

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Northern
Independent School
of the Year
2018

THE OLD BRADFORDIAN

The Old Bradfordians Association Magazine

Internationally acclaimed
humanitarian inspires
BGS students

Kate Newton



News
Events
Case studies
Obituaries

2017-18 Edition

WELCOME



... from the President

It is hard to believe it is now a year from the time I took over from Ken Wootton. It is indeed a great honour to be asked to take on this role, which was rather unexpected.

Having spent most of my working life in different areas of England, I finally settled on the North Yorkshire Coast. I felt it would be nice to join the committee and catch up on the past and I have been assisted and guided along the right path by a well-established committee.

Have things changed since I wandered the corridors of academia? In some aspects quite a lot, for instance the fabric of the estate is in a far better condition, the facilities are much improved and more numerous but the Committee is unchanged. Overall it looks good and sends out a healthy message to prospective attendees and their families. It is important for the Committee and OBA to remember we are now in the 21st Century!

The year started with the Annual Dinner at the Midland Hotel and although we are returning there this year, it is our intention to return to school next year. The 40s/50s reunion was a success, and whilst repeating the 40s reunion, it is also hoped to have a multi-year reunion in 2019. Having been able to attend Founders' Day, Speech Day, the Festival of Remembrance and many school productions and concerts, I have seen BGS at its best and well-established traditions are being maintained. I must say the musical standards have come on leaps and bounds. I apologise to the sportsmen for not being able to get to the myriad of fixtures, due to the distance I have to travel, but receive many good reports.

The school has established <https://bgs-alumni.com/> and there has been good interest in this suggesting this is the way forward with communications in this ever increasingly busy world. I would also like to encourage more involvement of younger groups and the ladies with the local OBA and dare I mention joining the Committee! The London Club is very successfully getting increasingly younger groups involved and I would welcome your thoughts and ideas as to the best way forward so that we have enjoyable events and maintain links between the age groups and give support to the school.

Thank you for reading this ramble and I look forward to meeting some of you during the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian M. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.



Ian Holland
(1959-66)

... from the Head

The 'Hoc Age' spirit is thriving and very much part of the modern BGS.

Guided by our motto, Bradford Grammar School (BGS) quietly aspires to excellence in every aspect of what we do, no exceptions, no fuss; we get on and do it. With characteristic honesty, ambition and character we stay true to our northern values and, in ways subtle and significant, move with the times. Paradoxically, over generations, one of Bradford Grammar School's abiding characteristics seems to me to be our capacity to evolve, sometimes boldly, and navigate change. Next year we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the arrival of girls at BGS, need I say more? Recent improvements to pastoral care are sector leading; teaching and learning practices have modernised, students tell us they enjoy lessons and record-breaking exam results have been achieved. We are developing community volunteering opportunities with local partners and investing an additional £4m in sport, signalling our uncompromising commitment to fostering personal growth and achievement in the widest sense.

BGS is in excellent shape going forwards and our characteristic Bradfordian modesty, an often-misunderstood virtue in my estimation, should not prevent us from saying so. Last

year, The Good Schools Guide and Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) visited BGS and put us under the microscope. The former were a little more effusive than ISI in comment, but we were thrilled to receive clean bills of health. The Good Schools Guide suggested that BGS 'blends traditions with forward thinking and pro-active change' that 'academic standards are still excellent but ... it offers far more than its results' and 'pupils and parents alike told us that there is something here for everyone, always something to excel at and someone to help you achieve it'. ISI, with their usual economy, stamped 'pass' on our school report. ISI judgments regarding compliance might seem a little sterile, but they summarise a mountain of ongoing activity to ensure that the 485 standards (!) against which we are judged continue to be met, ensuring children are carefully looked after and well educated.

We were delighted with the reports of ISI and and The Good Schools Guide, and then to hear unbidden that BGS had been awarded the accolade of 'The Sunday Times Northern Independent School of the Year 2018' provided much additional cheer. Alastair McCall, editor of the Sunday Times Parent Power, said: 'Bradford Grammar is in a good place, combining strong academic performance with a caring culture that encourages all students to excel in their chosen field, both within and outside the classroom.'



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



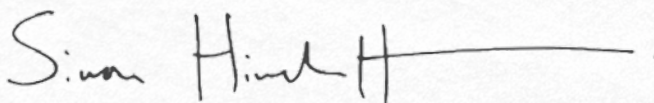
The school explicitly puts pupils' happiness at the centre of what it does. In an age of growing fears about the pressures put on children to succeed, this enlightened approach helps BGS stand out from the crowd. It's a deserving winner of our award.' Recognition was unsolicited, objective and based upon our superb, steadily improving academic results and our wider, enriching co-curricular programme, which continues to grow. It is an accolade to be proud of, most particularly for students at the school because it is a measure of their qualities and personality.

We do not, however, stand still in the glow of recent compliments. One of the school's key ambitions going forwards, which unites us with our historic foundation, is to increase the amount of fee assistance we offer to children from a variety of homes. Government provision of assisted places was reduced in 1979 and ended for good in 1997. Since the core purpose of BGS has been to provide the very best education for the most able boys and girls, whatever their backgrounds, this is not what we would want. Therefore, our ambition in the coming years, and even decades, is to change that.

The school and generous benefactors already provide vital funds for bright students to attend BGS from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, we need to do more, much more. In so doing, we will ensure that BGS will be fulfilling its civic and moral purpose, to enable children of great potential to enjoy a transformational education, that will bring benefit not only to themselves, but also to everyone at this school, to our city and beyond. BGS assisted places have the power to transform lives, instilling aspiration and opening doors to brighter futures that would otherwise have remained out of reach. I extend my gratitude to those of you who enrich the school and young lives through your benefaction, enabling BGS to hold true to our heritage, values and identity. With eyes fixed firmly on the long-term future of our great school, there is no more important work ongoing than this.

I hope you enjoy reading the pages that follow. Thank you to everyone who has contributed an article and worked hard to see this edition come to fruition.

It has been a privilege and tremendous fun to meet Old Bradfordians this past year, often with a restorative drink in hand, and I look forward to working with OBs on joint projects that will enable us to take BGS forwards, together.

Simon Hindle

Louis d'Arcy
(1987-95)



... from the Deputy Head

I have been appointed as the next Headmaster of St Bede's College in Manchester, an HMC co-educational independent day school for pupils from ages 3 to 18, and will take up this post in January 2019.

I was a pupil at Bradford Grammar School from 1987 to 1995 and was educated at St Peter's College, Oxford where I read Chemistry. My working career began as a management consultant at Accenture, developing and testing software for multinational digital television companies. The call of teaching was strong, though, and I joined Whitgift School in Croydon in 2002 to teach Mathematics. I held various positions of responsibility there – Housemaster, second-in-charge of the Mathematics department, Head of Years 6 and 7 and finally Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head of Careers. I then left to join Ipswich School in April 2012 and spent four years there as Head of Sixth Form and a member of the Senior Management Team.

I have really enjoyed my time back at BGS and it is a magnificent school. I will always have very fond memories of the two chapters of my life spent here at the school and will most certainly keep a close eye on developments from across the Pennines. I remain an extremely proud Old Bradfordian and look forward to bumping into many other OBs over the coming years.

Louis d'Arcy
○

CONTENTS

Diary dates

OB vs BGS Swimming and Waterpolo
2019 – 23 March 2019

Bacchus Cup Golf Competition
2019 – July 2019

OBA Dinner
2019 – September 2019

Please visit:
<https://bgs-alumni.com/>
for further details

Brian Parker (1976-2005)
Editor and former
Chemistry teacher



Notes from the editor

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Old Bradfordian – the news magazine for the OBA. Many thanks to everyone who has helped, especially Emma, who has collected ideas and articles for the magazine throughout the year and Rebecca who has sent me reminders and ideas.

The editor and his wife had the pleasure of going to the 2017 Chichester theatre festival to watch OB John Hollingworth playing the leading part of 'Tom, the vet' in Alan Ayckbourn's 'The Norman Conquests'.

- 26 Team GB cyclist inspires old classmates
- 27 OB develops DNA test to spare cancer patients surgery
- 28 Old Bradfordians North America 2017 Reunion
- 28 OB honoured
- 29 Meet Fred Wood
- 29 Former pupil leaves legacy to the OB Association
- 30 Old Bradfordians Club (London) Ltd
- 30 Meet the OB Star Wars producer
- 31 Meet Tejvan Pettinger
- 32 BGS Cross-country Club Reunion
- 33 BGS v Old Bradfordians Swimming and Water Polo
- 33 Bacchus Cup Golf Competition
- 34 Remembering ...



2017 was the first year the Old Bradfordian went digital, with only 500 copies being hard printed. I would be very interested to hear from OBs on this topic. Also, if there are any OBs who did not receive a hard copy and would like to, please contact the school or myself.

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

parkerbandm@gmail.com



Hello from BGS

I have worked at BGS now for over three years and can still remember when I set foot into the striking reception that made me think of 'Hogwarts'. The astonishing beauty of the Price Hall astounded me. I consider myself extremely lucky to work in such a stunning place.

As part of my role within the Development team, I am responsible for all BGS publications, including the 'Old Bradfordian' magazine, 'The Bradfordian' annual publication, and 'Hoc Age' magazines.

This magazine is truly unique and really brings to the fore aspects of beautiful BGS heritage with an innovative and forward-looking approach. We take great pride in thanking our alumni for contributing much to the school's development and this magazine honestly reflects the positive impact they have at BGS and with the wider community.

I hope you enjoy all that follows and do get in touch with your ideas for our next edition – we're always looking for fresh content!

Emma Wragg

Communications Manager

ewragg@bradfordgrammar.com

01274 553709

I have worked for BGS for just over a year now, and I am enjoying getting to know such a fantastic and historic school and it has been a pleasure to meet and correspond with Old Bradfordians (OBs) over the past year.

I am the school's first port of call for OBs; I work closely with the OBA Committee and support all OB events and communications. I also manage the front page content on bgs-alumni.com and ensure all the events and groups are up to date. Next year we will be re-launching bgs-alumni.com with a new look and improved functionality which I am really excited about. Watch this space!

We are thrilled to have welcomed Old Bradfordian speakers this year for both our Senior and Junior Speech Days, Kate Newton MBE and Emma Jones. We have a full programme of Old Bradfordian speakers for our Open Science Lecture Series next year, which is free and open to all. September 2019 also sees the 20-year anniversary of BGS going fully co-educational, and with Lindsey Davis coming to us as the new Development Director in October, it is an exciting year ahead.

Please get in touch if you would like to visit the School, if you have any news or suggestions for the OB events programme, or if you'd like to offer to speak or support our careers support programme for pupils at BGS.

Rebecca Bull

Data and Research Assistant

rbull@bradfordgrammar.com

01274 553714





I arrived at BGS in October, and have been struck by what a warm welcome I have received from staff and OBAs alike – thank you. I'm very proud to become an honorary Yorkshirewoman!

Prior to moving up north, I was Development Director for the Independent Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham for almost three years, during which time I led on alumni relations and fund raising activities across the two schools. Before that, I was based at my alma mater, the University of Oxford, for over seven years, raising over £5 million for access projects and bursary provision.

I strongly believe that access to an outstanding education should be open to all with the potential to benefit from it – not just those with the means. That is without doubt why the values of BGS resonate so strongly with me. As the first in my family to attend university, I know all too well how life-changing education can be. I am also proud to join a school community which prioritises the happiness of its pupils alongside their success, and I hope to mirror that same ethos in all I do.

