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OLreview



OL announced chief barker for charity...

Paul Lawrence (OL80) and one of the Governors of GSAL, has been appointed the chief barker of the Variety Club childrens charity of Great Britain. Paul, a consultant at Leeds based Lawrence Scoffield & Co (a firm of insurance brokers and independent financial advisors), is the first person from outside London to be appointed to this position. As part of his role he will travel around the UK to see first hand the work of the charity that has raised over £200m for disadvantaged and disabled children over the last 60 years.

The Variety Club is supported by major British stars including Michael Caine, Barbara Windsor and Kenneth Branagh. It also enjoys the patronage of the Royal Family and Paul recently attended a celebration event at Buckingham Palace to mark the 60th anniversary of the charity. He said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been awarded this position. The Variety Club is a great charity and during my term of office next year I am committed to ensuring we keep driving the charity forward and recruit as many young people as possible to help us with our fundraising."



Message from the Development Office

Welcome to this latest edition of the newsletter. If you would like to submit an article for the next edition, the deadline is Friday 14 May 2010. Please send copy and pictures to the Development Office via email: bronwen.ashton@gsal.org.uk or by post to the school address.

Best wishes for the new year.

Bronwen Ashton

Burnsall Life 1939-1942

The outstanding memory of our arrival at Burnsall on 1st September 1939 was over the warm welcome from the people of the village. The invasion of the village by a bunch of unruly youngsters could have signified a closing of ranks but not a bit of it, we were welcomed into the community with undoubted hospitality which was very genuine and made our lives so much easier.



When the expected blitz did not occur many of the evacuees returned to Leeds, but about 50 of us had the opportunity to stay and I, for one, was one of them. Some of us had the chance to live on local farms which was great as we had a freedom away from Hartlington Hall where most were living. Again the warmth of welcome was outstanding. To try and give a description of the next two years would require a more skilful pen than mine but before I left the village in 1942 to join the RAF for training I took the opportunity to walk across the bridge, up the hill to the Hebden road, left along the road overlooking the village below the road to the left. The view of the village spread out below in the summer sun was magic and I could not help but sit for a while to soak in the view. With the supreme optimism of youth, it was not because I might not return, that happens to others, but simply that I felt that the view would be imprinted on my memory for recall in the future.

And so it turned out, a sustaining memory which I carried throughout the days until the war was over and I returned home. I took the first opportunity to return and I do not recall seeing any change!

Since travelling to live in New Zealand, my wife and I have returned once on business and once again we made a point of visiting Burnsall. Wonderful memories, for which I am eternally grateful.

Basil Clarke OL42



Leodiensian RUFC 50 Year Anniversary celebrations

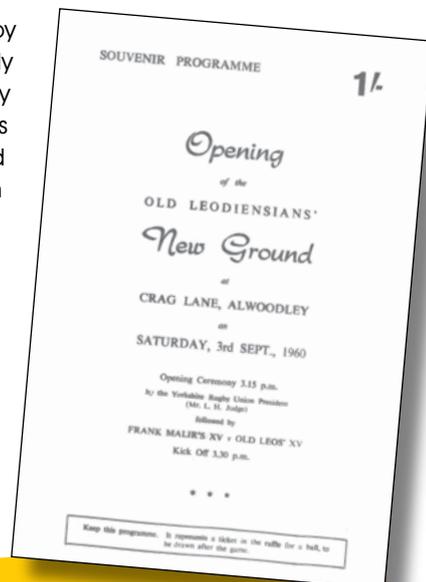
On a pleasant sunny afternoon in September, more than 40 people met to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Leodiensian Rugby Club moving to Crag Lane. The Club had been formed in 1923, and from 1930 until 1959 they had played their rugby by at Robin Hood, near Wakefield. They moved to Crag Lane when the Robin Hood lease expired. At the time the Wakefield clubhouse allegedly housed the largest rugby club bath in Yorkshire. Inevitably those who helped in the move then built an even larger bath at Crag Lane. Past players spanning at least five decades had travelled from all over the country to attend the lunch and I thank everyone who attended for making it such a success.



The President, Jim Collard delivered an excellent speech during which he mentioned some of the Club's highlights over the last 50 years. These included the formation of the Junior Rugby section in 1982, becoming the Rugby World "Club of the Month" in 1989, the formation of the Ladies Rugby Section in 1996 and, undoubtedly the greatest highlight, winning the RFU Vase, at Twickenham in 2004. At the end of his speech, Jim announced that after 27 years service he would be retiring as Club President at the end of the current season. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all those fortunate enough to have been associated with Leos rugby during Jim's tenure, in thanking him for all those years of dedicated service and guidance and to wish him well in his "retirement".

