



OGCnews

The Newsletter of The Leeds Girls' High School Old Girls' Club



Issue Number 118
Summer 2012

Welcome to the Summer issue of OGC News

Welcome to your new-look OGC News. We hope you like its fresh, modern appearance and its mix of news, views, pictures, memories, appeals and achievements.

As ever, thank you to everyone who has submitted articles for this edition. We need you to keep the stories coming in please...

We also want your views on the best way of staying in contact with our alumni in the future. We are conducting a survey to ensure that our alumni activities are engaging and represent the best use of funds.

Your views really matter to us. Please help us by taking five minutes to fill in the enclosed survey or complete it online by visiting www.gsal.org.uk/alumni.

Helen Clapham
Director of External Relations



OGC GOLF WALK AND DINNER

OGs have once again enjoyed their annual get-together of golf or walking, topped off with a celebration dinner.

The first golf competition and OG dinner was held at Scarcroft Golf Club five years ago and has become a popular fixture in the OGs' calendar...

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NEWS FROM CHRIS BAMFORTH

PRESIDENT OF THE OGC



Once again we have had a very successful year.

In March we held the AGM and welcomed Joanne Pellow to the post of Vice-President. I look forward to working with Joanne over the coming years.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the Old Girls' Committee,

and anyone who would like to join the Leeds' Branch Committee can contact me on cb@gsal.org.uk, or alumni@gsal.org.uk

We have had a very busy year and thanks must go to the newly formed External Relations department and in particular to Helen Clapham (Director of External Relations), for the help and support that they have given both in Leeds and in London.

To those students who are about to leave GSAL, and therefore who will be new to the Alumni, may I take the opportunity of wishing you all the best for your future career. I look forward to meeting you at one of our future events. I do hope that you will keep in touch and share information about your future successes and routes through life.

Have a very happy summer.

Regards

Chris Bamforth
President

...Event News

Developing the GSAL events calendar

The external relations team is currently working with alumni council members and friends of GSAL to develop an annual calendar of events which will appeal to a wide audience of alumni and friends of the school. These events will provide further opportunities to re-visit GSAL and share experiences with friends old and new, whilst helping GSAL maintain relationships with current and former pupils, staff and friends.

The survey included in this newsletter also provides an opportunity for you to give us your feedback on current GSAL alumni events and communications, and any additional comments or suggestions will be welcomed.

Join Rae at fundraiser for African lions

OG Rae Kokes is hosting a fundraising event, Africa Needs Lions, in aid of the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT) in the Victorian Quarter, Leeds, on Monday, August 6 at 6.30pm

World renowned wildlife photographer Chris Weston will be exhibiting a series of stunning lion images and guests will also hear the patron of ALERT, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, talk about his involvement with the charity and his passion for conservation.

Funds will be raised through a silent auction, a raffle, plus the sale of prints, photographs and ALERT merchandise. To reserve places email rae@lionalert.org

Exciting new partnership approach provides excellent benefits for GSAL

GSAL is currently developing a number of partnerships with not for profit arts, cultural and sporting organisations in Leeds, West and North Yorkshire. These include sponsorship of the Ilkley Children's Literature Festival, collaborative events and workshops with Harrogate Theatre and half term activities at Leeds City Museum. By working with these organisations there will be an opportunity to further enrich GSAL's curriculum and the pupil experience and extend work with partner schools, whilst helping to raise the School's profile across the region.

The first headline names for this year's Ilkley Literature Festival, which is the largest literary festival in the north of England, have just been announced and include Jeremy Vine, Michael Palin and Michael Morpurgo. For more information and to join the festival mailing list visit www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk

Spotlight Events

An evening with Stuart Lancaster, England Rugby Head Coach

Saturday 29 September, the Assembly Hall, doors open at 7pm

GSAL is hosting an exclusive evening with special guest speaker Stuart Lancaster, England Rugby head coach. The event promises to be a sell out and includes a cocktail reception, three course dinner, an after dinner speech and question and answer session with Stuart. Tickets are £65 and profits will contribute to the school's bursary fund. To join us for this exciting event visit: <http://stuartlancasterdinner2012.eventbrite.com> or contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

Alumni Lounge at Open Morning

Saturday 13 October, 9-12noon, GSAL | Free event

Would you like to share your memories of the school with prospective parents and pupils? Our Open Morning events are extremely popular and attract around 200 visitors to the school. The Alumni lounge at October's Open Morning will provide an informal, comfortable setting where visitors can enjoy some refreshments and chat with alumni about their time at the school. It will also be a great opportunity to visit the school and catch up with fellow alumni. If you are interested in visiting the Alumni Lounge at Open Morning contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

