembered by us all for his leadership, his passion for retailing and for his great love of Morrisons'.

Whilst impossible to do justice to such a full life in the space available, there are two further themes that underpinned Sir Ken's life, both of which are relevant to current and Old Bradfordians alike – a commitment to hard work and a loyalty to place.

Sir Ken appreciated that success was earned and not simply acquired. Talents needed to be nurtured and applied, and there was no substitute for sheer graft, commitment and attention to detail.

He was equally committed to his birthplace and never lost an opportunity to promote Bradford, which included resisting pressure to relocate his headquarters to the South following the Safeway takeover. He was a proud Yorkshireman and loyal Bradfordian.

Sir Ken's life epitomises what Bradford Grammar School wants for all of its pupils – ensuring whatever is done is done well and not settling for second best, focusing on what matters and not being distracted by aspects that are token or extraneous, understanding and respecting people irrespective of

background, working hard to put every talent to use, never forgetting the people and place from which you come.

Leadership has been described as creating the conditions for others to excel. There can be few better examples of this than Sir Ken Morrison.

Sir Ken was immensely proud of his family. They describe his 'gentle humour and kindness ... someone who could, and would, talk with genuine interest to anyone. He showed us all the importance of aiming high but never forgetting the practicalities of life and the humanity of those we deal with'.

Sir Ken is survived by his wife Lynne, Lady Morrison, and five children. Lady Morrison is Chairman of the Board of Governors at BGS.

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Robin Irvine
(Irvine R.A.N.)
(1950-60)

A Proud Scot, Old Bradfordian and a respected member of the Bradford Legal Profession.

Robin Irvine died on 16 January 2017 after a short illness. Robin started his BGS career at Thornville where like many of his generation he enjoyed the extensive, almost jungle like grounds at Thornville, and racing his Dinky racing cars down the tracks

pupils built in the lower 'garden'.

He moved to the main School in 1953 and, not being particularly interested in sport, he joined the CCF as soon as he was able. He progressed through the ranks eventually becoming Battery Sergeant Major, the most senior cadet in the contingent.

Robin left school in 1960 to read Law at Leeds University immediately joining the Officer Training Corps gaining his T.A. commission in 1962. Thus began his long association with the T.A. until his active involvement came to an end in 1985. However, his involvement continued thereafter following his appointment as a Trustee of the West Riding Artillery Trust in which role he continued for a further 25 years.

In 1963 he graduated in Law and then attended the College of Law in Guilford prior to taking his Law Society finals thereafter completing his practical training articulated to Dunn Connell Solicitors in Bradford.

On completing his training, he joined A.V. Hammond Solicitors in Bradford in the Criminal Defence Department. He continued to specialise in Criminal Law for the rest of his career starting his own firm Irvine & Company in the early 1980's. Although he initially concentrated on Defence work, he ultimately started also to prosecute on

behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service admitting that from Monday to Thursday he defended, but on Fridays he did what he enjoyed most, putting miscreants (not exactly his word) behind bars.

Robin's expertise extended beyond the West Riding as for many years he served on the Law Society's committee for Criminal Law at Work and as a peer reviewer for the Legal Services Commission. This involved him assessing the competence of firms of solicitors who had applied for a Legal Aid Franchise for Criminal Law.

Robin maintained his connection with Bradford Grammar School assisting the CCF during his time with Leeds University OTC and serving for many years on the OBA Committee and as its President in 1978. His main committee role was as Social Secretary, arranging for many years speakers for the Annual Dinner, which resulted in a succession of excellent speakers, often from the legal profession.

Robin was a devoted husband and family man, marrying in 1980 fellow lawyer Juliette (Julie) who sadly died in 2012. They had two sons Alexander and James to whom we extend our sympathies.

Written by Gordon Green (1953-61). With grateful thanks With grateful thanks to Godfrey Hope (OB) for his permission to base this Obituary on

the Eulogy he gave at Robin's funeral.

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Geoff Smith (1968-78)

Geoff died in September 2016 while in Tuscany. His close friend Andrew Seal (1966-76) writes as follows:

'I first met Geoff on the 67 bus from Bradford to Keighley. Geoff was a year younger than me but we instantly became friends. Geoff was mature beyond his years, helping his father Bill in the family-run pet shop from the age of 14 at weekends, where he was exposed to the delights of real ale and adult stories at the Market Tavern in Keighley, and, knowing Geoff, sometimes during working hours! Geoff could tell a story, and even if it were slightly embellished, he had the entire top deck of the 67 bus in stitches with some of his tales. Most are not fit to print but helped pass the time as we caught up on homework on the way to school.