The lunch was followed by a match against newly promoted Hessle Rugby Club. As former players reminisced about the old days, Leos beat Hessle in an entertaining match, finally triumphing by 27 points to 20.

Front cover of the programme for the official opening fixture at Crag Lane.



When two OLs meet.....

From 1982 to 1988 I was Crown Agents' resident representative, and regional manager, for their operations in South East Asia generally, and on the Indian sub-continent in particular. I was based in Bangkok, Thailand. In May 1984 I was asked to go to the Kingdom of Bhutan to discuss the availability of Crown Agents' services with the Planning Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan, in the capital city Thimpu.

At that time Bhutan's remote and mountainous location in the Eastern Himalayas made it almost inaccessible. Tourism was not encouraged and the country was visited only by a few Indian businessmen (mainly from Calcutta) and international officers from the various UN agencies. The only hotel operating in Thimpu was very basic, fly-blown and uncomfortable, with the worst food I ever encountered during my many visits to the sub-continent. On my first evening at this establishment I entered the dining room and found it occupied only by a small 4-5 strong team

from the FAO in Rome – one of whom was an Englishman, whose table I joined. This gentleman spoke with an accent and style that took me back 30 years and we found, to our mutual amazement, that we were both Old Leodiensians! He was Richard Layton (OL72), a chartered accountant based in Rio de Janeiro at that time under contract to UN FAO as financial consultant and team member of an IFAD mid-term evaluation mission they were conducting in the Kingdom. Thus the only two Englishmen known to be in Thimpu in May 1984 were Yorkshire men and OLs! My work completed, I returned to my Bangkok office and we promised to meet up again if ever I was in Rio, or he was in Bangkok – but sadly neither of us reached the other's exotic location. I have not seen Richard for 25 years and sometimes wonder how his life and career has run....

Robert Butterworth OL52

John F. Barnes OL54

John was in the Combined Cadet Force as a member of Shooting Team at school.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1954 and undertook his National Service in the Royal Navy from 1956-57 on board H.M.S. Corunna, serving as Quartermaster.

John joined the family Oil Business in 1958, purchased the company in 1967 and sold it in 1971. He served as a Director and Deputy Managing Director of the company and retired in 2001. In his spare time, he is kept busy with his church and was appointed organist at St. Martin's Church, Potternewton, Leeds in 1976, and also Church Treasurer in 2001.



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William Brown CBE OL63

A professor and Master of College at Cambridge University, William teaches labour economics and industrial relations; as well as arbitrating and mediating industrial disputes.

Ernest Duffield OL39

Following school Ernest studied at Leeds College of Print and joined the family business of printers, now known as Duffield Printers Ltd on Kirkstall Road in Leeds and run by his son. Volunteering

for the army at 17, Ernest served in Palestine until returning to his family home in Bramhope in 1947. Ernest met his wife Joan at a British Legion dance in Bramhope in 1948. They married in 1949 at St Giles Church in Bramhope and celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 17 September 2009. They have a son and two daughters, and six grandchildren.



Brian Harvey OL49

Brian served in the Navy for 34 years, retiring in 1983. He then became a bursar for a girls boarding school for three years. A period of self employment followed where he worked on a number of defence projects until he retired in 2000. He now enjoys spending more time with his family, reading history and keeping up with sports.

Adam Sinclair-Morris OL81

Adam left school at 16 so most of his classmates who will remember him will be OL83s.

The last few years have been spent working as a pilot and trainer on the Boeing 737 for Thomson Airways. However Adam has recently started a career break from Thomson to work as a pilot in Dubai for a few years. His wife Emma is with him along with their two

children – Alexandra aged 6 and Toby aged 4. With Peter Jolly's retirement in mind, Adam has fond memories of being towed up the old swimming baths by Peter at a high rate of knots, clinging on to the end of the lane separating rope for dear life!

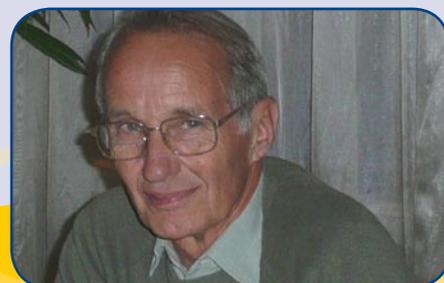


Colin Wray OL 57

After completing National Service in the RAF, Colin became a computer engineer and programmer, and was Chief Engineer at Systems Reliability in Luton for 25 years.