My role at BGS is an exciting one: working closely with OBAs and the school community, I want to ensure that your connection to your old school endures long into the future. It is clear that the BGS experience is lifelong, setting in motion extraordinary pathways. I enjoy hearing your stories and value your insights and advice. As Development Director, I want to hear your views about how we can best support the OBA network, help you to stay connected with each other and current pupils, and find even more opportunities for you to make meaningful contributions to school. There are so many ways in which we can stay in touch – whether here on our beautiful school site, further afield, or virtually. Emma and Rebecca do a marvellous job of coordinating current activities and communications and I am grateful to them for their hard work (and, it must be added, their patience whilst I fire yet more questions at them)!

On which note, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to anyone who fancies a trip down memory lane – you are welcome back to BGS at any time! Alternatively, I hope to be on the road over the coming months, so that I might meet you and learn more about the men and women who have helped to shape this great school.

By coming together, we honour the rich traditions, which so many of you have enjoyed here. We can also look to the future, and start to think about how, as a community, we can enable future generations to enjoy the same education that you enjoyed. On which note, I can think of no better way to close than with the school motto: Hoc Age!

Lindsey Davis
Development Director
ldavis@bradfordgrammar.com
01274 553712



INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED HUMANITARIAN INSPIRES STUDENTS AT BGS

By Emma Wragg, BGS Communications Manager

An internationally acclaimed humanitarian told students at her former school to 'have the courage to follow your heart, trust your instincts, and share your talent with the world.'

1. BGS Speech Day 2018 guest speaker, OB Kate Newton (1991-93)

2. Bradford Grammar Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe, with humanitarian Kate Newton, and Head Girl Bea Taggart

Kate Newton, who was awarded an MBE for services to emergency and humanitarian relief, in recognition of her ground breaking work in international humanitarian affairs, spoke to an audience of students, parents and staff during Bradford Grammar School's prestigious annual Speech Day.

Kate said: 'My advice to all young people is your time is limited, don't waste it living somebody else's life, have the courage to follow your heart and trust your instincts. Your mind is very powerful, much more powerful than you know, and if you adopt an attitude of total enthusiasm, you will get there.'

Since leaving BGS, Kate has worked in many troubled countries including Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Haiti. She is currently a humanitarian adviser for the Department for International Development, having previously been Deputy Country Director for the UN World Food Programme in Syria.

Returning to her Yorkshire roots, she said: 'I absolutely loved my time at BGS. The skills that I learnt at BGS, whether it was to form an argument, how to write an essay or how to stand up and speak, were never far from my thoughts. I hope that in the future today's pupils will share their talents with the world, come back to school, and continue to help it flourish. The teachers are incredibly inspiring – and I urge all the students to try and keep in touch with the school.'

'Bradford is a great place to be and the city is feeling more interconnected each time I return. BGS is part of a growing connectivity and civic interaction. You can feel it in the atmosphere and I think this is fantastic for the students.'

Simon Hinchliffe, BGS Headmaster said: 'We were delighted to welcome Kate back to BGS. Her visit has been a great success with overwhelmingly positive feedback. She is a compelling speaker with a wealth of experience and wisdom drawn from her professional and personal life. Her tremendous passion for tackling poverty and educating the young is inspiring.'



BGS is celebrating the first milestone in its £4m sports redevelopment. The topping out ceremony was attended by the development's site team Managing Director and BGS staff to mark the end of the structural work.

By Emma Wragg,
BGS Communications
Manager

BRAND NEW SPORTS FACILITIES 'TOPPING OUT'





WE'RE KEEN TO NURTURE THE INTERESTS AND ABILITIES OF EVERY CHILD

Oliver Rogers, Director of Sport



It took 25 days and 2 cranes to install the steel frame and roof on the building, which will open in Spring 2019, and will comprise four netball and four tennis courts. It will provide year-round, all-weather use in the day and evening.

The school will also see major upgrades of its cricket, netball, tennis and hockey facilities as well as the new sports enclosure.

Rob Moon, Managing Director at Bermar Building Co Ltd said: 'Bermar are very excited to be involved in this prestigious contract. The difficult groundwork phase is now behind us and we look forward to cladding the building and completing the sports pitches. As a former student of Bradford Grammar School it is great to see such investment in the new facilities.'

BGS, which counts the Olympic triathletes Alistair and Jonny Brownlee among its alumni, has also brought in several new sports names as part of the redevelopment. The new sporting staff has a wealth of experience, from ex professionals and internationals to national league and age group international athletes who have represented Team GB.

Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster at BGS, said: 'This is an exciting time in the history of our school. Sport is central to the offering at BGS and our new redevelopment will provide the perfect environment for our enhanced sports curriculum, which caters for all our young people.'

'We've been successful in recruiting a number of staff to our enlarged sports department with specialist expertise in their fields to help deliver the school's sporting vision. This investment will cement BGS's reputation as the Sunday Times Leading Northern Independent School of the Year 2018.'

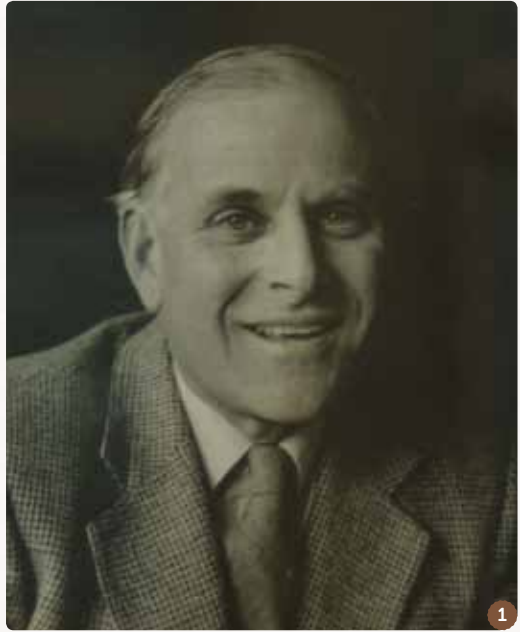
Oliver Rogers, Director of Sport at BGS, said: 'The school has already benefited from an enhanced sports curriculum which has seen the introduction of boys' hockey and girls' cricket. We're keen to nurture the interests and abilities of every child who takes part in sport at school as well as those who are keen to excel and pursue careers in it.'



Left to right: Simon Hinchliffe, Steve Ludkin, Rob Moon, Oliver Rogers, Ian Clint, Chairman of Governors Lady Morrison, Andrew Southey, Kasturi Khanolkar

AN OB TRIBUTE:
**Raymond
Shaw-Smith**

Raymond Shaw-Smith,
Classics Master (1952-89)
By David Moore (1952-62)



Room 27 at BGS from 1952-89 will have special significance for generations of classicists at BGS. It was the room occupied by Raymond Shaw-Smith, a Classics Master much admired and loved by those who had the good fortune to be taught by him. My own memories span the years 1954-62 and subsequently in his later years in retirement from 2008 onwards, while I was writing 'Haec Egimus'.

I first encountered Raymond properly in 1956 when he was our form master in TC (Year 9) and teacher of Greek, but his reputation had run before him. His room was directly opposite the spot where pupils used to form an often unruly queue for school dinners, with the inevitable consequences as they jockeyed for position! Often the door of room 27 would swing open and a young Master of commanding demeanour and authoritative voice would emerge. An incipient riot promptly quelled! Here was a teacher who could stamp his authority and would brook no nonsense. We had been warned.

Of course, we quickly realised that Raymond Shaw-Smith was far more than that. We all soon came to appreciate his outstanding qualities as a teacher, by turns conventional and unconventional. Learning was fun, it was never boring: Raymond exuded life, and he knew how to motivate able pupils. Verve and imagination in his approach, with bonus marks for accurate learning and intolerance of arrogance. Classics

still held a premier position in the curriculum and the department was strong – all members were Oxbridge classicists – but Raymond was the young Turk, the breath of fresh air that it needed.

Raymond's appointment in 1952 by R B Graham proved to be a far-sighted one. The Classics Department was strong with highly qualified, experienced teachers: Raymond was to be the junior member, the post having been filled in quick succession by two appointees who had both quickly departed. Raymond was to give 37 years' devoted service.

We later discovered he was an accomplished scholar of University College Oxford, a versifier par excellence and winner of the Chancellor's Medal (it's worth remembering that in those days classicists had to produce not only Latin and Greek proses but verses too of reasonable competence). No one could rival Raymond's facility, but his example was inspirational. My close friend, Chris Kelk, now a professional actor in Toronto, has spent an enormous amount of time translating Latin and Greek poetry, and, right until the end of Raymond's life, Chris used to send him specimens of his latest work for comment. He was

a mentor for both of us – for Chris and his verse, and for me as I laboured over my own magnum opus: his comments simultaneously to the point, encouraging and often entertaining. My suspicion is that while at university he concentrated on those things which enthused him. Many years later in conversation he recalled part of his own viva voce exam for Greats, which included the following:

‘Now, Mr Shaw-Smith, shall we talk about Aristotle?’

‘No!’ replied Raymond defiantly, ‘I don’t want to talk about Aristotle!’

Stunned silence ...

Raymond and I chuckled in remembrance.

As youngsters in 1956, we all wondered what was in store for us. We had, in a strange sort of way, got some inkling of his independent spirit – even irreverence – because he had set the Greek exam at the end of the previous year. And it was an exam with a difference. There was no solemnity in the sentences we were set to translate: none of ‘the armies faced each other across the battlefield’. Instead his sentences resonated of ‘The Goon Show’, the cult comedy of the time. The vocabulary we had learned during the course of the year was tested in such gems as ‘the arrow flew out of the eagle’s head’. Titters soon broke out around the exam room and Eric Ewbank allowed a knowing smile to cross his face! The concluding question is engraved in my memory: ‘Using your knowledge of Nursery Rhymes what is ‘to zoon oon’? Literally translated

this means ‘the animal egg’, and after a few seconds most of us worked out the correct answer: Humpty Dumpty! The whole exam was a light-hearted dig at the orthodoxy of the traditional textbooks. We loved it! Raymond, we soon discovered, had a natural presence in the classroom which was a place for learning, but there was always life and fun in abundance, not to mention moments of unintended pantomime drama.

I recall, as I’m sure other classicists of my year should do, an occasion when we were reading an elementary Greek reader. Invariably in a new foreign language, whether it’s Ancient Greek or German, you hear sounds, which suggest rude or slang equivalents in English. The word ‘heistias’ which means ‘you are feasting’ appeared in the text. All language teachers face the problem of quelling adolescent sniggers. Raymond’s solution was instinctive and immediate. ‘Ok,’ he said, ‘now have a good laugh and get it out of your system!’ Simultaneously he wrote the offending word in English in his impeccable Italic script on the blackboard.

We did, with a gusto, at which point there was a knock on the door and in walked the Headmaster. An embarrassed silence. Eyes down. Suppressed giggles. Raymond made no attempt to conceal the wording on the board, and fortunately the Headmaster did not look in that direction. He beckoned Raymond outside the classroom to discuss something unconnected – I believe – with the laughter he must have heard. He returned a few moments later, and there was immediately a knowing look exchanged between him and us, a moment of empathy. Relief for him and for us. A bond had been forged.