'When we met again at the 'Big School', we both joined the cross-country club which was to be the highlight of our school days as well as in later life. The five-a-side soccer games after cross country training were legendary. Friday lunchtimes were always important as the teams for Saturday's matches were always published on the notice boards and it was always a relief to see your name. Away matches meant early

morning passes to leave lessons on a Saturday, another 'win' in Geoff's eyes. Geoff was academically very bright: he had an enormous capacity to learn and remember things that interested him, but would forget the simplest things which did not matter. Recently at a former pupils' cross-country reunion, he arrived telling me he had bought two new pairs of trainers; when he opened his bag, he had brought two left shoes!

'Geoff had a successful career in IT, working in Germany, before deciding on a slower pace of life. He travelled to Tuscany to write children's books and enjoyed sampling the local food and wine. He made lifelong friends there, as he did everywhere he went. It was there on a recent visit that he lost his life.

'Geoff was kind, generous to a fault, loyal and loving to all his family, but, most of all, he was a 'good mate' and he will be sorely missed.'

Another close friend of Geoff, David Whitlam (1970-78), adds the following:

'... Geoff did not lack self-confidence. He devoured books and remembered and recounted minutiae; he excelled at crosswords, read Psychology at Bangor, worked in IT in newly liberated Prague, became a teacher, tutor, took up every cause he felt strongly about, sometimes at the expense of his health. He was happy stirring scrambled eggs

for 40 boys at cross-country camp and equally at home adding lavender and unusual ingredients to more adventurous Italian dishes. We sparred intellectually and, although I had quite an edge in modern languages, he was way ahead in other areas and he certainly knew it! Avuncular and engaged was our Geoff.

'He famously scored 'A' for a visionary poem, 'Five Years', which started, 'Pushing through the market square, so many mothers sighing ...' A week later, when the English teacher realised that this was actually a David Bowie lyric, the punishment was light and we all guffawed and felt strongly indebted to Geoff for introducing us to the seminal 'Ziggy Stardust' album! Geoff's knowledge and opinions of music are legendary and he was a stalwart of the Keighley Folk Festival among others. I last saw him in February 2016 at my own pub singalong in Giggleswick. My sister and I will always picture him looking remarkably hale and hearty, standing by the piano, knowing every damn word of the 70s' hits I was singing.

'I will always remember Geoff as an instinctively kind man ... When my wife became terminally ill, Geoff dropped everything, came down to London and insisted on helping out for a couple of days (and drinking all my claret). Kind and involved, that

was Geoff ... But Geoff, the 'Rebel with a Cause' who never did things the orthodox way, will always be remembered as someone who did it 'His Way'.

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Professor William Arthur Speck
(1948-57)

William, known to all as 'Bill', died in May 2017. His friend David Weir (1950-57) has contributed a personal reminiscence as follows:

'Bill Speck was a son of Bradford and will be remembered as a great alumnus of Bradford Grammar School, and one of the leading historians of his generation. He was born to Jack and Evelyn Speck and came after Drummond Road Infant and Green Lane Primary schools to BGS firstly to Thornville following his elder brother Jack. His early years at BGS were marked by consistent scholarly success and he became well known to culturally rebellious fellow-spirits as a founder member of the Jazz Club with a deep love of the Modern Jazz Quartet and as a passionate cyclist.

'Bill and I met in Reg Petty's Sixth History class and our subsequent careers were profoundly influenced by that great teacher, culminating in our both winning Hastings Scholarships in History, to Queen's College Oxford in the

same exams in 1956. During the scholarship examinations at Queen's, and despite Reg Petty's injunctions to revise carefully before each exam and of course to get to bed early Bill and I snuck off to the OU Jazz Club and heard Dudley Moore, then a jazz pianist rather than a comedian, for the first time. After the exams, we had a vibrant night in London, dining at Jimmy's famously cheap Greek Restaurant in Soho and celebrating with Sandy Ewing and other London-based OBs in the Coal Hole on the Strand.