GSAL Business Networking Group welcomes guest speaker Paul Dunn

Monday 15 October, 7pm, GSAL | Free event

Guest speaker is Paul Dunn the 'Wizard of Wow!' (www.pauldunnonline.com). Paul is the marketing guru behind the success of many ground-breaking business ventures including his own initiative Buy1GIVE1. BNG events are free and open to members of the GSAL LinkedIn Network. Search for 'GSAL Business' on LinkedIn or contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

Leeds Lunch

Friday 23 November 2012

This year's Alumni Leeds Lunch is taking place at the Food Academy in Leeds. The Food Academy is run by Leeds City College in collaboration with the Flannels retail group and offers a delicious and varied lunch menu in a contemporary art gallery setting. Lunch is priced at approx £25 for three courses. To book your place at the Leeds Alumni Lunch contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

GSAL Bursary Fundraising Golf Day

Friday 7 June 2013

Bursary fundraising golf tournament, dinner and auction at Leeds Golf Centre. The event aims to raise bursary funds for one Year 7 boy and one Year 7 girl to attend GSAL and promises to be a fabulous day of golf, networking and engagement

- Refreshments on arrival
- 18 holes of golf
- A meal and prize presentation
- Fundraising auction with guest auctioneer Peter Jolly

Additional guests can attend the dinner and the exclusive auction of 'things that money can't buy!' To register your interest for this event or to find out about sponsorship opportunities please contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

OGC Events Listings

Events are at GSAL unless otherwise stated and are open to all but places must be booked in advance. There are three ways that you can make a booking;

- Through our on-line booking facility www.gsal.org.uk/alumni
- Sending an email alumni@gsal.org.uk
- Calling Victoria Marshall on 0113 229 1552

For further information about the London branch of the OGC please contact Jackie Chalmers at jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com or tel: 01483 579343.

Leeds Flower Show – Saturday 4 August lunch and guest speaker Lizzie Balmforth, Curator RHS Harlow Carr, start at 1pm and then visit the flower show after lunch. Free event

Stuart Lancaster dinner – Saturday 29 September in the Assembly Hall, start at 7pm. Tickets £65, profits will be invested in the school's bursary fund.

Alumni Lounge at Open Morning

Saturday 13 October, 9-12noon. Free event

Dr Abigail Harrison Moore 'Thomas Chippendale - Fashioning the Great Houses of Yorkshire' –

Saturday 13 October, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, start at 1.30pm. Free event

Paul Dunn, The Wizard of Wow, GSAL Business Networking Group

– Monday 15 October, start at 7pm. Free event

Leeds Model Railway Exhibition

– Saturday 27 October lunch and guest speaker Philip Benham (North Yorkshire Moors Railway), start at 1pm and then visit the exhibition after lunch. Free event

OGC Betty's Afternoon Tea with guest speaker

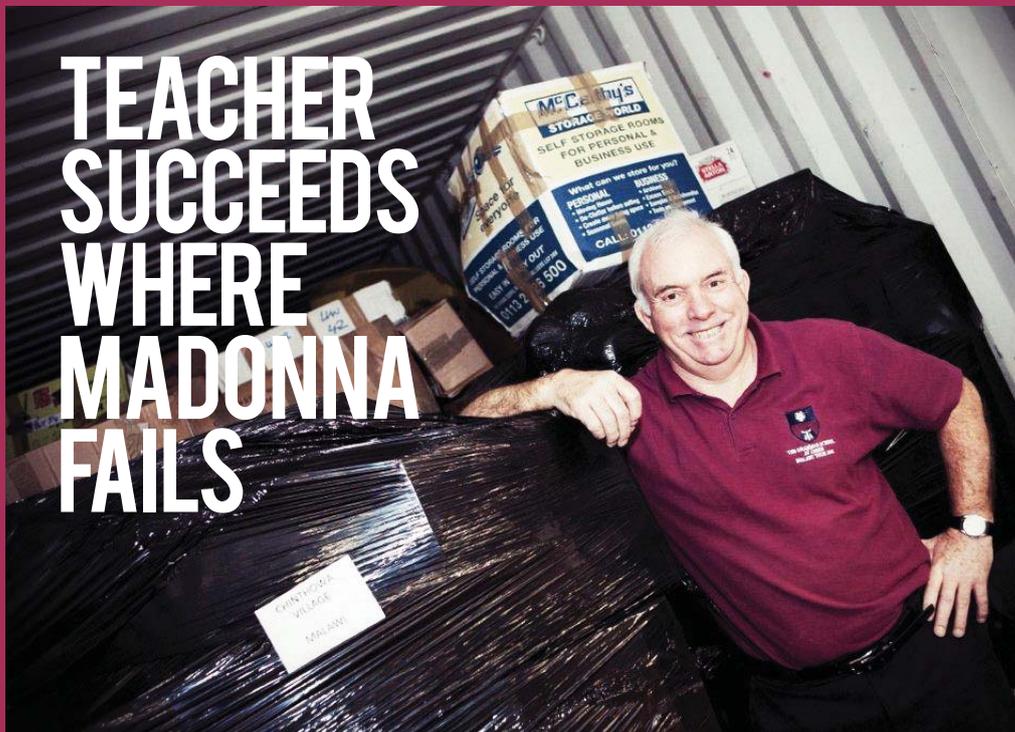
Barry Brindley - Saturday 17 November, Betty's Tea Rooms Harrogate, 2pm start with refreshments on arrival. Barry will talk about his work in Malawi (see page 4) before afternoon tea is served at 3:30pm. Tickets £22.50