Many years later Raymond (who had no recollection of the event I’ve just described) told me that as a young teacher he used to send the Headmaster, relatively newly appointed, notes/suggestions. I have no idea what they contained (though I’d have loved to know), but I strongly suspect that the ideas in them would have been rather too unconventional for the Rev J P Newell! Raymond told me of an occasion when the Headmaster had knocked on his door while he was teaching to tell him ‘I will have no more of these notes!’ That, I believe, was the purpose of the Headmaster’s visit.

Raymond was a man of strong, sometimes anti-establishment views. While researching my book, which Raymond kindly proofread, I spent one nostalgic and happy afternoon skimming the pages of the Masters’ minute books for the period 1949-63. Among the often mundane but detailed minutes I came across an occasion when Raymond protested about compulsory cricket, when, for significant periods, pupils on the batting side were left unoccupied and inevitably got up to mischief – a headache for the master in charge. He suggested its abolition! The Second Master, Willy Ed Clarkson, who was chairing the meeting (so Raymond recalled) looked pained, but the motion was carried by a huge majority. He had raised his head above the parapet and touched a nerve, though nothing, of course, changed. The story subsequently became embellished in the Common Room.





One former colleague, the late Dennis Ward, told me that Raymond had made the suggestion that the two teams should represent opposing Roman armies and do battle with each other on the field. A story Raymond strongly denied!

In the mid/late 1950s, a group of senior pupils, spearheaded by the late Bill Speck, wished to start a Jazz Club; any club needed the support and supervision of a member of staff. Jazz (along with most modern music) was the type violently opposed by the Head of Music, Leslie Walsh, who would not allow it to be heard in the Music Room. Raymond, however, agreed to supervise it as he felt the pupils had made a perfectly reasonable request: he used to sit silently marking his books at the back of room 27 while the pupils organised the sessions. He admitted to me that he did not particularly like the music himself, but felt the Club should go ahead, and it went ahead under his 'light-touch' supervision.

Independence and originality infused his lessons: something as potentially tedious as the declension of 'hic haec hoc' became a lively game when a wrong answer could lead to a pupil being locked in the store room cupboard! His colleague Robert West recalled the story in his splendid tribute to Raymond on his retirement in 'The Bradfordian' of 1989. In his teaching of Ancient History, Raymond was insistent that as Sixth Formers we should be able to make reference to original source material rather than second hand text book histories: we should search out original evidence and weigh its significance. He had us diving into Suetonius's 'Lives of the Caesars, Tacitus, The Res Gestae' of Augustus and introduced us to Roman inscriptions, when we were studying the Julio-Claudian period. There was to be no uncritical regurgitation of the standard history book. It was important initial training for any aspiring historian.

Raymond was a committed and enthusiastic Classicist in every sense, even helping his colleague, Donald Haigh, to decipher some Latin inscription above the entrance doorway to Thornville, the Junior School. His walks along the Roman Wall are well recounted in 'The Bradfordians' of the 50s; he produced Aristophanes' 'Acharnians' in the original Greek, using members of sixth Classical as the cast, with a great performance from the late Pete Medway in the lead role; he delivered a funeral oration in Latin in memory of the Emperor Tiberius from the elevated position of the Masters' car park to his audience of Sixth Form Classicists, as we listened attentively on the front field. Stuart Parkes recalls that he sometimes donned his raincoat to protect himself from chalk dust! His mnemonic devices stuck in the memory: 'mens and gens are feminine because they are hens, pons and mons are masculine because they are dons'. Stuart adds: 'His method was to make things real.' He was a late convert to Shakespeare: an early bad experience as a pupil of a performance of Antony and Cleopatra in Liverpool had kept the great bard at bay for many years: one wag in the audience as Cleopatra applied the asp to her breast had called out 'Atta, girl!' He acted as prompt for the Shakespearean productions of the 50s and became a convert to the language. It led him to produce Antony and Cleopatra himself. He also was a keen supporter of the musical life of the school both in the choir and orchestra.

He loved the outdoors and was a keen attender of the school camps at Drebley on the banks of the Wharfe near Appletreewick; he shared in the camaraderie, his tenor voice clearly audible around the camp fires, or entertaining the group with his experiences of learning to drive! He was later to write a memorable poem entitled 'Those Drebley Days' for the OBA Annual Dinner. Its opening verse goes as follows (the references in line three are to Bill Smith and Eric Ewbank, the founding members of the camps):



**TWO MILES DOWNSTREAM FROM BURNSALL
AND TWO ABOVE THE STRID
WHITE ARROW AND TREE CREEPER
INVESTED FIFTY QUID:
GUARDED BY FIR PLANTATIONS
NOW TALL THAT THEN WERE DWARF
THEY MADE A GOLDEN ACRE
OF BRADFORD BY THE WHARFE.**



Raymond was also a no-nonsense disciplinarian when the situation arose. He would speak his mind and his rare shows of anger always hit the mark. Pupils listened and took note. My friend Mark Ashley recounts an occasion when, during lunch break, some horseplay was going on in room 27 which involved the use of the window pole. Alas, the intended objective was missed and the window pole went straight through the window. Mark duly confessed his guilt to Raymond, whose withering words are instilled in his memory to this day:

'Ashley, you are a complete idiot!
Now become!'

His classical training had made him a master of English prose and he was often called upon to write portraits of retiring colleagues – those on FL 'Charlie' Somers and REF Green are fine examples. His words were felicitous, never wasted, and his eye for detail acute. Consider this snapshot of Charlie Somers:

'His colleagues knew him as a meticulous teacher with a demanding attention to responsibilities, his own and other people's. He never actually knocked his pipe out on our heads, but he was often seen reviewing his seemingly illegible agenda on a scrap of paper in a haze of smoke, and once you were an item on that agenda you did not easily escape.'

Likewise his comments on essays were eagerly awaited and his judgements on reports pithily witty: 'If I work hard he will pass' springs into my mind!

During the academic year 1960-61 he took the then unusual step of taking a year's sabbatical of unpaid leave, with the Headmaster's blessing. We missed him badly as his inexperienced young replacement had none of Raymond's presence or panache. The magazine regularly charted his travels across continents, even visiting Borneo. On his return he gave a vivid account of his journey to the whole Sixth Form. And it was then revealed that he had become engaged to his wonderful future wife, Dolores.

Raymond and Dolores were to raise their family of four boys (all of whom attended BGS and won places at Oxbridge Colleges) on a remote farm house on Harden Moor. When Raymond purchased the farm in the early 60s much work on renovation and modernisation was needed. Pupils and former pupils were regularly and willingly recruited to help with various tasks. I recall that my late friend Graham Bradshaw and I visited to help clean out a pigsty. Happy days!

They say that great teachers inspire: Raymond was a shining example. Those of us fortunate enough to be taught by him could never understand why he was overlooked as a head of department. He was modest to a fault. My friend Chris Kelk and I maintained regular contact with him, and he was a frequent attender of gatherings of the 1950s classicists' reunions, travelling long distances well into his 80s. Chris and I both toasted his memory from afar on the day of his funeral – Chris from Toronto, I from Melbourne. We will miss him but we will always cherish his memory.



MEMORIES:

Learning German at BGS (1956-1962)

By Stuart Parkes Emeritus Professor of German,
Aka Parkes K.S. (no.6368)

'In the 1950s Bradford Grammar School (BGS), a Direct Grant School, demanded stark choices from its – as they were then called – pupils unless they were consigned to a lower stream. This was the equivalent of 'outer darkness' in that these boys were no longer able to take Latin and were thus excluded from the search for what, for the school, represented the Holy Grail, namely a place at an Oxbridge college.

One league table published in the 'Times Educational Supplement' (yes, they existed in those days) was all that counted: the number of Oxbridge scholarships a school gained.

The choice I then had to make at the end of the second year (Fourth Form) in 1956 was between 'Science' and 'Modern'. Modern meant dropping Physics and Chemistry and starting German. After an unfortunate encounter with some acid in the chemistry laboratory, I opted for the mysteries of German and, what is more six 45 minute periods, as the aim was to reach O Level standard in two years, although nobody took the examination at that point.

German meant making the acquaintance of the principal teacher of the subject Dr Krips, who had already taken my scientist brother in the Sixth Form for scientific German, deemed necessary because German was still considered a valuable asset, especially for chemists. He had begun by telling the class that there were only three important phrases in German: 'Ich liebe Dich', 'Herr Ober, noch ein helles Bier' and 'Herr Ober, noch ein dunkles Bier.' (in order: I love you. Waiter, another light beer. Waiter, another dark beer). As innocent 13 year olds, we were not given this information but presented with the textbook 'Aufenthalt in Deutschland', the two parts of which accompanied us over the first two years learning the language.

From the beginning, however, Dr Krips loomed larger than the textbook. He was an Austrian by birth, who had left at the time of the 1938 Anschluss. By training he was a lawyer, his doctorate being in the area of jurisprudence. Despite, or perhaps because of this unconventional background, his methods were equally unconventional. They reflected his love of music, which was perhaps not surprising since his brother was the conductor Josef Krips. What he offered us was what might be termed rhythmic grammar. Using the window pole as a kind of drumstick and the much-indented floor as the drum, he beat out a rhythm to which we chanted 'ich bin, du bist, er/sie/es ist' etc. When it came to the declension of nouns, especially masculine and neuter ones, he assumed his brother's profession and conducted us through, for example, 'der Mann, den Mann ...'. The highlight was the dative plural form (den Männern) when he held out his hand and moved it slowly from left to right to make us continue the 'n' ending for several seconds until he abruptly raised his index finger.

There was little excuse for anyone to omit this 'n' subsequently, as the declension concert was unforgettable. There was arguably more excuse for forgetting adjective endings. These were pinned up on the classroom wall or rather they were not. In an example of virtual reality 'avant la lettre' we had to imagine they were written there. A mistake in this area provoked the response 'Can't even read' spoken in stentorian tones which, especially through the 'r' sound, revealed quite clearly that Dr Krips was not a native speaker of English. Equally, there were problems with vowels. His exhortations to work harder came over as 'You must learn more.' It was not that he overused English in preference to the language spoken in his native city. The request for quiet 'Darf ich mal um Ruhe bitten?' (May I ask for silence?) and his calling pupils 'Herr von X' were, unbeknown to us at the time, very Viennese.

Dr Krips's personality and presence, which fitted in with his big frame, made learning the fundamentals of learning German fun. Whether teaching it to us and other year groups was fun to him is more open to doubt. During our second year of learning German, he developed an ulcer which required him, no doubt on doctor's orders, on occasions to interrupt the lesson, take out a thermos flask and pour himself a hot drink. Needless to say, we enjoyed this break in normal proceedings.

The first two years of German were, of course, more than reading about Robert and chanting inflexions. There were numerous dictations, whilst each chapter in the two textbooks contained numerous exercises. The hardest were those when we had to fill in the missing inflexions in a sentence like the following: 'D_ jung_ Frau (fahren) mit d_ Straßenbahn in d_ Stadt'. We went through these in class and had to write down the correct answers in our exercise books. Some light relief was provided when Dr Krips read out loud from the famous book for children 'Emil und die Detektive'. Whether or not he was disappointed by our reactions, in the following year it was the turn of 'Tarzan und die Affen'.