'After our Scholarships were confirmed, Reg packed the two of us off to the Bradford Reference Library to study and write reports on the Lister's Mill Strike and the foundation of the Independent Labour Party at the Mechanics Institute in Bradford in 1893. This was our first serious archival research and we enjoyed the long quiet days in the Ref and the sombre light and the traffic noises from Darley street. At lunchtime, we escaped to Woods Music Shop 'If Your Group Wants Guitars You'll Do Better Buying Them In Bradford' to play records. Bill of course chose 'real Jazz', while I opted for Slim Whitman or Buddy Holly. These dusty days among old newspapers in the Reference Library set a tone for Bill's professional scholarly career, which was always marked by

meticulous accuracy, and respect for sources.

'At Oxford we remained good friends: we joined the Labour Club and the Socialist Society together and we both married while students at Queen's and stayed on at Oxford for graduate work after our first degrees. Bill was a constant practitioner of the Air Clarinet and evenings in Bill's room saw his supple fingers bopping rhythmically as the light cerebral textures of MJQ, Miles Davis or Gerry Mulligan filled the space between our words.

'Bill continued his involvement in cycling, becoming captain of a resurgent University Cycling Club supported by Jim Thompson, fellow Queensman and Yorkshireman. It was reported that in a Bradford expat discussion of 'Yorkshire's greatest sporting hero' divided between the supporters of Len Hutton (Pudsey) and Ernest Ward (Bradford Northern), he championed the claims of Vic Sutton, the trailblazer in the Tour de France for Tommy Simpson. Bill duly obtained a DPhil for his thesis on politics in the reign of Queen Anne. The long 18th century remained the core of Bill's important contributions to historical research and his stream of publications marked him as one of the leading historical scholars of his generation.

'Bill's career as an academic historian took him from lectureships at Exeter and Newcastle,

creating respect for his meticulous, evidence-rooted scholarship and deep affection for his support and commitment to his younger scholars and close colleagues. In addition, his involvement in and leadership of his professional bodies, including in due course his Presidency of The Historical Association. He was an international figure in historical research and his work on the 17th, 18th century was extremely well respected, and anyone working on English history or Anglo-American history of those periods had to include Bill's contributions. As well as becoming a leading and respected expert on his chosen periods, Bill was a methodological innovator and an early advocate of the value of computing in historical research.

'After a year at Yale University he moved on to Chairs at Hull and Leeds Universities. From Leeds, he eventually took early retirement and a well-deserved Emeritus Chair but never retired from history, nor it from him. He became a Special Professor at Nottingham and his flow of important publications, marked by meticulous respect for the archival evidence and a wide-ranging understanding of context, continued. He led by example in the local history community of the North West and Carlisle region, creating new friends and a community of scholarship, while publishing definitive

works on Tom Paine and Robert Southey.

'He found new friends and admirers in his devoted leadership of the local branch of the RSPCA. He had always loved America as a vital source of the central cultures of the Twentieth Century. This very active retirement led him to a reinforcement of his professional and personal comradeship with Mary Geiter – dating back to the early 1990s – and to publications with her on Colonial America and with her and Andrew Browning in co-editing the memoirs of Sir John Reresby, MP for York and a significant figure in the politics of Charles II's reign.

'Bill returned regularly to his intellectual and personal headsprings and never lost his sense of the essential rootedness of life in its particulars. Bill understood the need for political history to be positioned in an understanding of the cultural context of the times. His masterful disdain for obstructive disciplinary boundaries and his deep scholarship of literature as well as politics is demonstrated in his work on Swift, Southey and Thomas Paine. He was a much loved and respected colleague, friend and fellow-professional to many. He was a great credit to Bradford Grammar School and the city of his birth and early manhood and he will be much missed.'

Keith Stretton (1939-46)

Keith Stretton died peacefully on 8 July 2016 after a short illness, a beloved husband, father and grandfather.



John Tarbett (1970-73)

John Tarbett, a former teacher of History and Economic History at BGS in the 1970s, died in May 2017. He is remembered with great affection by scores of grateful pupils for his excellent teaching, dynamism and good cheer. He was respected as a fine teacher and came to be regarded as a true friend.