Colin went solo in a glider during a CCF(RAF) course at York, and has been gliding and power flying as a hobby ever since. He has also towed 10,500 gliders into the air at various gliding clubs, travelled many times round Europe in his motor glider, and now has over 4000 hours in his logbook.

Ski-ing is his other passion, and he feels lucky that he is able to continue to participate in both sports. Colin has been married for 43 years, has a son who followed him into the computer industry, and a daughter who is in accounting.



A DATE WITH OLGA!

The Old Leos Golf Association (OLGA) annual tournament is your chance to meet up with OLs of all ages, play a round of friendly of golf and take part in some serious reminiscing.

The 2010 event, which is open to Old Leos of all ages, handicaps and abilities, takes place on Friday 14 May 2010 at Scarcroft Golf Club.

The tee has been reserved from 1.30-3.30pm and the cost, to include dinner and green fee is great value at just £45.00.

Over the past few years, this tournament has steadily attracted more and more OLs, and this year we are fast approaching our maximum of 50 old boys, so reserve your place by ringing the Development Office on 0113 228 5159 or e-mail bronwen.ashton@gsal.org.uk.

In Memoriam

Roger Barltrop OL49

Roger died peacefully on 6 December 2009 in Sussex. A scholar at Exeter College, Oxford, he was in the Foreign Office and in various posts overseas. He received the CMG and CVO, and died just a month short of his 80th birthday (information received from Andrew Gentles (OL48) and the Times Online).

Ian Berg OL46

Ian Berg died on 18 September 2009. He was an international authority in several areas of child psychiatry including a phobia of schools. In the 1970s he courted controversy by using scientific methods to assess magistrates' decisions in truanting cases. Ian graduated from the University of Leeds medical school and went to McGill University in Montreal to study psychiatry. On returning to Britain he continued training at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and then in Edinburgh before returning to Leeds as a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist with a senior lecturer's position at the university. He practised in Leeds for more than 30 years before retiring to work as a locum in Dumfries, Aberdeen, London and the West Country. In 1971 he formed The Child Psychiatry Research Club (now Society), which continues today and meets twice yearly to discuss and support research projects in their infancy and the potential way forward. His wife, Jennifer and three children survive him.

David Creasey OL41

David died on 19 March 2009.

Reverend Clive Malpass OL54)

Reverend Clive Malpass died on 17 March 2009 and leaves his wife Penelope and children, Jonathan and Aidan. After some years service in the dioceses of Southwark and Durham, Clive returned to Leeds to be Vicar of the Venerable Bede, Wyther, before moving to the Dales as Vicar of Askrigg. He was invited once to preach in the chapel at the old school, an experience he found very strange! He really enjoyed his last visit to the

school, which was a lunch for Old Leodiensians at Alwoodley Gates and a tour of the new school with the opportunity to meet up with old friends. (information provided by Penelope Malpass)

Kenneth Petty OL42

Kenneth Petty died in September 2009 at the age of 84. Well known in the printing world and well respected by all who knew and worked with him, Kenneth joined the family business following studying at the London School of Printing. He was responsible for installing some of the first colour web offset presses in the UK in 1963, taking mail order catalogues into a new era. He had the foresight to recognise the way the printing business needed to go and even sent some of his staff to the USA to train at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Kenneth was also a keen sportsman and during his time in London played Rugby Union for the Roslyn Park first team, where he was the only one of the four in the three quarter line who was not an international. When he returned to Leeds he joined the Old Leodiensians Club where he played rugby and also kept wicket for the cricket team. He leaves his wife Elizabeth, children John, Anne and Bridget, and five grandchildren. (taken from the Yorkshire Post 26 September 2009.)

Dr Peter Tasker, MC, FRCS OL34

Dr Peter Tasker died on 21 June 2008. Following his graduation from Leeds University in 1940, Peter enrolled with the Army. Service in North Africa and participation in the Normandy landings saw him decorated with the British Military Cross. During the war Peter saved the life of Lord Lovatt. At the end of the war he returned to Leeds University where he trained as a surgeon before emigrating to Canada in 1951. His work there earned him the Queen's Jubilee Medal, recognising him as an outstanding Canadian. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, two daughters, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

OLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

(to date)

February 2010

Friday 26 February 2010
OLA Annual London Dinner and AGM with guest speaker Peter Jolly

March 2010

Saturday 20 March 2010
DON'T MISS the charity fundraiser, on Sat 20 March, in aid of St James Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Organised by pupil Sam Best in memory of his father Christopher Best who died five years ago, aged 43. Full details at www.gsal.org.uk under Events.