Such were the ways in which we were supposed to reach O Level standard in two years, although, as mentioned above, this was not put to the test by having to sit the examination. Instead a further choice was required. Because BGS pupils sat their A Levels after six years, the fifth year, called Remove, had a dual function: as an O Level year and as a Lower Sixth year in the subjects chosen for A Level, which were not taken at O Level. The choice I and others had to make was between German with a view to progressing to A Level in Sixth Modern and History, the choice of which as an A Level subject led to Sixth History. The subject not chosen for A Level was taken at O Level. The system allowed for no flexibility, such as taking German and History at A Level.





The result of this was that the German class in the Remove year was made up of those who, like myself, intended to continue the subject into the Sixth Form and those who were to bow out after O Level. Preparing those in the second category for the examination meant lots of translation and the introduction of the 'Nacherzählung'. A brief story was read out twice by Dr Krips which we then had to reproduce, obviously not at the same length. The only one that remains in my mind is of an old lady who kept a parrot whose previous owner had taught it to swear. Because of this, she covered its cage with a cloth when she received a weekly visit from her priest. On one occasion he left something behind and came back to retrieve it. When the old lady realised the situation, she hastily re-covered the cage prompting the parrot to cry out: 'Das war eine verflucht kurze Woche.' (That was a damned short week). As few of us understood this mild expletive, it was generally omitted. Thus our version of the story, as Dr Krips pointed out, had omitted the main point of the tale.

The linguistic exercises practised for those sitting O Level no doubt benefited the whole class. Whether having to read the first A Level set book benefited those giving up German is another question, since the text to be studied was 'Mozart auf der Reise nach Prag' (Mozart en route for Prague) by Mörike. Certainly much of the language was anything but contemporary. This was underlined when one lesson was devoted to writing a letter to a hotel in Austria, according to Dr Krips because a colleague had asked him to do this on his behalf. When it came to addressing the hotelier, someone piped up 'Gnädigster Herr' (Kind sir), an expression plucked from the set text. Unusually impatient, Dr Krips castigated him for suggesting something so archaic. I thought this was unfair, as we were hardly in a position to know this. At other times Dr Krips, who had possibly been attracted by the Mozart connection, did admit that Mörike was difficult but that it was necessary to study such works for our future good.

As for the O Level candidates, little harm was done as they all passed, whilst the rest of us moved on into the Sixth Form and more intense preparations for A Level. We were even able to celebrate the end of term by learning a drinking song, through which Dr Krips revealed another manifestation of his musical tastes. It tells the story of a young man leaving a pub ('Gerade aus dem Wirtshaus komm'ich heraus) only to notice that the world is

in a state of unstable equilibrium; the streetlights, for example, 'wackeln und fackeln die kreuz und die quer' (wobble and wave all around). Faced with this dilemma, he wisely sees no choice but to return into the pub: 'da geh ich lieber ins Wirtshaus zurück.' Internet entries, which in one case even suggest an English title 'Stewed and pickled', reveal that the song dates from 1840 and was written by a certain Heinrich von Mühler.

For most of my year group, A Levels were not the end of their school career. The next step on the way to Higher Education was entry into the Upper Sixth and studying for Scholarship Level. In the area of language or at least translation, if I remember correctly, there was no difference from A Level, the examination papers being labelled as AS Level. The difference was that there were no set books at S Level but the requirement to know a lot more about German literature. To this end, we now had five periods per week with Dr Krips.

I do not recall how all this literature was tested in the S Level. I have also forgotten how in the following year (Third Year Sixth) I and one other boy were prepared for Oxbridge Scholarship examinations. There is, however, one other thing to mention that was facilitated by the school: visits to Germany. In the summer of 1959 I undertook an exchange with a young man from Stuttgart, the 50th anniversary, of which we marked with a reunion in the presence of a reporter from the 'Stuttgarter Zeitung'. I no longer know who organised the exchange but the group travel was organised by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges.

My second visit to Germany, to Berlin in April 1961, was under the auspices of the Council for Education in World Citizenship. That, to the best of my knowledge, neither of these two institutions exists today in the form of that time may say something, not just about the decline of languages but also about social attitudes in Britain. However, a discussion of these topics in the present context would be, in the words of the English translation of Günter Grass's novel 'Ein weites Feld', 'too far afield'. My aim has solely been to write down my recollections of learning German whilst at school. I am certainly not suggesting that such an experience would be possible or sensible sixty years later.'





AN OB TRIBUTE: Robert West

By Jane Chapman, BGS Assistant Head (Pastoral)
& Gary Woods, BGS Assistant Head (Curriculum)

A man of 'refined learning' (*eruditio politior*), known for 'good taste in his choice of words' (*sermonis elegantia*), who had a 'clear, gentle and melodious speaking voice' (*vox liquida, suavis et canora*) and 'unravelling problems in the poets and orators with clarity and elegance' (*lucide explicuit et lepide*) and was a teacher whose pupils 'held him in affection, and the teacher likewise his pupils' (*discipuli magistrum charum habuere, magister discipulos*)

Robert West first came to BGS in 1971, straight from his PGCE at the University of Bristol. Before Bristol, Robert had been educated at Dulwich College, one of seven Surrey County scholars awarded places at the school on the strength of their 11+ performance.

Inspired by some outstanding Classics masters, including Philip Vellacott and OB Geoff Tomlinson, Robert settled on Classics as his specialism in the Sixth Form, although he was a gifted mathematician who could readily have chosen that road instead.

Robert's 41 years at BGS were important ones for the Classics Department. The 70s, 80s and 90s were not easy times for Classics teaching in schools all over the country, with competition from new subjects, pupil numbers falling and departments in many schools dwindling or being axed. Throughout these years, quietly, eloquently and effectively, Robert fought his corner, and the good health of Classics at BGS today would not have been possible without his 17 years in charge of the department.

A First Year Form Tutor under Derek Butler from 1973 to 1987, Robert later became a Sixth Form tutor, much valued by his pupils for his guidance and support in those important years. His reference writing was second to none, and he had a talent for capturing the

essential qualities of a pupil and presenting them in lucid, elegant prose. Five years as Assistant Higher Education Adviser (2006 to 2011) gave him the chance to use these skills to great effect.

Robert contributed widely to school life over the years, singing in the bass section in choral groups and supporting musical life. He served as a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) officer between 1972 and 1984, and helped with the school Scouts. For a number of years he was treasurer for the Drama Society, and in the latter part of his career was a timekeeper at swimming races. Teaching and non-teaching colleagues increasingly called upon his skills as a proof-reader whose keen eye for detail and thoroughness meant that any task undertaken would always be performed to the highest standard. A Head Boy towards the end of his career, whom Robert had painstakingly coached in his reading of the List of Benefactors for Founders Day at the Cathedral, referred to him in a piece written for 'The Bradfordian' (2009) as the 'marvellous and meticulous Mr West', which – as epithets go – is not so wide of the mark.

Robert had a razor-sharp mind to the end and he could polish off the Times crossword in twenty minutes and the killer Sudoku often in less. Robert remained a firm supporter of BGS in his final years, often returning to the school to support its musicians; he kept in touch with a number of former colleagues and was always eager to hear of the school's fortunes and of the successes of its pupils and staff.



AN OB TRIBUTE:

John Harrington (1933-2018)

By Brian Parker (Chemistry teacher 1976-99,
Head of Department 1999-05)

John Harrington was a remarkable man who positively influenced the lives of many others. His career path was far from typical. John spent his childhood in Aberdare, South Wales and remained a proud Welshman throughout his life.

In September 1946, John went to Ratcliffe College – a Roman Catholic boarding school run by the Rosminians – and passed the School Certificate in 1949. He was one of the last to pass the Higher School Certificate in 1950. He entered the Rosminian order in September of that year with two years in the novitiate in Sussex and then two years in Rugby. While in Rugby, he attended Rugby Technical College and was awarded a Major Scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, in December 1953. He matriculated in 1954 and went on to gain a First in Natural Science Prelims (55), in Part 1 of the Tripos (56) and in Part 2 (Chemistry) of the Tripos (57).

The first part of John's teaching career started at Ratcliffe in 1957 where he taught Chemistry and Mathematics to S Level. He was Head of Chemistry from 1960 and during his six years at Ratcliffe also coached rugby and cricket including the 1st XI.

From 1963-4 he studied Philosophy at St John's Seminary, Womersley, before going to Italy to San Giovanni in Porta Latina to study theology at the Lateran University. While there he also studied for the Diploma in Christian Archaeology and was principal cantor and choirmaster at the Basilica di San Giovanni in Rome. On returning to the UK in 1967, it was hardly surprising that K D Robinson grasped the

opportunity to appoint a person of such wide-ranging interests and intellect – first of all to teach Mathematics for two terms and then Chemistry when a post became available in September 1968. John became Head of Chemistry in 1974 on the retirement of Breeze-Bentley.

John, of course, is more than a mere academic and his contribution to the life of the school and the wider community has been extensive. His love of cricket and rugby was transmitted through the coaching of the junior teams. He continued his own cricketing career in the Bradford Central League and from 1975-95 was Secretary of the League – a position he carried out with typical efficiency, organisation and diplomacy, which was recognised, in his election as a Life Vice-President of the League.

Staff and pupils will remember his singing roles in school productions, in particular Poo-Bah in 'The Mikado' and the Sergeant in 'Pirates of Penzance', which were ideally suited to his department and whimsical humour. The role of the Constable in the 1985 production of 'Jonathan Wild', written and composed by two members of staff, was created for him.

I joined his department in January 1976 as his number two and quickly settled in to a very friendly department. John's

knowledge of Chemistry was phenomenal but he was always eager to learn anything new. The members of the department did not change for many years and John made it seem that we were a family rather than a department. The annual department Christmas party, at Northcliffe golf club, being one of the highlights of each year.

John's teaching of the third year Sixth was always marked with great scholarship success. In 1982 U6S was so large (28 boys) that John asked me to share the scholarship teaching. The year turned out to be the most successful Oxbridge year in the school's history with 46 boys gaining entrance to Oxford or Cambridge. Out of the 28 U6S boys over 20 gained places, an indication of John's quality of teaching and preparation.

Nothing pleased John more than the fact that both his sons gained places at the school. Michael (1982-90) and Paul (1986-94). John did exemplary service to BGS and his scholarly presence will be missed by all who knew him. John leaves behind Helena, his wife, and two sons, Michael and Paul.





Let's get together

By Emma Wragg, BGS
Communications Manager

More than 1,270 alumni have signed up to a specialist-networking site, which is bringing old boys and girls of Bradford Grammar School (BGS) together.

BGS is the first school in Yorkshire to have access to this ground breaking online system to link its graduates. It offers the opportunity for former pupils to set up or import their profiles from LinkedIn, develop professional connections with one another and mentor students or young graduates.

Alumni that have already signed up include Coronation Street star Richard Hawley, Community Leader Dr Rudi Leavor, British Swimming Champion, Adrian Moorhouse, RAF Fighter Pilot, Dheeraj Bhasin, British Sailing Team Sailor, Hector Simpson, and Wine and Spirits Columnist at The Independent, Adrian Smith.

With experts ranging from CEOs, managing directors and business owners to a wide range of specialists, teachers and students, Alumni are able to provide sound career advice, guidance and job offers from a wide variety of industries. These range from Animation, Medicine, Aviation, Broadcast Media, Engineering, Government Relations, Computer Games, Fine Art, and Veterinary to Music, Philanthropy and the Military.

'We want to offer our alumni and students a one-stop-shop of real value,' said 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.'

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

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.'