Leeds Lunch – Friday 23 November, 1pm at the Food Academy. Tickets £25

2013

OGC London Meeting - Saturday 16 March, afternoon tea and guest speaker Jennifer Bray MBE (OG 1961) start at 2.30pm, Lady Solti's house, London. Further details in next newsletter. Free event

Golf day for bursaries – Friday 7 June, all day, followed by dinner and auction at Leeds Golf Centre. Tickets for golf £300 (for a team of 4). Dinner £30 per head. Further details to follow in the next newsletter.



TEACHER SUCCEEDS WHERE MADONNA FAILS

[ABOVE]
BARRY HELPS TO
LOAD ONE OF THE
LORRIES BOUND
FOR MALAWI.

Madonna may have failed to impress the education officials in Malawi, but a former LGHS and GSAL teacher has certainly succeeded, raising over £250,000 to build classrooms, libraries and day centres.

Retired science teacher Barry Brindley, who continues in his role as Malawi co-ordinator at GSAL, has dedicated 25 years developing strong working partnerships with organisations in Malawi to support the youngsters who live there.

His fundraising effort began in 1988 when Barry returned from 14 years spent teaching in Africa, the last six years at the Kamuzu Academy in the Kasungu district of Malawi. He wanted to give something back to the country by developing links that would provide scholarships, educational facilities and medical supplies.

Through the support of pupils and parents from school and local groups, Barry has raised over £250,000.

The funds have built classrooms, libraries, day centres, science laboratories, and have provided much needed medical and educational equipment, with at least one large container of supplies sent to Malawi each year.

He said: "I may be no global superstar, but the work we have done in Malawi has made an impact on a world stage. The school and I have a deep understanding of the support this country needs and have worked hard to establish successful partnerships with organisations."

"When I first visited Africa I was just a young university student, but I immediately fell in love with it. I met so many wonderful people and received so many treasured gifts that I had to do my part to help those children who live there."

To continue his good work, and pass on his knowledge of the people, economy and culture of this developing country, Barry organises a biennial tour to Malawi for GSAL's sixth form pupils. The 23-day tour of the country gives them an opportunity to see the results of the school's fundraising work.

Barry has also formed a charity called the Zikomo Trust - which means 'thank you' in Chichewa - to promote the work and links established by GSAL.



MICHAEL GOVE'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR GSAL'S MALAWI PROJECTS

Barry Brindley, staff and pupils at GSAL, have received a well-deserved tribute from the Government for their work in Malawi.

A message of support from Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, pays tribute to what has been achieved over the years. It follows a letter which Mr Brindley wrote to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, asking him to support the work that is being done in Malawi.

The message says: "I would like to pay tribute to the pupils and staff at The Grammar School at Leeds for your dedication in helping to bring the wonderful world of learning to those less fortunate than us in Malawi. The longevity of the help you bring, 25 years of selfless assistance, and the generosity shown through the raising of £250,000 is to be truly admired. I hope your assistance will continue to improve the lives of the children of Malawi. "Please accept my best wishes for all at The Grammar School at Leeds."

Where are you now...?