Further details on venue and price to be confirmed in the next mailing.

August 2010

Saturday 7 August and Sunday 8 August 2010
GSAL

Leeds Flower Show

Further details will follow to follow.

GSAL visits 'warm heart' of Africa

This summer 44 sixth form pupils took part in the first mixed GSAL Malawi Tour, spending 24 days visiting schools, hospitals and community outreach programmes. Here Press Gang member Jordan Harries recounts her experiences:

"For the students and seven accompanying staff, the trip was inspirational. The wide range of activities and community projects with which we were involved was staggering: painting the national curriculum on the walls of Mbonekera Primary School, touring a traditional rural village and climbing Mt Mulanje – Africa's third highest peak – to name but a few. The country fully deserves its name as the warm heart of Africa. The resolutely upbeat attitude of the Malawian nation, especially in the face of difficulties almost alien to the Western world, is both palpable and

uplifting. The experience enlightened the tour members, alerting us to the problems of a developing country and providing us with a remarkable insight into an alternative culture. The people need real aid and support – the building of a partnership – and in this way, even the smallest acts can make a difference."



Matrons at Open Arms Orphanage with baby supplies.

GREG JOINS ENGLAND TEAM

Gregory Farquhar has won a place on the England debating team...making it a family affair!

Next year the L6 student, who is a year younger than his classmates, will represent England in the World Schools Debating Championships in Qatar. He is hoping to match the success of his brother, Seb, who was on the winning team in Washington last year.

Kerry Hopkins, head of debating said: "This is a phenomenal achievement in its own right, but as Greg is still only Y11 age, this is simply unparalleled."



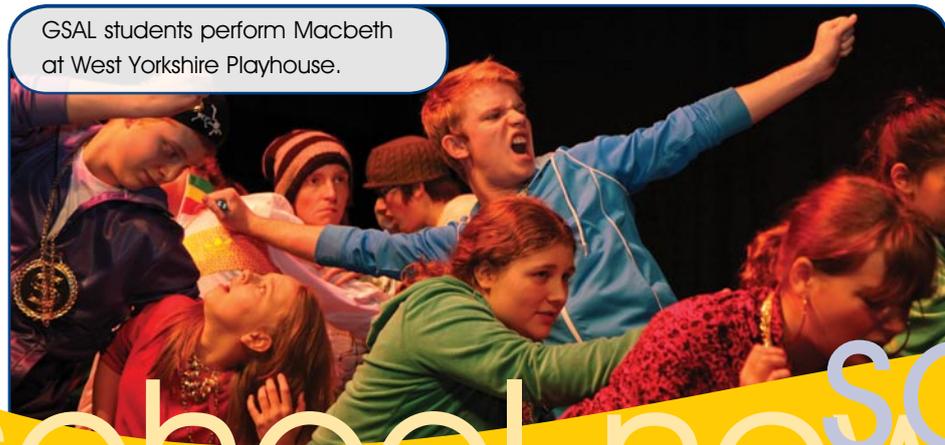
Debator Greg Farquhar

Students perform at Playhouse

Students brought their modern day version of Macbeth to the West Yorkshire Playhouse as part of the Schools Shakespeare Festival. GSAL was one of four schools performing at the theatre on 4 November 2009.

The production left Scotland behind and entered the world of 21st century Leeds. Instead of woods moving, gang fights moved from Meanwood to Chapeltown. King Duncan (David Levene) was convincing as a gangster rapper 'king' of the gangs. The witches were a threatening group of 'goths' and Robyn Grant played the chief witch with utter conviction. With all 26 cast members on stage the entire time, there was a keen sense that this was an ensemble production. The climatic knife scene possessed some creative choreography by Macbeth and Macduff (Matthew Hill) which successfully brought the production to a close.

GSAL students perform Macbeth at West Yorkshire Playhouse.



GSAL appoints student heads of faith

Twenty four students have been appointed as faith leaders to represent their religions within the school. The sixth form students chosen to be ambassadors of their faiths will be responsible for coordinating assemblies, and organising societies and cultural events.



Sixth Form heads of faith for 2009/10.