'BGS-alumni.com 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 at BGS and the wider community cannot be understated.'

Sign up at <https://bgs-alumni.com>



AN OB TRIBUTE:

Life at BGS and Beyond

Phillip Smith (1982-1989)

I still remember the smell of the floor polish, the light coming in from the small glass windows and the wooden desks with holes for inkpots. I turned over the entrance exam paper and started a new life. That was 1982. Now, 36 years later, I reflect back on the seven years I spent at BGS, the friends I made and how that experience has influenced the opportunities I've had, and the choices I've made.

For some reason it started on the evening before the first full day of school. We all went to the lecture theatre and were told about what would happen the next day. We had five classes of 30 pupils and we sat in alphabetical order. I met one of my best friends on that very first evening! Friendship groups at school are dynamic and I'm really pleased that a group of us still meet up – definitely older and perhaps wiser. We've been through a lot and we still reminisce over the things we did at school, especially those stories that are best told after a glass of something cold ...

My favourite subject was biology. I guess this linked to my passion for angling which greatly influenced my social life, the friendships I developed and a career path I've followed.

Sport was a big thing at BGS, and whilst I enjoyed playing rugby and later running and squash, I felt that the school should also encompass other things. So, I formed – guess what – a school fishing club. We had a number of fishing competitions on the local Leeds Liverpool canal. The results of these were read out by the Headmaster on a Monday and the winners were given the same acknowledgment as Olympic champions.

Choosing what A Levels to study in 1987 was easy – it had to be the sciences. I could have done maths but I thought physics would be more useful and definitely more fun as there were lots of practical stuff to play with.


Becoming a Sixth Former meant moving to the 'functionally' designed Kenneth Robinson Building. This was in stark contrast to the beautiful main building. There were other differences too. We didn't have to wear brown blazers, we had access to a drinks vending machine and we had much more freedom.

Of great influence were my biology and chemistry teachers – Dr John Cheverton and Dr Peter Palmer. They provided personal as well as academic support, which was really helpful, especially after being in a motorbike accident a few months before my exams.

And of course there were the epic youth hostelling cycling trips around Yorkshire, the Lake District and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland led by Dr Andrew Jobbings. I am grateful for all that BGS did whilst I was there.


It was expected that most of us would go to university. Not being particularly vocationally minded I chose to study at Liverpool, mainly because I could do marine and freshwater biology. During one lecture we were asked if anybody wanted to spend a year working with British Waterways – the public body that looked after the canal systems. Now I quite liked canals and thought this might be fun. I was offered the placement and couldn't believe it when I was asked to do a study on fish ...

You may not know this, but in the British Isles we have some species that are regarded as natural or indigenous and others which have been introduced from elsewhere (a bit like the Grey Squirrel). I was asked to look at the impact of an 'alien' species called 'Zander'. This had been introduced to England from mainland Europe and many people thought it was having a devastating impact because it ate other fish. This started my research career.



I MADE GREAT FRIENDS, I DEVELOPED A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES BECAME AVAILABLE

Phillip Smith



A couple of years later British Waterways funded my doctorate on the impact and management of Zander. It is pleasing to see that the research I did on the management of this invasive species in the 1990s is still being used to inform national policy of the Canal and River Trust (formerly British Waterways).

After working as an environmental consultant for a few years, I moved into managing health research in the NHS. At the moment I lead a team at the East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and at any given time we have around 150 active research projects involving around 2,500 to 3,000 participants each year, across a wide range of healthcare areas. I am also a visiting professor at the University of Hertfordshire and build links between the two organisations. My philosophy is that we want to enhance patient care and outcome through research and innovation. Promoting the NHS as a location for research also helps our economy through job creation.

As a parent I want my children, and all children, to be offered a great education. This is one of the reasons why I spent four years as Chair of Governors for our local primary school. By volunteering to do this it gave me an opportunity to contribute to the education of others.

I sometimes wonder what would have happened if I had not gone to BGS. Would I have been a different person? Did the experience influence who I am or did it offer more options? I don't know. What I do know, however, is that I made great friends, I developed a sense of confidence and a wide range of opportunities became available. I learned that persistence and hard work pays off. I also discovered that doing something that you consider to be worthwhile and meaningful, to the best of your abilities, is tremendously satisfying, especially when it benefits others.

Whilst writing this article I am transported to that entrance exam. I can't recall the questions but it seems now that there was only one thing being asked – you've got one life: what are you going to do with it?

I would like to end by thanking my parents for their love and support to me and my brother. I know they are proud of us both. Thanks also to my wife and children for making it all meaningful.



Great British Railway Journeys

By Emma Wragg, BGS
Communications Manager

Bradford Grammar School appeared on Michael Portillo's 'Great British Railway Journeys' in January. The programme included a fabulous interview with our teacher, Mr McOwen, and amazing singing from one of our Year 10 pupils.

In October last year, BBC Two's 'Great British Railway Journeys' with Michael Portillo came to BGS to film a segment for an episode focusing on 'successful immigrants', one of which is Frederick Delius OB.

Armed with his Edwardian Bradshaw's guide, Michael Portillo conducted important research in an historic tea room, built by an Edwardian immigrant to the city of York. Research of a more sombre kind led Michael to the roots of our modern welfare state in the work of an early 20th-century Quaker investigator, whose family manufactured chocolate.

Next stop was Leeds, where Michael discovered the city's textile heritage, which relied in Edwardian times on a group of skilled Jewish immigrants to take it forward. Michael learnt how some of the big names built their empires in Leeds. At BGS, Michael heard the story of a talented Edwardian student who became a famous composer and enjoyed one of his works, sung by current music pupil, John Scholey.

The highlight of the BGS segment was certainly the interview with John, Year 10, after which he sang Delius's 'La Lune Blanche'. John's performance on the day was spectacular and we couldn't wait to see it again!



1. Filming for the 'Great British Railway Journeys'
2. The highlight was the interview with John Scholey, after which he sang Delius's 'La Lune Blanche'

BGS named Northern independent school of the year

By The Sunday Times



Bradford Grammar School has been named The Sunday Times Northern Independent Secondary School of the Year.

The top performing schools in the North of England were revealed in Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2018, published in The Sunday Times and online.

Alastair McCall, editor of Parent Power, said: 'Bradford Grammar is in a good place, combining strong academic performance with a caring culture that encourages all students to excel in their chosen field, both within and outside the classroom.'

'The school explicitly puts pupils' happiness at the centre of what it does. In an age of growing fears about the pressures put on children to succeed, this enlightened approach helps BGS stand out from the crowd. It's a deserving winner of our award.'

Simon Hinchliffe, BGS Headmaster, said: 'Naturally, we are all thrilled that the hard work and achievements of our students were recognised in such a special way. League tables of any kind do not tell families everything they

need to know about an extraordinary school like Bradford Grammar, but it was wonderful to receive such a prestigious accolade nonetheless.'

'It was great news for BGS and for Bradford. It also showed what could be achieved when students, teachers and families work together and pull in the same direction. Learning is enjoyable and enriching at Bradford Grammar School and this is why our young people thrive.'

The 25th edition of Parent Power identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK, ranked by their recent examination results. A fully searchable database by school name, local authority, town and postcode, together with new regional rankings are available to Times and Sunday Times subscribers.

bit.ly/ParentPowerSundayTimes



NEWS

Team GB cyclist and OB inspired her old classmates before the Tour de Yorkshire

By Emma Wragg,
BGS Communications Manager

After spending 12 years of her life in BGS's classrooms and playing fields, it was a cathartic visit for the 20-year-old who, due to the exciting nature of her profession, now lives in the rather more sunnier climes of the south of France.

'I absolutely love coming back,' said the Dewsbury-born rider who was taking part in the Every Can Counts recycling initiative.

In return, Parkinson hoped they would come and support her on the 132.5km trek from Beverley to Doncaster, followed by the slightly tougher 149km jaunt from Barnsley to Ilkley. 'It was an epic race, and super tough,' added Parkinson, 'This was my last race before a mid-season break, but the home roads give me so much motivation.'

Abby-Mae continued: 'I love that everyone at BGS was, and still is, interested in what I'm up to. I always get tweets from staff supporting me and I learnt from a very young age at the school the importance of teamwork. The school is renowned for its sporting excellence and in developing world-class athletes and teamwork is a fundamental part of that.'

Abby-Mae Parkinson took a trip back in time in the summer. The Trek-Drops cyclist paid a visit to the place that helped shape the professional athlete she would become – Bradford Grammar School.

She studied for A Levels in Geography, Biology and PE, the latter of which they put on just for her, 'As I was interested in physiotherapy, Mr Wilde and Mr Galley would support me to find universities which had good physiotherapy courses, but of course my passion was always cycling,' she recalled.

BGS Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, said: 'We're all delighted for Abby-Mae. We cater for boys and girls of all abilities in a wide variety of sports, and the experiences gained build character, camaraderie and school spirit. Abby-Mae embodies all of these qualities. Naturally, we're very proud of her.'

Some of Abby-Mae's biggest achievements include riding the Giro Rosa – the biggest stage race for women - where she finished just outside the top 10 in the U23 category. She also rode in the women's road race at the 2016 UCI Road World Championships, finishing in 79th place; completed the Worlds and the Europeans as a junior, and won national champion.





OB develops DNA test to spare cancer patients surgery

By Oliver Moody, Science Correspondent, The Times

Hundreds of people with kidney cancer could be spared surgery with a DNA test that can identify whether tumours are likely to be highly aggressive or relatively harmless, scientists say.

The number of Britons diagnosed with the disease each year has nearly doubled since the mid-1990s to 12,600, largely because of rising obesity. It is forecast to increase by another 26 per cent over the next 17 years.

The breakthrough is especially promising for the 4,000 or so patients a year who are found to have thumb-sized tumours called small renal masses. Tim O'Brien, Old Bradfordian, and a senior surgeon on the team, estimates that in up to half of these cases there is no need to cut out the lump, which could instead be monitored.

While some kinds of kidney cancer grow and metastasise around the body with lethal speed, others do not appear to pose much of a threat.

At present it is extremely difficult for doctors to tell the difference between the two. Researchers in London, however, have identified the genetic signatures that show what path each tumour is likely to follow.

They also discovered that the 'seeds' of kidney cancer are usually sown in childhood when strands of DNA in a few hundred cells become irreparably damaged.

If the findings can be turned into a test, it will not only eliminate the need for more than a thousand operations a year, but also help oncologists to choose the most effective mixture of treatments for an individual patient.

Three papers published together in the journal *Cell* describe the evolution of the tumours in 100 patients at the Royal Marsden and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS hospitals.

The problem is that tumours are like small societies made up of numerous genetically different cell types. By conducting a population census of the cancer, researchers can predict whether it will remain stable or whether a particularly aggressive type of cell will take over.

Samra Turajlic, a clinician scientist at the Francis Crick Institute and one of the lead authors, said her laboratory was now building a test based on the results. It may involve taking half a dozen biopsies to obtain a complete genetic picture of each tumour, or it could take the form of a DNA blood test known as a 'liquid' biopsy.

Sir Harpal Kumar, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, which funded the science, said: 'We are learning from the history of these tumours to be better able to predict the future. This is profoundly important, because it means we can hopefully predict the pattern the cancer will take for each individual patient.'

bit.ly/TimOBrienOB



Old Bradfordians North America 2017 Reunion

San Diego, California
By Len Audaer (1995-2004)

In an apparent nod to its British guests, San Diego supplied distinct weather on each of the three days of this year's Old Bradfordians North America Reunion.