We love to hear news of OGs. What you are doing, where you are in the world, your achievements, celebrations, changes of career, memories of school, retirement...you name it, we want to hear about it.

If you have any news and photos you would like to share with us at OGC News, please email them to

alumni@gsal.org.uk, or by mail to Helen Clapham, Director of External Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 8GS.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our alumni and often receive calls or emails from GSAL alumni groups or individuals who are organising reunions or social get-togethers all over the UK and further afield.

If you would like us to help you re-connect with alumni you have lost touch with, then we may be able to forward a letter or email for you. Similarly if you are holding any events that you would like to promote via our alumni communications, please contact us at alumni@gsal.org.uk

For One Night Only

Choir Re-forms To Bid Farewell To Katie Staggs



Mrs Staggs and the choir at the end of the concert

“
Mrs Staggs was such a popular teacher and such a force in the choir that we couldn't let her go without a send-off.”

OGs and current pupils certainly know how to keep a secret!

For, they spent months recreating a choir spanning 12 years to stage a surprise concert for music teacher Katie Staggs.

Around 50 choir members from LGHS and GSAL got together for a one-night only performance to pay tribute to Mrs Staggs, who is leaving GSAL to become head of music at Yarm School.

Mrs Staggs, who has worked at the school for almost 15 years, was head of music at LGHS and joined GSAL as a part-time music teacher four years ago following the birth of twins.

During her time at the school she has been in charge of the ever-popular music tours which have taken the choir to countries like Austria, Italy, and Australia.

The farewell concert in her honour was the brainchild of current head girl Chessy Whalen.

She said: “Mrs Staggs was such a popular teacher and such a force in the choir that we couldn't let her go without a send-off. I created a page on Facebook to see if any former pupils would be interested in joining members of the current GSAL choir and I was amazed by the response.”

With help from Natasha Starling (OG 2004) and Steph Taylor (OG 2008), Chessy secured a date, a venue, a programme of favourite songs and the help of Mrs Staggs' husband John in the conspiracy.

On the day of the concert the girls – and some boys from the GSAL choir – met up at GSAL Junior School hall for an afternoon of rehearsal.

Chessy said: “It was incredible. When we started to sing all our old favourite songs, not only did we remember the words, but we remembered exactly how to perform them too!”

In the evening Mrs Staggs, who thought she was going to dinner at the home of the school's music and arts secretary, Gillian Brighten, joined family and friends, parents and pupils for the performance.

After the concert she said: “I had absolutely no idea I was coming here tonight. This has been a fantastic experience, especially as I have been able to sit and enjoy listening to the choir, rather than conducting! I have total and utter admiration for what everyone has done.”

OG ANN ELECTED AS LORD MAYOR OF LEEDS

A former pupil of LGHS has become the 119th Lord Mayor of Leeds.

Councillor Ann Castle (nee Hebblethwaite), who left the school in 1961, was elected to the high profile civic role in May. She is Conservative councillor for Harewood and has served on Leeds City Council for 20 years.

Ann was born in Hull but came to Leeds with her family as a baby, when her father got a job in the city. Following her education at LGHS, Ann spent most of her working life in the financial sector and gained a degree from Leeds Metropolitan University as a mature student.

She became involved in politics after joining a residents' group that was campaigning for improvements to the local area. During her years on the Council, she has served on most committees but her main interest is in planning.

Ann's husband Graham will be by her side throughout her term in office as Lord Mayor's Consort. They have a married daughter Vanessa, also an OG, and a baby granddaughter who live in Sussex.

She told OGC News: *"It is a real honour to be able to serve as the 119th Lord Mayor of Leeds, I am delighted to have been given this opportunity and I am looking forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year in office"*.



Councillor Ann Castle, the new Lord Mayor of Leeds, is pictured with her husband Graham, the Lord Mayor's Consort

Award-winning student business team taste success

A team of sixth formers is savouring success after scooping five LEAP awards for a jam and chutney business venture.

The seven-strong team started their company DELicious from scratch and turned a profit in just seven months by selling locally sourced jams, chutneys and marmalades to win the Westcom Networks Award for the Best LEAP Enterprise Company, as well as awards for marketing, trade stand, business administration and presentation.

This is the second year running that a GSAL company has won the award.

The DELicious team described the experience as a steep learning curve and a valuable personal development opportunity, with each individual taking on a key role that played to their strengths and interests, such as marketing, production, HR, sales and finance.