They are Harry Crocker, Georgia Lynott, Philip Roebuck and Louise Widdowson, representing Christianity; Naomi Ackerman, Ben Bickler, Ben Pliener, Sam Rose and Vicky Saffer, representing Judaism; Adam Memon, Adnan Memon, Farah Malik and Rosina Noor, representing Islam; Venkat Kondragunta, Hemma Mistry, Ayesha Nila, Chrishun Patel, Divya Patel, Shanelle Patel and Richa Tyagi, representing Hinduism; and Avneet Heer, Harjoth Singh, Amrit Pal Bhogal and Amanreet Gill, representing Sikhism.

CCF are hot shots!

Eight cadets from GSAL's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) have competed in the Skill at Arms meeting at Strensall Ranges. Despite only having one practice shoot the week before, they gained unparalleled success by winning four of the six trophies on offer.



Hot shot CCF students: BACK (L-R) James Roberts, Alexander Lodge, Toby Nabarro and Shane Hughes, and FRONT (L-R) Aneel Singh Bhuhi, Alex Wright, Harry Felleman and Richard Hinds.

Young achievers garden party

Twelve GSAL students were among young achievers at a garden party hosted by the Lord Lieutenant to celebrate their successes. The youngsters, accompanied by Head, Dr Mark Bailey, attended the Sunday event held by Lord Lieutenant Dr Ingrid Roscoe at Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham.

They were: Hannah Starling, Yona Knight-Wisdom and Louise Moran, for success in diving; Greg Farquhar and Nick Reynolds, for winning the National Junior Debating Championship; Alice Boardman and Laura Wetherly, for outstanding GCSE results in 2008 while overcoming serious ill health; Callum Kenny, for his part in the BBC 'Serious Ocean' expedition around Cape Horn; George Longworth, for his success as a talented singer and actor with performances at the Young Vic and on Radio 4; James Nehaul, for being an outstanding member of the school community and his professionalism in theatre technology and management; Sam Bodansky, a brilliant mathematician who passed GCSE Maths at the age of 11; and Mark Middleton, up and coming badminton player who is now a member of the U19 England squad.

GAME, SET & MATCH!

Congratulations to the U15 boys' tennis team who are through to the finals of the Aegon Team Tennis Schools National Championships.

The team of two Y11 boys, Luke Johnson and James Telford, and two boys from Y10, Jack Cope and James Woon, competed successfully in the Aegon regional knockout tournament in Sunderland to win their place in the finals. Only four teams will compete in the finals: GSAL representing the North including Scotland; Bishop's Stortford College from the Midlands; Reed's School from the South East; and Millfield from the South West.



Tennis champs (L-R) Luke Johnson, James Telford, James Woon and Jack Cope.

GORDON WINS ENGLAND TITLE

Gordon Benson has won gold in the U17 English athletics age group championships 3000m...at just 15 years old!

The Y11 student ran the race of his life, knocking 22.5 seconds off his personal best, to win in 8.42.18. Gordon, an up and coming cross country and track runner, runs regularly for school in the Leeds League and has competed in the English Schools cross country cup. He is also a member of Leeds City Athletics Club, training four times a week at South Leeds Stadium.

Dr Dan Wilton, who trains the school cross country teams, said: "What a spectacular achievement. In fact Gordon's time would have won him Olympic gold by over four seconds in the women's 3000m in 1992, which was the last time the distance was an Olympic event."



England athletics champion Gordon Benson.

New Zealand rugby tour earlier this year.



GSAL Cricket Tour to Sri Lanka 2010



A GSAL cricket tour has been arranged for the Easter holiday 2010 when GSAL staff will visit Sri Lanka with a senior school cricket team. This will be the third tour to the island and this time there will be a party of 20 students including two girls for the first time. Matches will be played at top Test grounds and include fixtures against Colombo School, Kurunegala School at the Dambulla International stadium, Kandy School at the Asgiriya International stadium, and Vidyaloka at Galle. These should provide fantastic opportunities for all the players to experience playing strong opposition on famous grounds. A lot of fundraising has been taking place since September and it

is hoped that significant donations can be made to two charities with which the School is associated: the Kandy Orphans Fund and the Foundation of Goodness Appeal for the rebuilding of Seenigama village.

A special tour brochure is being produced with details of current school cricket, players profiles, places being visited, and guest articles. The intention is to send copies to all OLs who have played school cricket in the past. If you would like a brochure and have not received one by the end of February please e-mail Steve Dunn at sd@gsal.org.uk.