A former pupil, David Robinson has this vivid recollection of his teaching style:

'He was the best teacher I have ever had in my life. With John Tarbett, the past wasn't dead; it was drama. In the Lower Sixth in 1970 he was the nearest thing I've seen in real life to the Robin Williams character in 'Dead Poets' Society'. He acted out clashes between Gladstone and Disraeli, his gown flying behind him as he leapt from one empty desk to the other. 'Gladstone says this,' he'd say, summarising the Liberal position on the politics of the 1870s with pithiness reminiscent of the great Reg Petty before jumping across to another desk and giving us a declaratory precis

of Disraeli's position. This was all compelling stuff to those of us who were 16 going on 17. It brought arguments of the Victorian age alive in front of us. Here was a teacher whose lessons were compelling to watch but who was also, it turned out, approachable, encouraging and just as good at analysis as he was at bringing the past to life.

Great teachers change lives, and he changed mine. Yet after I was 18, I hardly went back to Bradford and our paths never crossed again. I never got the chance in life to thank him for being the brilliant, inspiring teacher he was.'

He will be greatly missed.



Bruce Whitfield

Bruce Whitfield, who attended BGS in the 1970s, a much-loved figure among his large circle of friends, who had been in declining health, died 30 October 2016.



Donald Modling Wilson (1947-54)

Donald sadly passed away, aged 79, 2 November 2016 after a short illness. His elder brother, Leslie M Wilson, writes:

'He was known at BGS for his talent at boxing rather than academic achievement. However, he went on to Bradford Technical College and gained a BSc in Textile Design. Subsequently he worked at different times for several textile firms in Bradford. With the decline of the Textile Industry, he

moved on to work as a Computer Programmer and Systems Analyst, working for Girobank. When some years later this organisation was taken over by Alliance and Leicester, there followed the inevitable shedding of jobs. After three years Donald was made redundant but was then taken on as a consultant until his late sixties.

'He had many interests including travel, gardening, crossword and other competitions; he was a member of 'Mensa' and gained 'O' levels in Gaelic and Spanish. He is survived by his three sons, Andrew, Tony and John, and grandson Tom.'



Richard Wilson (1966-75)

Richard has died aged 58 after a short illness. He was Chief Executive of the charity, the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund (CTBF). After BGS Richard studied Geography at Bristol University, a subject to which he remained devoted throughout his life.

His career and interest in TV began in 1984 when he joined Granada Television in the North West; his experience with Granada spanned human resources, production and property management before moving to London in 1998 to become General Manager of London Weekend Television –

now part of ITV London. Subsequently he gained promotion to the role of Operations Director at London Weekend Television's TV studio complex on the South Bank.

After the franchise merger of Granada and Carlton Television in 2004, Richard departed to set up his own media consulting business in 2005, undertaking project work for European and American media companies. This included involvement in major build and technology projects at the BBC. He also spent 12 months managing major work for the digital media centre at Pacific Quay in Glasgow. However, he derived even greater satisfaction from the challenges he faced in his final charitable role at CTBF, to which he was deeply committed, compared with the stresses and demands of corporate business.

Richard is survived by his wife Yvonne and his two children, George and Francesca.

A proud Yorkshireman, he was a keen follower of sport and remained a loyal fan of Bradford Bulls Rugby League team.



Godfrey Platt (1952-58)

Godfrey died 8 December 2015. He was born in Shipley on 23 August 1941 and started his school life at Bradford Grammar School in 1952, where he met his lifelong friend Malcolm McCoubrie. He spent seven happy years at the school and left in

1959. He had a couple of jobs in Bradford before he and his father took the major decision to purchase a bookshop (Greenwood's Bookshop) in the centre of Halifax. At the same time, they went on to form a printing company, providing stationery for many in the area. Godfrey was a very caring and loyal employer. He married Heather in 1980 and they had two children – Caroline and James (an Old Bradfordian). Godfrey joined Halifax Rotary Club in 1978 and one of his proudest moments in his 37 years of membership was becoming President in 2008.

Many of his Rotarian friends remarked that he was a popular, hard-working and dignified President. Godfrey and Heather were keen caravanners and bought their first caravan just a few months after their daughter Caroline was born in December 1981. They had 33 years of memorable caravan holidays with friends and visiting their son James in Cambridge and London. Godfrey and Heather loved music and on their caravan trips to London, they often saw shows in the West End and went to concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. Godfrey retired in 2006 and had nine more happy years of caravanning holidays and family holidays in the South of France. Godfrey was a loving husband and a devoted family man and Heather, Caroline and James treasure the time they were lucky enough to spend with him.