Production director Eilidh Campbell said: *"We've found being part of a business hard work but really rewarding - from raising funds to buy stock and marketing materials at the start - to developing an effective business strategy and getting our presentation right."*



The winning team are back (L-R): Bethany Smith, Charlotte Crafton, Sophie Kay and Holly Cohen; Front (L-R): Eilidh Campbell, Mina Boynova and Caroline Scully

Beth Smith, finance director, added: *"It's a great alternative to gaining work experience with an employer. We have learnt new skills by taking real responsibility for our own enterprise. We had to commit ourselves fully and the success of the business depended entirely upon what we put into it."*

GSAL was well represented in the LEAP programme with students providing 12 of the 29 enterprise companies from schools across West and North Yorkshire.

Report of Old Girls' Club (London Branch) Meeting

Members of the London branch were given a fascinating insight into the media when OG Julia Breatnach (nee Kirby-Smith) gave a talk at the March meeting.

Julia (OG 1999), a news editor at Channel 4, spoke about the media today, especially in relation to the Leveson inquiry. This was followed by a Q and A session on the country's cultural aspects and why we only have gloomy news!

London branch secretary Jackie Chalmers also welcomed Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL, to the meeting which was held at the home of Lady Solti and attended by 24 members and four husbands.

Helen said that GSAL had the highest academic results in Yorkshire with 15 pupils currently holding offers to Oxbridge universities and that a couple of girls were hoping to qualify for the Olympics in London this summer.

She also talked about the three alumni groups at GSAL – the Old Girls' Club, the Old Leodiensians (boys) and GSAL (mixed), and said that she would like to draw on the careers of old girls and invite them to come and speak to GSAL students.

Helen said that old registers, pamphlets and books from LGHS and LGS were now being

logged in the archive room at GSAL. There was a discussion about the album of old school photos that June Underwood had compiled and the meeting decided to keep it in London. June's husband, Nigel, volunteered to put together a DVD of the photos, with a menu, and send it to GSAL.

In other business Jackie Chalmers read out a letter that Lady Solti had written apologising for her absence and welcoming everyone to her home. Jackie also welcomed Sylvia Young from the Bristol OGC and Ruth Jowett, who had travelled from Stockport.

Following Virginia Graves's stepping down as London branch secretary, Jackie said she would need to be formally adopted as the new secretary. All agreed and Sylvia Young seconded.

Jackie, who is also the branch treasurer, reported that there was good financial support from members. All agreed to a donation of £200 being made to the Solti Accademia de Bel Canto in Tuscany as a thank you to Lady Solti for hosting the meeting.

The next meeting is Saturday October 13 at the Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road, when guest speaker Dr Abigail Harrison-Moore will talk about Thomas Chippendale furniture.

London Branch Support GSAL Bus Pass Fund

A bus pass fund being set up by GSAL has received the backing of the London branch.

Members agreed to contribute an initial £150 to the fund which will enable a girl student to take part in extra curricular activities by helping with the cost of travel expenses.

Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL, thanked the London branch for their support.

She said: "Taking part in extra curricular activities is an important part of the lives of our students, but the cost of the additional travel involved can be prohibitive which is why we are setting up this fund.

"This generous donation from the London branch will enable one student to enjoy the benefits of GSAL's extra-curricular programme for a year."



Hannah Starling

Good luck Hannah

All our very best wishes go to 17-year-old GSAL student Hannah Starling who has been selected for the GB diving squad in the Olympics.

We'll be cheering you and the team on!



Pictured with adjudicator Jonathan Middleton are (L-R): Trina Seal, Isobel Rose and Vandan Parmar

Trina Is Tebb Piano Competition Winner

Trina Seal is this year's winner of the prestigious Tebb piano competition. The Y11 student was presented with a cup and a cheque for £250 by Dame Fanny Waterman, described as 'the most famous piano teacher in the world.'

Two other Y112 students, Vandan Parmar and Isobel Rose, came second and third respectively.

The event is now in its fourth year and all 10 finalists gave performances to make the school proud, which made deciding on the top three an unenviable task.

The other finalists were Soutrek Basu Y9, Thomas Hardy Y11, Rachel Kempner Y8, Jack McNichol L6, Gemma Timmons Y8, Desmond Lau U6 and Tony Wu Y9.

The adjudicator, Jonathan Middleton, a professor of piano at Chethams Music School, said he was impressed by the quality of all the playing and thoroughly enjoyed his day at the school. He gave a wonderful piano recital over lunchtime for all participants, GCSE and A level music students, guests and parents.