WE WILL remember

The GSAL community gathered together for a service of thanksgiving on Remembrance Sunday in which former pupils who had lost their lives in the service of their country were remembered. GSAL's Combined Cadet Force and Scout troop were on parade.

Poppy wreaths were laid by the memorial stones in the school hall and by the memorial plaque by the entrance to the school grounds. On Remembrance Day itself, November 11, a minute's silence was held throughout the school during special House assemblies.



Laying a commemorative wreath, members of the head boy and girl team (L-R) Tom MacHugh, Katie Bloomfield and Jonathan Tan.

Up 'n' under down under

A party of 60 keen rugby players and eight members of staff from GSAL toured New Zealand for three weeks...and faced intimidating hakas before each game!

They visited Auckland, Rotorua, Cambridge, Feilding, Wellington in the North Island, and Marlborough, Kaikoura, Christchurch, Queenstown and Invercargill in the South Island.

Eleven matches were played, of which nine were won and two were lost against Morinsville High School, Cambridge High School, Feilding High School, Queen Charlotte College, Marlborough Boys' High, and James Hargest College.

The tour also included sightseeing excursions, including whale-watching in Kaikoura, a tour of Auckland Stadium, Rotorua Thermal Village, and white-water rafting in Queenstown.

Currying flavour

The school's Hindu Society proved popular when they served up delicious dishes of vegetarian curry in the school foyer in aid of a charity which sponsors children through their education in the Andhra Pradesh region of India. The curries were cooked by local Leeds restaurant Hansas and more than £60 was raised.



(L-R) sixth form student Venkat Kondragunta, Richa Tyagi and Abhishek Oswal sell curry for charity.

Students stage Deepawali variety show

Sikh and Hindu students organised a Deepawali Variety Show at school and raised around £2000 for an Indian education charity. The event featured artists from around the Yorkshire region performing classical music and dance, Bollywood style performances, Bhangra dance and comedy acts. As well as an evening of entertainment, there was also a fashion show by students and a selection of Indian food available to buy. All proceeds will go to the Saraswati Vidyalaya charity, which educates children in remote areas of India in a bid to remove illiteracy from the country.



Meena Deivanayagam and Rishi Patel model clothes as part of the show.

Adam's scrummy cakes for charity

Adam Langrick (Y10) is putting his baking skills to work in aid of charity. Adam, who suffers from kidney impairment, has produced a range of mouth-watering cupcakes to raise funds for Kidney Research UK.

His exquisitely decorated cupcakes are made using top quality ingredients - many to Adam's own recipes - and sell for a minimum of £1 each. So far he has raised over £300.

Adam came up with the fundraising idea as part of his Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

He said: "I knew I wanted to raise money for kidney research as part of the volunteering section of the award, but I wasn't sure how."

The cakes are made from free range, organic, Fair-trade, additive free, and artificial colour free ingredients. To keep costs down he has acquired sponsors, including Squires Kitchen who produce the spotted cupcake cases, and Duttons for Buttons, Betty's and Taylors of Harrogate, JML Landscaping and The Cupcake Courier.

Adam even visited the Simply Cupcakes bakery while on holiday in Florida, this summer. The owners gave him baking tips and even allowed him to use and adapt their recipes.

"My goal now is to make as much money as possible for Kidney Research UK and to raise awareness about a disease which affects three million people in this country," he said.



Adam sets up his cake stall at GSAL's Open Morning.

Children in Need

These Pudsey Bear biscuits may look too good to eat but that didn't stop them selling out in record time! The biscuits were baked and decorated at school by Y9 and Y7 pupils who also helped to sell them at break time, raising an amazing £280.

The GSAL Children in Need day started bright and early with a morning collection among parents who were dropping off pupils at school... which raised £850.

In the evening, pupils, staff, parents and friends gathered for a talent show 'One Night Only'.

Overall winners were Y9 band Frozen Flame. The event was organised by U6 student Adam Bergen and raised more than £1300.



(L-R) Dominique Lynch and Rosie Wardman selling Pudsey Bear biscuits.



Barry Brindley with Y9 pupils and the books they donated.

MALAWI

When Deputy Head Barry Brindley challenged Y9 students to donate well-loved books they no longer wished to keep, he was amazed to receive more than 350 old favourites! The books will be sent to Malawi to be enjoyed by children there and to help further their education.



For more information or if you would like to contribute an article to the next OL review please contact Bronwen Ashton via tel: 0113 2285159, email: bronwen.ashton@gsal.org.uk or by post to the school address.

more news at www.gsal.org.uk



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