After a day of unseasonable rain, the weekend began Friday evening with introductory drinks in a conference suite at the host hotel.

Despite months of corresponding, it was the first meeting for co-hosts Peter Cross of San Diego County, Russell Taylor of Orange County, and Len Audaer of New York.

We were delighted to welcome the stalwarts, Dave and Eleanor Huggins of Annapolis, Maryland, and John and Helen Thwaite (who'd arrived following an epic road trip from Toronto, via Whistler). We were also particularly honoured to welcome a first-time attendee, Martin Seekings of Ontario, Canada. The air was still heavy as we strolled across the Gaslamp Quarter for dinner at Stout Public House, where Sam Craig and his wife Tara and children Liam and Ashley of Seattle, Washington, were waiting for us.

On Saturday morning, we assembled in the conference suite for a lavish buffet breakfast and welcomed Paul and Kristine Dobson of Orlando, Florida, who'd arrived late the previous night. Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe and his family were a late scratch following a death in the family and the group expressed its sincere condolences. In lieu of the Headmaster's 'State of the School' speech, Len Audaer provided an update on school news, drawing from both his January 2017 visit to the school and materials kindly provided by the Headmaster's personal assistant.

After breakfast, we stepped out into a beautiful Southern California morning and proceeded down to the waterfront for a boat cruise in the San Diego Harbor. After an afternoon of free time, the group reassembled at the hotel ahead of dinner. The giant windows of our limousine bus providing sweeping views of the city as we crossed the San Diego-Coronado Bridge to the Sheerwater restaurant at the historic Hotel del Coronado.

On Sunday morning, we gathered one final time for breakfast at the hotel. The several attendees who planned to extend their visit shared travel plans and speculated on the severity of the looming heatwave (a day later it would top 41° Celsius!).

Owing to nominal host Peter Cross having being called up from retirement, organizing duties for this year's event were shared. However, Peter's hosting was anything but nominal. We are indebted to him for both his meticulous planning and unprecedented generosity. The group resolved to begin planning next year's event immediately, in consultation with the Headmaster. It'll have a lot to live up to.



OB honoured

OB Roger Mason
Charnley BEM
(1943-52) writes:

I am pleased to inform you that, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on Saturday, 9 June 2018, I was honoured by the Award of the 'BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL' for my local voluntary work.

The Cabinet Office's citation stated ... 'Services to Business and the community in Burley-in-Wharfedale'. The Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire is to present the medal to me shortly, and my wife Judith and myself are also to be invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, during 2019.



Meet Fred Wood

By Rebecca Bull,
BGS Alumni Relations

What memories do you have of BGS?

'Mr Graham was the Headmaster when I started, with Mr Newhall taking over during my time. The Deputy Head was Mr Clarkson.

I had great friends, especially through playing rugby and cricket. It was a great school in those days – very happy years. This was where I learnt my lifelong skill of enjoying puddings – they were the best in the world!

On Speech Day one year I remember a speaker saying 'don't worry about earning a living – if you do what you like doing, and you do it well enough, the money will take care of itself' and 'don't ever believe your school days are the best of your life – you've got so many exciting days ahead of you – there's more to come'. I developed into a young man at the School, through all those important years where your adult life is being created, I think it was well created here.

You were at BGS at the same time as David Hockney – what are your memories of him?

'He had an incredible talent so early on. He had been painting and drawing since he was a young child and never wanted to 'be' anything else. When he first started at the School, he was not in the art class. He was very bright, and in the A stream. He asked about art classes and was told that art was for those in the X and Y stream. By the end of the year he had started failing his exams – deliberately downgrading himself intellectually to get into the lower stream so he could do art classes. We had the same art teacher, Reggie Maddox, and I won the form art prize three times. We'd have all been better off as junior artists if David hadn't actually got into the art class – I might have even won the School art prize!



Former pupil leaves legacy to the OB Association

Keith Pennington
(1939-44)

The death of Keith Pennington was recorded in the 2017 edition of the Old Bradfordian.

Earlier this the year the Committee were both surprised and delighted to learn that Keith had left a substantial legacy to the Association.

The Committee has decided that part of this money should be used to fund grants for post-graduate research assistance along the lines of the London Drummond Studentship Fund.

It is kind that Keith, who held the School and OBA in high regard, should remember us in this manner.





Meet the OB Star Wars producer

By Grace Newton,
Yorkshire Evening Post

OB Umar Hussain has enjoyed a meteoric rise through the ranks of the film industry. The 25-year-old has gone from intern to line producer on the new Star Wars movie in just four years.

Umar made an appearance on the red carpet at the Royal Albert Hall for the star-studded premiere of the franchise's latest instalment, *The Last Jedi*. It's a long way from Calverley, where the young special effects expert grew up before his big break. Umar is now the youngest producer working for film giants Disney, and his credits include *Gravity*, *Peter Pan*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *Dr Strange*.

After studying at Frobellian School in Horsforth and Bradford Grammar, Umar graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in politics, philosophy and economics and began an internship in the HR department of a film production company in London. 'He didn't really have any idea what he wanted to do before then, but we do have a picture of him at a Star Wars convention in the US, fighting Darth Vader at the age of five!' said his father Zulfi, a businessman who still lives in Leeds. 'He's very young for a producer - the average age in the industry for his level is mid-50s. He specialises in special effects and animation.'

Another one of London-based Umar's projects was *Jurassic World*. 'He does still get back to Leeds to visit us. His next step would be to become an assistant producer, and maybe eventually a director. He's also very keen to encourage other young people to get into the film industry, particularly those from the regions. Leeds and Bradford can get a bit of a bad press sometimes, and he wants to prove that people from these areas can still get their break.'

bit.ly/UmarHussain

Old Bradfordians Club (London) Ltd

James Williams (1980-90),
President of the OB Club London

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

As the President of the Old Bradfordians Club London, I'd like to share more around 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.

Please e-mail the Hon Secretary Deborah Williams on dcw7238@aol.com

We'd love to hear from you!



Meet Tejvan Pettinger

By Rebecca Bull, BGS Alumni Relations

Tell us a bit about what you're doing at the moment ...

'I publish two educational websites and have published two economics books.'

How did you get to where you are today?

'I was keen to follow a more independent career and pursue self-employment. I wanted to avoid the '9 to 5' lifestyle, so I focused on what I enjoyed doing which is writing on economics and biographies.

Working for myself allowed me to spend more time cycle training.'

What is your biggest achievement to date?

'Winning the 2013 UK national hill climb championship cycling.'

What inspired you to get into cycling, and in particular what led you to start racing in 2004?

'I like being physically fit.

It's a good complement to writing at a computer. Racing allows you to see how far you can stretch yourself and to transcend your previous capacity. There is a great sense of satisfaction to continuously improving your performance.'

How would you personally describe how it feels to tackle a cycling challenge (e.g. a hill climb or time trial)?

'In a race, especially a short condensed race, there is a feeling of great intensity.

You're on the edge of what is possible and you have a heightened sense of awareness and focus.'

We see you offer meditation classes as a member of Sri Chinmoy Centre – can you tell us a bit more about this?

'In my last year at university, I got interested in meditation.

I found it gave a new dimension to life and realised that being able to quieten the mind and bring the heart to the fore gave a very valuable sense of inner peace and happiness. Now, I give meditation classes for the Sri Chinmoy Centre in Oxford (and sometimes York) where we give people the opportunity to learn about meditation and try it for themselves.'

How do you feel BGS prepared you in terms of your mindset for the future and your achievements?

'I think it was a well-balanced schooling. Good from an academic point of view, but exams were not the only priority.

Cross country running was important, but also the climate which encouraged students to think for themselves, read beyond the syllabus and also learn to respect people with different opinions or cultural backgrounds.'

What are your fondest memories of BGS?

'Cross country training was an influential experience – I learnt about discipline and focus.

I enjoyed A Levels the most (Economics and Politics) as I learnt more about independent thinking and they were subjects which you saw in the real world so I took a greater interest in what was happening in the world of economics/politics.'

Happiness is key to individual achievements at BGS; we note that you have written about happiness, is there any advice you would give to BGS students in their endeavours?

'Yes. It is important to value those things in life which give a more lasting sense of satisfaction.

Sometimes it is good to turn off the electronic screen and challenge yourself in different ways. It can be sport, music, writing etc. Also, there is great happiness from offering some form of service to other people – picking up litter, helping local community or even just being thoughtful and kind.'

What further advice would you give to current pupils at BGS?

'Work hard, get a good education but also there is more to school time than just passing exams.

Take an interest in your subjects and try to work out what really matters to you. Also make time for something outside work – be it sport, music or something else.'



CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB REUNION, AUGUST 2018

Celebrating the 50th Pre-season training camp in the village of Westwell, Kent. And so, to the reunion itself.

SSelby, Tony, Andrew Seal, David Potter and partners made the trip as the advance party, all camping at Dunn Street Farm on the Thursday. On Friday Nick Smith, who was present at the 1st camp, arrived followed by a few more who all met up at the Wheel Inn to start the celebrations. The big day, however, was the Saturday. A run around Chalk Pitts, Westwell and Eastwell was arranged for those keen enough and fit enough to be still running.

When Richard Croudson arrived, a hastily arranged game of football took place with goals made of old oil cans and t-shirts!



It was on then to a BBQ at the Wheel Inn. Old friends were greeted all round. David Potter gave a brief speech, thanking Selby and Tony for giving so many great memories to so many boys, and presented them with a couple of glass plaques as a tribute.

Eddie Shaw-Smith led everyone in a few old songs (words of which can't be repeated here!)

Selby and Tony, thanks for the memories!



BGS v Old Bradfordians Swimming and Water Polo

Mike Nixon (OB) reports:

The Old Bradfordians' Swimming and Water Polo team once again came back to take on the school team in their annual fixture.

With a good contingent from last year's leavers and a mix from the older swimmers, the Old Bradfordians had a chance of revenge after last year's defeat.

With good wins from 'iron man' Tim Hobbs in the Individual Medley, master swimmer Jo Blayney in the 50m Breaststroke and Frankie Williams in the 50m Butterfly, and a great 2nd place from Johnny Gill in the 50m Freestyle, Cameron Chippendale in the 50m Backstroke and Matthew handy in the 100m freestyle, the Old Bradfordians were just ahead before the relays.

Other notable swims came from James Hart in the 50m Butterfly and Nick 'Kenny' Kerhsaw in the 100m Freestyle.

The relays were where the Old Bradfordians showed their greatest strength in depth, and this was where the match

was won. Tim Hobbs, Jo Blayney, Johnny Gill and Stephen Moorhouse won the Medley and Freestyle relays comfortably for the Old Bradfordians.

Other notable swims were from Neil Lloyd, a great breaststroke leg, and Nick Turner in the Freestyle leg, in the Medley Relay.

The Old Bradfordians were also victorious in the Cannon Relay.

Bacchus Cup Golf Competition

It was another beautiful afternoon, in a summer which will be remembered for years.

The lack of rain had left the fairways hard and the colour of straw. If you could keep the ball straight then there were extra yards to be gained from the tee.

The big disappointment was the lack of entries for what is always an enjoyable event. Only eight Old Bradfordians and five guests took part.

The winner of the Bacchus Cup was Simon Weir with an excellent score of 38 points. The runner up was Roy Aspinall with 35 points with Peter Smith came third. The Guest's prize was won by Alistair Smith.