Philippa Bradbury, head of music said: "The performers were all excellent ambassadors for the school. GSAL piano teachers Duncan Longden and Helen Jungmann should be congratulated on preparing the first and second place performances."

OGC GOLF WALK AND DINNER

Golfers just before teeing off are back (L-R): Jenny Shaw, Anne Biggs, Sue Wild, Gail Webb, Nora Perry, Victoria Littlewood and Greta Higgins; front (L-R): Lynn Aspland, Vicky Thompson, Lynne Pearson, Sheila Yeadon, Angela Harrison, Brenda Walker and Judith Dickinson



LGHS OLD GIRLS DINNER, WALK AND GOLF COMPETITION

OGs have once again enjoyed their annual get-together of golf or walking, topped off with a celebration dinner.

The first golf competition and OG dinner was held at Scarcroft Golf Club five years ago and has become a popular fixture in the OGs' calendar.

While an enthusiastic group of golfers enjoy the courses of north Leeds, a band of walkers take to the surrounding countryside. That evening, both golfers and walkers are joined by more OGs for dinner at the golf club.

Once again, Otley Golf Club provided a wonderful venue and - after a grey day - the sun eventually shone as everyone sat down to dinner.

After the meal, OG President Chris Bamforth presented the golf trophy to Nora Perry with Vicky Thompson taking second prize. Congratulations to them both.

Lynn Aspland, who organises the event, said: "Thanks are extended to Sheila Yeadon for planning the day and arranging the flowers and to Otley Golf Club for hosting the event. Thanks also to Victoria Marshall, from GSAL's external relations department, for the attractive menus and table plans."

Next year's event will be held at Sand Moor Golf Club and the date will be announced in OGC News.

At the dinner are front (L-R): Jane Aldrick, Lynne Pearson, Vicky Thompson and Angela Harrison; back (L-R): Jenny Heron, Shelagh Dixon and Patsy Mayers



ONCE AGAIN, OTLEY GOLF CLUB PROVIDED A WONDERFUL VENUE AND, AFTER A GREY DAY, THE SUN EVENTUALLY SHONE AS EVERYONE SAT DOWN TO DINNER

WALKERS ENJOY CALVERLEY MILLENNIUM WAY

While the golfers were striding out across the course at Otley, eight OGs and one dog met for the walk which took place around part of the Calverley Millennium Way.

The four-mile walk, initially along the Leeds Liverpool Canal from Apperley Bridge almost to the ring road at Horsforth/Rodley, included some historical features of the canal, the railway and the local rural communities.



In Calverley Woods are (L-R): Jennie Herron, Carolyn Clift, Jane Aldrick, Joanne Pellow, Patsy Meyers, Pat Hedley and Shelagh Dixon

ORGANISER PADDIE BREEZE DESCRIBES THE AFTERNOON EVENT

"We crossed the canal by a swing bridge and walked up Station Fields, named after the original railway station and old Railway Public House below Low Mills at Horsforth, to Rodley Lane. Walking up the road we were able to see an hotel, originally Calverley House, the home of several prominent Bradford wool men and the birth place of Samuel C. Lister (Lord Masham) of the famous Manningham Mills, which were renowned for their velvet fabrics."

"We then diverted to the pretty and quiet gardens which surround in a hollow, Calverley Wells, and which had been flooded by recent rain. We passed Calverley C of E School, turned down through the bluebell woods, then back to the canal crossing and the marina near the start of our walk in Apperley Bridge."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Rebecca pictured with her new Jeep Patriot company car

Rebecca Bell (nee Cruikshanks) OG 1999

Rebecca has been living in central Massachusetts, USA, for the last 12 years. She makes regular trips back to the UK when she keeps up with the activities of the Old Girls' Club, as well as seeing family and friends.

Rebecca, who has two children, seven-year-old Jonathan and Abigail, who is four, enjoys her career selling home decor for AtHome America. She manages a team of about 40 sales reps, and loves that the business is home-based and she can set her own schedule.

In December, she was one of 16 consultants in the USA to earn a free Jeep Patriot. Rebecca's last visit to the UK was in May, to see her sister Emma (nee Cruikshanks), now Cotgrave, who left LGHS after U4 in 1992. Emma was expecting identical twin girls in April. Rebecca said: *"I am really looking forward to being the proud auntie!"*

IN MEMORIUM Janet Ogden (nee Penny) OG 1952

We are sad to announce the death of Janet Ogden, known as Penny to her friends.

Lifelong friend Sheen Devine writes: *"Penny was well-known in the school for her prowess in the swimming pool, especially her beautiful diving. She took me under her wing on my first day at school in 1945. We remained good friends and, even though I moved to the United States, we visited each other regularly with our families."*

"We met up on my annual visit last year with several other LGHS friends."

Penny lived in Clitheroe, Lancashire. She will be missed by her husband Dennis and daughters, Christine and Jillian.



The new team are (L-R): James Roberts, Charlotte Martin, Leah Weerasinghe and Tom Wilcox

New Head Boys and Girls Appointed

Congratulations to L6 students Charlotte Martin, James Roberts, Leah Weerasinghe and Tom Wilcox who have been named as new head boys and girls following a rigorous selection process.

All are looking forward to their new roles and speaking on behalf of the team, Charlotte said: *"It's a real privilege and we are really excited about the role that we will play in the development of the school."*

As well as being role models for younger pupils, the head boys and girls represent the school on public occasions, such as Speech Day, when they make a speech. They also organise sixth form events, like the leavers' ball next summer and compiling the year book.

Head of the sixth form, Aaron King, said: *"As I say farewell to an extremely impressive head boy and girl team, I am delighted to be welcoming in four new heads of school of such calibre. I look forward to seeing them not only follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, but develop the role of sixth form student leadership still further within GSAL."*

New Data Protection Regulations Are 'Hot Topic' For GSAL Networkers



Photographed at the event are (L-R): Carol Arthur, of Northern Lights PR, who collaborated on the event, Phil Brining and Helen Clapham, Director of External Relations at GSAL.

A series of 'Hot Topic' seminars has been launched at GSAL with a session on the new Data Protection regulations. The aim of these small seminars is to address current 'hot topics' in specific areas of business to complement the main termly Business Networking Group (BNG) events, which have proved hugely popular at the school.

The first 'hot topic' session was run by OL Phil Brining, managing director of Absolute Data. It provided an overview of what the new regulations could mean to how businesses manage data generally and for people involved in sales and marketing specifically. There were practical suggestions

on how companies can prepare for the changes and how, with careful planning and consideration, the new legislation could provide some business benefits.

The BNG was established just over a year ago as a platform for parents and alumni to meet at the school to make contacts and exchange ideas. It meets once a term and features a guest speaker to share the latest thinking on topics like effective leadership, influencing and persuasion skills, generating business leads and optimising social media. The 'hot topics' events are being organised in response to feedback from BNG members.

Teacher Publishes Yorkshire-Based Fantasy Thriller



Christine Fenge in her classroom at GSAL with copies of her book and students Lydia Gaftarian (left) and Emma Grahamie

Mrs Christine Fenge, who has taught English at both LGHS and GSAL, for 20 years knows what young people read... and why some of them don't.

Now Mrs Fenge is bringing a taste of Yorkshire grit to an international young audience with the publication of her first book *The Salamander Stone*.

She said: *"It's all too easy nowadays to be entertained at the casual click of a mouse, but with so many fascinating settings around us here in Yorkshire I had more than enough material for a dark, fast-paced, thriller-cum-fantasy novel that should appeal to the mature teenager."*

The book's all-action storyline features local landmarks like the prehistoric Thornborough Henges, near Ripon; the tragic remains of the henge at Ferrybridge; the Devils Arrows at Boroughbridge; and other locations such as York, Tadcaster and Aberford.

The story tells of a terrifying race against time for the heroine, 16-year-old Amber Brigantia, an ordinary girl caught up in extraordinary peril. In a world desperate for cheap sources of energy, she holds the key to a mysterious earth power called Vril. Everyone is after her and, the worst of them, Amber discovers, is her own headmaster, Dr Lawrence Pitt.

The paperback, published by Champagne Books of Calgary, is available from Amazon in July. Until then, it can be purchased as an eBook from Amazon.

King of Shaves Shares Formula for Success

'Anything is possible' was the message from entrepreneur and founder of King of Shaves, Will King, on a visit to GSAL.

Will shared his formula for business success with GSAL's Business Networking Group, encouraging his audience to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, even in these difficult economic times.

He explained that any business can succeed with passion, desire and dedication to make it work; a message that resonated with many prominent Leeds business owners in the audience.

Earlier in the day he also met students from the company 'DELicious', who recently triumphed in the Leeds Enterprise Advisory Programme (LEAP), winning the award for Best Enterprise Company.