Could I please have more entries for 2019 because it would be a great shame if the competition had to be abandoned due to low numbers.

If you would like to add your name to the Golfer's mail list and to receive more details then please e-mail

oba@bradfordgrammar.com.

Alternatively, e-mail Roy Aspinall on royasp26@aol.com

BGS would like to thank the Bradfordians Freemasons Lodge No 9886 for their generous support last year of £750 towards the cost of assistance for pupils applying to go to university to study Medicine or Veterinary Science, where the prerequisite was to attend a Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). More recently, the Lodge also donated £200, alongside other substantial gifts from the OBA and the OBA President Ian Holland, towards the cost of the fabulous organ recital, 'Hands, Feet and Pipes,' with Daniel Moulton in the Price Hall, for which the school is sincerely grateful. The Lodge is open to members who have a connection to BGS; information via 9886sec@gmail.com



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

The Association mourns the passing, during the last 12 months, of five former teachers who made significant contributions, in their different ways, to the wellbeing and development of generations of pupils at BGS: Donald Haigh (1956-86), Raymond Shaw-Smith (1952-89), Geoff Bottomley (OB 1944-52, 1959-67), John Harrington (1967-97) and Robert West (1972-2012, 2013-14)). Robert, as far as I am aware, was one of the longest-serving members of staff, surpassing even the legendary WE Clarkson (1923-63) but eclipsed by Rev William Keeling, (HM 1872-1916)

Donald Haigh (1956-86)

Donald Haigh died on 5 August 2017, aged 91, having enjoyed a long retirement though his later years were clouded by the long illness and subsequent death of his beloved wife Vera, whom he cared for devotedly. Donald had been a key member of the Junior School staff, experiencing the early days when it was located in Thornville – a spacious, rambling Victorian mansion off site – as

well as its relocation to the present Clock House, which had been the Headmaster's residence. He was a history graduate of St Catharine's College, Cambridge and can be credited with developing the interests and skills of many budding historians, instilling in them a curiosity in the past. He had an aptitude for bringing the subject alive for youngsters: one former pupil recalled learning about 'shell-mound people' whose chief was

'Strongintharm' and his children, 'Thorn and Acorn'.

Donald's discipline was firm yet humane; he was always insistent on work done with care and pride, disdainful of sloppiness. 'His history lessons, a mixture of scholarly exposition, boys' writing, traced diagram and annotated facts, produced exercise books to be treasured,' wrote Jack Sanderson, his close colleague at the time. Donald supervised the Thornville Library for many years and handed over a greatly improved facility. Of course, this was a few years before the internet revolutionised learning.

His other great love was the Archaeological Society. 'The past holds Mr Haigh in thrall,' wrote his friend Raymond Shaw-Smith, 'and the harder it is to come at the better he likes it.' He became an expert in local history and was able to pass on that love to his pupils. He developed fieldwork and excavation as well as a much-admired AO course in the Senior School. His enthusiasm shaped the development of at least one museum curator, Stephen Kerry, who wrote one of the tributes to him on his retirement.

Affectionately known as 'Haggis', he was one of the pillars of the Junior School during his service.

Raymond Shaw-Smith (1952-89)

Raymond Shaw-Smith died in March 2018 and will be remembered fondly as a great teacher of Classics, a motivator, an inspiration for many and a great friend. A scholar of University College, Oxford, and winner of the Chancellor's prize for Latin verse, he was appointed by RB Graham in 1952 and he was to bring a breath of fresh air and young blood to the Classics department of the 1950s and 60s. He experienced the years when Classics remained a pinnacle in the curriculum to its later years of comparative decline. Raymond brought originality and flair to whatever he was teaching, whether it was the finer points of Latin verse, exploration of primary evidence in Ancient History or the rudiments of Greek Grammar.

He could always transform a potentially dull topic into fun: an oft-quoted example was the popular game

he devised for the declension of 'hic, haec, hoc', which went round the class and in which a wrong answer was rewarded by being locked in the store room cupboard! In the mid-1950s, when the 'Goon Show' was in vogue, he could bring his own brand of Goonish humour to an end of year Greek exam, devising mad sentences for translation, with the final question to work out his Greek version of Humpty Dumpty! For serious classical historians he had much to offer: a scorn for the second-hand digest of the textbook but an insistence on searching out primary evidence and evaluating it. For students of verse he was an inspiration: Chris Kelk, a pupil in the 1950/60s, has spent many hours translating Latin and Greek poetry, and Raymond was always among the first to receive the e-mail for comment. When I wrote 'Haec Egimus', covering the period 1949-63 at BGS, he helped with countless reminiscences and gave wise advice when he read the manuscript.

Raymond was no sportsman and did not hide his sometimes strongly held views: in one staff meeting, much to the discomfiture of the Second Master, he proposed the abolition of cricket in school games – too many boys, he argued, spent time doing nothing and got up to the inevitable mischief. His proposal was carried but nothing happened to

change school policy. Raymond's interests were both artistic and recreational: he directed the 'Acharnians of Aristophanes' in December 1958 in the original Greek, using 6th Classical as the cast, supported the musical life of the school, acted as prompt in a number of Shakespearean productions before directing 'Anthony and Cleopatra' in 1960. He enjoyed the outdoor life of the Drebley camps and was always a lively presence there. He led trips along the Roman Wall, which were greatly appreciated. In his later years he ran a sailing course and even contributed some woodwork. He gave wholeheartedly to the wider life BGS, and room 27, which he occupied throughout his career, will always be associated with him among successive generations of his pupils.

Every inch a natural schoolmaster, he was also a master craftsman of English prose, writing delightful and vivid portraits of retiring colleagues. Raymond lived for many years with his lovely wife Dolores, who predeceased him, in a remote farm house on Harden Moor; their four sons, Peter, Charles, Edmund and Robert, all attended BGS and won places at Oxbridge. His family will miss him, and so will all his many former pupils. He is remembered fondly by a former colleague, Ron Cox, as a modest man of clear and strong views. Self-effacing and loyal, Raymond

gave distinguished and unselfish service.

●

GL 'Geoff' Bottomley
(Pupil 1944-52, Staff 1959-67)

GL 'Geoff' Bottomley died suddenly in April 2018. Geoff was a former pupil who returned for a period of eight years as a Chemistry teacher and then moved on to a Head of Chemistry post at Wakefield Grammar School. A former scholar of Jesus College Oxford, Geoff was highly rated by his colleagues and pupils both as an outstanding teacher and contributor to extra-curricular activities. His teaching was characterised by enthusiasm, liveliness and thoroughness: he had the ability to make complex topics relevant. For example, the late Tony Smith observed that 'he managed to instil a greater sense of how atomic theory influenced measurable phenomena.' He was more highly rated by some than his formidable and legendary Head of Department, JB Bentley. Geoff also had an eye for good humoured fun: his colleague Alan Deighton recalled an occasion when he placed some dry ice from the Physics Laboratory in a rubber balloon and shook it to convince his mystified colleague, Donald Taylor, that there was a pebble inside, causing some mystification when the 'pebble' disappeared and the

balloon exploded! Geoff continued to take an interest in his old school and was seen periodically in recent years at OBA Reunions.

●

Robert West
(1971-2012)

Robert West will be added to the roll call of the fine teachers who have given devoted service to BGS, not only for its extraordinary length of 42 years but also for its high quality of classical scholarship. He was a highly respected and much loved figure among his colleagues and pupils. Educated at Dulwich College, he came under the influence of fine classicists, including Philip Vellacott, Head of Classics, who published widely in translations of classical texts. He chose to study Classics but he was an equally able mathematician. He won a major scholarship to Trinity College Oxford where he read 'Literae Humaniores'. Modest about his own achievements, he taught classics to the full range and was a specialist of the 'old school' with excellence in prose composition: over the years he became, in effect, the guru of the department who would be consulted on points of syntax and grammar – a tradition which recalls the scholarly standards of Eric Ewbank who had retired a few years before him.

After 18 years' service under Bernard Slater, he became Head of Department for a period of 17 years,

overseeing the arrival of three new appointments and steering the department skilfully through a period of change and challenge for all Classics Departments throughout the country as the subject had to fight for its place in the school timetable. Robert was also widely known and respected in Classical circles: he was closely involved in the Association of Latin Teaching, holding key roles, produced a fine edition of Cicero's *Pro Milone*, and was an experienced examiner at OCR: Chief Examiner in GCSE Latin, Principal Examiner in GCSE Greek Literature and Reviser for Classics papers at GCSE and A Level for two decades. Robert lived his Classics!

He was also widely involved in the life of the school. He served both as a First Form and later as a Sixth Form tutor; he had a fine bass voice and sang in the school choir; he helped in the RAF section of the CCF, enjoyed involvement in Scout summer camps and was time keeper at swimming races. With his unerring eye for detail, he was often sought out as a proof-reader. Towards the end of his career he took on a senior advisory role.

Retiring in 2012, he was persuaded to return for one day per week in 2013/14 to assist with 6th form teaching. His actual retirement was sadly short, as he died in January 2018. Throughout his life he loved music, a devoted

Elgar fan, and frequently attended organ recitals and concerts. Robert did sterling service to BGS and his scholarly presence will be sadly missed both by his colleagues and former pupils.

● **Peter Hugh Tinsley (1936-44)**

Peter Hugh Tinsley BA, CEng, FICE, MI Struct E (1936-44), who was to play a key role in the building of the Sellafield Nuclear Plant, died on 23 November 2017 aged 91. An able pupil, having achieved Higher School Certificate in Pure and Applied Maths and Physics, he won a place at Peterhouse, Cambridge, in January 1944 and graduated with 2nd Class Honours in Mechanical Sciences in 1947. While at BGS, he enjoyed recreational activities but described himself as no great sportsman. He participated, along with other senior pupils, in the East Riding Farm Scheme set up by the Headmaster, RB Graham, during the shortage of farm workers of WW2. Peter was followed at BGS by his two younger brothers, Noel and Gerald. With his engineering qualifications, he spent his national service with the Royal Engineers, which involved a 12-month posting to Kenya to construct Major Army Stores.

After demobilisation in Autumn 1949, with the help of the Cambridge University Appointments Board, in 1950 he secured a post in the civil engineering

Atomic Energy Project, initially as a temporary Engineer III in the Civil Design Office, Risley, undertaking a two year training. It was at Risley that he met an attractive young Civil Servant, Peggy Brown who was to become his wife in 1955 and the mother of their two children Julie and Christopher. Then over the next ten years he was involved in atomic energy development at a number of government sites – Capenhurst, Cheshire; Springfields, Lancashire; Windscale, Cumbria; as well as new sites at Caithness and in Dorset. His work focused on design work, with site visits in connection with essential services and technical systems; it was during this period that he proceeded from Basic Grade to Main and Senior Grade, gaining chartered membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers and Structural Engineers in successive years. He had laid the foundations for a distinguished future career.

In August 1960, he was promoted to Deputy Resident Engineer at the Windscale site with responsibility for a staff of engineers supervising civil engineering construction. He progressed to Resident Engineer in 1963 at Daresbury, Cheshire, where he assumed responsibility for site organisation, supervising civil engineering and building work on key

technical projects (such as a magnet ring tunnel with piled foundations, computer room and service buildings) for the UK Atomic Energy Authority, and had an additional role in managing site work at other out-stations in N West. In 1967 he was elected a full member of the Institution of Civil Engineers – subsequently, Fellow, FICE.