From Will's humble beginnings making bottles of shaving oil on his kitchen table, to becoming the third largest brand in the £55bn razorblade market behind Gillette and Wilkinson Sword, he regaled his captivated audience with tales of his entrepreneurial journey and how he cuts it in the digital world with his innovative use of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to build his fan base and position the brand.

Head of A level business studies, Karen Ward, who founded the GSAL Business Networking Group, said: *"This event marks the first anniversary of the networking group and who better to speak of business achievements than entrepreneur Will King. We are both passionate about inspiring enterprise in people of all ages and this event did just that. We were very lucky to have him join us, especially with his many diary commitments."*



Will King meets two of the DELicious team Eilidh Campbell (left) and Sophie Kay

The group brings together business owners from across the city and gives them a professional platform in which to network and share best practice. It has been a huge success and has provided parents with an opportunity to meet leading business personalities across different sectors.



New author Rose Edmunds

From Tax To Thrillers ...Rose Writes Her Way Into A Mid-Life Career Change

Rose Edmunds (nee Rosemary Williams, OG 1980) has jumped off the corporate hamster wheel to write commercial thrillers.

Her debut novel, *Never Say Sorry*, which centres around a 'silver bullet' natural cure for cancer, was published in March.

After graduating from the University of Sussex with a First in mathematics, and gaining a PhD from Cardiff University, Rose qualified as an accountant specialising in tax. She ended up as staff partner responsible for a group of 100 people in Deloitte's London office.

She said: *"I enjoyed the work, but was conscious that this wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Even while at LGHS, I'd always enjoyed writing fiction and, at the age of 45, I decided it was time to follow my lifelong dream."*

Rose found that writing demanded many of the same skills as a high-level professional job. Attention to detail, an understanding of what makes characters tick and an ability to market her work, all played their part.



The cover of Rose's first novel

"And of course, the work ethic which was thoroughly drummed into me at LGHS has given me the self-discipline to sit down at the keyboard each day!" she said. "My first steps into the literary world have been hugely enjoyable." For more information, visit www.roseedmunds.co.uk

GSAL'S U16 TEAM WIN NATIONAL NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The only way was success for the Essex-bound U16 netball team as they headed to Basildon for the finals of the England Netball national schools championships.

After a full day of matches the GSAL team took the U16 title after a 12-9 victory over defending champions Oldham Hulme.

The team has not lost a competitive match during the whole season, and they maintained this unbeaten record on the way to the final, winning seven and drawing one of their eight matches.

They also earned the Defensive Trophy on the day, for conceding just 41 points on their way to the title.

The team is coached by former England player Alex Kirk, who said: "This competition is the highlight of the schools netball calendar. The girls were absolutely focused and have trained with complete dedication all season and it really showed."

Team captain Hattie Grant said: "Although we've played other national competitions, it was nerve-racking getting to the final, especially when we were behind by a point



at half time. However Miss Kirk's team talk got us going, we kept calm and came back to score three goals on the trot."

GSAL's head of netball, Cath Johnson, said: "The girls showed great character to pull off their victory. Their success has been a massive team effort thanks to the girls, their parents and coaches."

The team were invited to the Netball Super League game between the Yorkshire Jets and Celtic Dragons in Hull where they were presented with their medals and trophies in front of a crowd of about 700 spectators.

TEAM:

Front (L-R): Annie Marshall, Hattie Grant (captain), Lauren Fraser and Shivani Patel; back (L-R): Lucy Harris, Rachel Foster, Aneesah Kabba Kamara, Ellie Ward, Harriet Wafer and Anna Poskitt.

SPORTING TALENT RUNS IN THE FAMILY



(L-R) Rosie, Lucy and Molly Harris

Three sisters have helped GSAL through one of its most successful netball seasons ever.

Molly, Rosie and Lucy Harris play for the U11s, U14s and U16s respectively, and all three played in national finals during a single week in March.

Lucy was goal attack when the U16 squad emerged victorious at England Netball's national schools championships. Rosie and the U14s were also finalists in the England Netball competition, while Molly and the U11s played in the Independent Association of Prep Schools national finals.

Lucy and Rosie are already experienced county players, and have now been selected for their relevant age groups in the Netball Talent League, the youth squad of the netball super league, along with five of their GSAL team mates.

In all, 29 of GSAL's netballers play at regional or county level. Molly is looking to emulate her older sisters in the future, training hard with GSAL and at holiday camps out of term time.