Peter was appointed in December 1966 as the Assistant Chief Engineer at the Thermal Reactors Directorate at the Atomic Energy Authority's Risley HQ. This involved him in design and consultancy work for nuclear power stations and reactors both at home and in Norway and Greece. Ten years later, in 1976, he joined BNFL as Resident Engineer at Windscale (subsequently Sellafield) construction site – a huge project of several billion pounds. His job was to build up and manage a Site Construction Organisation of massive proportions – to coordinate and oversee the major expansion to the nuclear reprocessing plant. It became the biggest construction site in UK and one of the biggest in Europe, requiring special attention to Safety and Industrial Relations' issues, which were managed through the skilful liaison of key managers: thus site-wide stoppages were avoided and strikes confined to individual firms and quickly resolved.

He served as Vice Chairman of the

Windscale and Calder Nuclear Engineering Society (1977-78) and Chairman (1978-79). By 1991, projects were being scaled down or were complete and the initial huge workforce had shrunk. Hence, after 41 years as an engineer, he took retirement just prior to his 65th Birthday. His career was one to be proud of – in the knowledge that he had overseen the construction of key nuclear and related installation in UK.

Peter is described by a fellow OB as being 'a very gifted and gentle person'. In his retirement he was extremely active with important contributions to the Royal British Legion's Attendants Co Ltd, the Abbeyfield Society and the Bradbury House Building Committee in Gosforth. He was a wine enthusiast, a member of Gosforth and District Probus Club (serving as President in 1999) and also a keen and talented watercolourist and acrylic painter. He took advantage of his proximity to the Lake District, completing with a colleague, over 300 walks in the area. He leaves behind his wife Peggy and their daughter, son and five grandchildren. He will be sadly missed.

Nolan Brook (1976-85)

Nolan Brook (1976-85) A fine mathematician, he was Head of Mathematics at Dulwich College, Beijing, before leaving to join the team at Dulwich

College, Singapore. He is remembered by colleagues in Beijing for his 'enthusiasm, dedication and genius and for his innovative approach within the Maths Department'. A sad loss.

John Toothill (1946-57)

John Toothill (1946-57) OBE died on 22 November 2017 aged 79. After BGS he won a place at Oxford University where he studied French and Russian, graduating with an Upper Second. During his National Service, after a six month crash course in Russian, he was involved in spy work on Russian aircraft. Initially he worked in industry, but after a gap year in his thirties he joined the then Westmoreland County Council and, a great lover of the Lakes, was eventually appointed to his 'dream job' as National Parks Officer for the Lake District. He climbed the Wainwrights many times and was in his natural element. He was awarded the OBE in 1995 for services to the Environment and retired in 1998, aged 60.

John was an outstanding chess player throughout his life with an impressive string of achievements. He was captain of Chess for four years at BGS until he left in 1957, when members of the Club made a special presentation to him to mark his contribution. He became a British Master at Chess in 1980, was part of the Great

Britain Winning Team at the Correspondence Chess Olympiad in 1982 and British Senior Champion in 2000 and was a leading light of the Chess scene in Cumbria. He was also a cricket and bridge enthusiast. He leaves behind Sylvia, his wife, Jane, his daughter, and two brothers, Bob and Andrew.

Anthony Stringer (Pupil 1948-57, Staff 1988-2001, and OBA Past President, 1996)

Anthony Stringer (1948-57, and OBA Past President, 1996) has died aged 79. Born at Balby, Doncaster, Tony (as he was known to his friends) grew up in Frizinghall, attending Shipley C of E School before BGS, where he was a keen rower – also later rowing for BACS where he was President for a time. He studied Mechanical Engineering at Durham University. His career spanned spells with David Brown Tractors and GEC, where he designed turbines for nuclear submarines. He served as Estates Manager at BGS from 1988 until his retirement.

His other great interests included skiing at Aviemore and sailing on the Norfolk Broads – a lifetime hobby in his boat 'Harnser'. Tony loved vintage cars, owning a vintage 1936 Alvis, which he discovered 50 years ago – his labour of love being full restoration of every part to its original condition. He leaves behind his wife of 46 years, Liz, son Henry and three step

children, Nicky, Chris and Bridget, eight grandchildren and a sister, Sonia. A generous and kind man, he will be greatly missed by his family. His stepdaughter Nicky describes him as 'a true gentleman'.

Ian Alexander McDonald (1956-65)

Ian Alexander Macdonald (1956-65) has died aged 71.

Paul Busby (1940-45)

Ian Clayton Busfield (1937-43)

John C Hague (1948-56)

Paul Busby (1940-45), Ian Clayton Busfield (1937-43) and John C Hague (1948-56) have also died. We extend our sympathy to relatives and friends, but regret we have no further information about them.

WK 'Keith' Wilkinson (1939-48)

WK 'Keith' Wilkinson (1939-48) died aged 88. He is remembered by his contemporaries as a very able pupil – a classicist and fine sportsman, being a member of 1st XI cricket and 1st XV rugby teams: he represented Yorkshire at rugby and his sporting prowess was regularly recorded in 'The Bradfordian' of the times. He won an Exhibition to St Catharine's College, Cambridge to read Classics and Law.

On graduation he entered the textile industry – which occupied the whole of his working life, even into old age. Keith continued to take an interest in BGS and attended OBA functions from time to time.

Christopher Gummery (1990-95)

Christopher Gummery (1990-95) has died. He was an IT specialist of varied experience in hardware and software monitoring and fault-finding in computer systems. His most recent post was with HSBC as a Technical Analyst.

Paul Hockney (1942-48)

Paul Hockney (1942-48), a former Lord Mayor of Bradford and councillor for Idle, Thackley and Greengates, died on 1 July aged 88. He was one of five siblings (three brothers and a sister), one of whom is the distinguished artist David Hockney. Paul was an influential councillor in Bradford's civic and political life during the 1970s and 1980s, and his term as Lord Mayor, in 1977, during the Queen's Silver Jubilee, is fondly remembered for its liveliness and imagination, with longer-term outcomes, as well as the production of colourful Union Jack socks! He was head of the Liberal group on Bradford Council (later the Liberal Alliance) for

some years until 1984 and was sadly missed when he eventually decided to stand down. Relatively diminutive in stature, he was known as 'the little big man of Bradford civic and political life'.

An accountant by profession, he decided that teaching the subject was his forte rather than being part of a practice; he taught at the then Bradford Tech (1963-66) and subsequently at Leeds Polytechnic. He is remembered fondly by his former students, one of whom was David Noble (1963-70, and OBA Past President), who has the following vivid recollection of him:

'I got to know Paul Hockney as my year tutor and accountancy lecturer when I started at Leeds Polytechnic (now Leeds Beckett University) in 1970. Also on the course from BGS were Mick Hill and David Mitchell ...' Paul ran his Leeds Poly students pretty much on BGS lines: caring but with firm discipline, and any lateness or absence to be explained. I remember him waiting to start a 2 pm lecture one warm summer's day with the question 'Where's Mr Hill then?' Paul wore an exaggerated expression of frustration and kept obviously checking his watch, no doubt to make the point to the rest of us.

He was clearly preparing a verbal assault on the late returner. As the door eventually opened Mick Hill entered,

finishing an ice cream, and presented another one to Paul. The verbal assault was defused amid laughter from the assembled students, as Paul further delayed the start of the lecture while he struggled to eat the ice cream and stop it running down the cone and onto his hand. Not a stunt you could pull with every lecturer but it went down well with Paul.

'Accountancy can be boring at the best of times but Paul was a good tutor. He not only got the message across well but he succeeded in keeping his lectures entertaining, with a lively delivery ... A great natural teacher, Paul helped so many of us to start our careers, for which I am deeply grateful.'

He was married for 62 years to his wife Jean and had four children and eight grandchildren. He is spoken of warmly by his son Nick as a devoted family man, proud councillor and local preacher.

John Harrington (1968-97)

John Harrington (1967-97) Teacher and Head of the Chemistry Department died on 7 July 2018 after a short illness and one week before his 85th birthday. A scholar of Downing College, Cambridge, John was appointed by KD Robinson as a teacher of mathematics. After two terms he joined the Chemistry Department and stayed for the next

30 years. John did sterling service to BGS and he will be missed by colleagues and former pupils. John leaves behind his wife Helena and two sons, Michael and Paul.

Gordon Dickinson (1946-54)

Gordon Dickinson MA, BA, BSc. His string of degrees aptly sums up Gordon as studious, tenacious and knowledgeable. He was widely read from a young age, was very methodical and had a capacity for absorbing information that stayed with him all his life.

The Eleven-plus gained him a place at BGS where, early on, he won a form prize and where he went on to specialise in Classics. He was one of many boys from that school to gain a place at Oxbridge, but first he had to do his National Service. He joined the RAF where, after the normal basic training and square bashing which he did not enjoy, he was put into the Joint Services School for Linguists to study Russian, perhaps because he had already studied Greek and was familiar with the Cyrillic script. He got his A Level but listening in to poor Russian transmissions was not his forte.

He then went on to take up his place at Pembroke College, Oxford, to read Jurisprudence. He enjoyed his time there and a small pewter tankard records an early success on the river –

Robinson Fours 1956, IR Stanbrook, DS Terry, JD Clogg, RG Huband, cox G. Dickinson. After graduating, Gordon was unable to continue with his Law training as his father had recently died and it was essential to obtain full time employment. He entered the rapidly expanding computer industry in Manchester, ICT, later to become ICL. Starting as a trainee programmer, he went on to spend the rest of his career there, initially writing software for the company and its customers, progressing through various specialisations and finally becoming a technical consultant to the sales force ensuring the integrity and feasibility of proposed projects. His customer base covered many fields – Retail, Manufacturing, and both National and Local Government. The IRA bomb in Manchester in 1996, which destroyed his workplace, led to him taking early retirement aged 61.

Not one to sit idly around, he embarked on an Open University degree covering the Age of Enlightenment which introduced him to Art and Architecture, both topics remaining a real interest with him. He obtained his BA and then chose a Social Science course that gained him a BSc.

He met his future wife at work and they had 49 happy years together. They both enjoyed classical music and Gordon took up the clarinet and was subsequently able to join her in the local

orchestra. He was soon identified as a suitable candidate to be the music librarian and did a splendid job cataloguing the whole orchestral library. Gordon and his wife travelled a lot and were fortunate enough to have been able to visit most parts of the world. Back at home, when not reading; he enjoyed working in the garden, not so much with plants, but taking pride in neat lawns and hedges. He had always enjoyed sports, more recently from the armchair, and remained a loyal follower of Bradford City. Gordon died on 14 April 2017 aged 81.

By Julia Dickinson



Dr John Duncan Holden (1964-71)

My brother died on 15 July 2018 after a fall in the Lake District Mountains. He qualified at Birmingham Medical School in 1976, was a doctor in Mengo Hospital Uganda 1979 to 1982, became a MRCP in 1985 and FRCP in about 2000. He was awarded the RCP's President's Medal in 2002, and gained an MD in 2005. John leaves behind his wife Alyson.

By Christine Wall



Chris Day (1943-53)

Died on 29 August 2018.





bradfordgrammar.com/oba

Bradford Grammar School
Keighley Road, Bradford, BD9 4JP

01274 553714 | oba@bradfordgrammar.com