

# OGC *news*

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

## Christmas cheer

The Old Girls Christmas Buffet was full of festive cheer as OGs met and caught up over a lovely lunch followed by a tour of Rose Court, including rooms in the old Ford House part of the building. The ladies still had time for a good browse in the bustling PFA Christmas Fair to stock up on Christmas presents before the afternoon drew to a close. Such was its success that we hope this will return to an annual OG event.

*Where's the  
Mousman  
Mouse?*

Each issue we will be hiding the Mousman mouse somewhere within the newsletter for you to find...



## Message from the Development Office

Happy new year and welcome to the 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](mailto:bronwen.ashton@gsal.org.uk) or by post to the school address.

## Appeal:

We would like to hear from any OGs interested in giving a talk to our pupils about their chosen career path/industry. Please contact Bronwen with your details.

# Message from Chris Bamforth

President of the OGC



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the autumn term. As always, it has been a very busy time in Senior School. September saw the first Old Girls Club Committee meeting of the school year and it was great to meet and discuss the events for the coming year. One such event was the Christmas buffet, which proved to be very popular and a big success. Thanks must go to the school catering staff who put on a splendid buffet, and also Bronwen for organising the event. Many of the OGs also took the opportunity to look around the Rose Court building, which many of you will remember as the old Ford House site on Buckingham Road, and provoked many happy memories.

An update of the LGHS site is as follows:

The Morley House Trust is disposing of the Headingley site on behalf of the LGHS and LGS Foundation, who own it. The sale of the site is needed to fund the final phase of buildings at Alwoodley Gates, namely the second sports hall and the completed theatre. The main site and Victoria Road building are currently the subject of a planning application, which is in the process of determination by Leeds City Council. The school is looking to preserve the facade of the main school, and all of the old Rose Court, and obtained outline permission for town houses and apartments. We are keen to preserve the sports hall and swimming pool for community use, even though no right to such use currently exists, but so far no-one is prepared to run the facilities. The proposals have been changed markedly since the idea was first mooted in a development plan in 2006. The ELC will be disposed of separately, although it is not being actively marketed in the current climate.

I look forward to the new year and the next Leeds Committee meeting in January. I also look forward to meeting lots of OGs at the forthcoming events. The invitation is always there for OGs to visit the school and we look forward to welcoming you.

Best wishes for the new year

**Chris**

## OLD GIRLS CLUB COMMITTEE NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM OGC VICE PRESIDENT, SHELAGH ROBINSON

We are now settling in to our new base at GSAL and I must say how much we appreciate the support of Bronwen Ashton, Development Manager. She collects news items and produces the OGC newsletter, provides administration for our meetings and handles bookings/finances for social occasions. Thank you Bronwen.

Our new draft Constitution will be discussed at the January Committee meeting and we hope it will soon be in place to guide us through the future. Sadly our former one has become lost.

We welcome the new intake of members who left school in summer 2009, and hope that you will be able to attend some of the OGC meetings and events (though we appreciate the scattered nature of your further education and careers). The camaraderie we observe at social events (for OGs of all ages) is delightful to see and sometimes it only needs one member to make a few phone calls and a happy group enjoys the next meeting. Certainly the chatter level at our recent buffet lunch was a good indication of this!

On Remembrance Sunday I laid a wreath on behalf of the OGC during the service at GSAL. A very moving occasion, with many groups involved – all schooled in advance with great precision – school professionalism at its best.

We would like to see as many OGs as possible at the Reunion Dinner at Sand Moor Golf Club in Leeds on Friday 7 May 2010. Golf will be available earlier in the day for the enthusiasts. Details are available in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Shelagh Robinson

If you have any enquiries regarding the Leeds Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Sheila on tel: 01 13 2755405.

# LONDON BRANCH NEWS

## **A summary of the report from the autumn meeting of the Old Girls' Club London Branch held at St Colomba's Church, Pont Street on Saturday 17 October 2009:**

Apologies had been received from Chris Bamforth, our new President of the Old Girls' Club, from Bronwen Ashton and also Mrs Fishburn. Helen Hepper had hoped to join us but at the last moment her husband's recurrent illness prevented her. A list of apologies was circulated.

The cost of hiring the Church hall is due to rise so discussion followed about continuing to meet there. The smaller Library was considered as an alternative and it was pointed out that access to the Church was easier for some than to meet at the home of Lady Solti.

Our Treasurer, Jackie Chalmers, updated us on our finances and it was agreed that £100 should be given to the school Bursary Fund. Jackie thanked everyone, including those not present, for their donations.

Dame Elizabeth Neville was our speaker at the meeting (see details of her talk below). Later a chance to chat over tea was appreciated. Our next meeting has been arranged for Saturday 13 March at 2.30pm at the home of Lady Solti. Those on the branch mailing list will be informed by post. Others will be most welcome to join us but should contact Virginia Graves on 02392 375482 or Jackie Chalmers via email: [jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com](mailto:jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com) for details so we know how many to expect.

## **LONDON BRANCH WELCOMES DAME ELIZABETH NEVILLE (OG 1970)**



London Branch was delighted to welcome Dame Elizabeth Neville as their speaker at the autumn meeting. Dame Elizabeth had attended numerous schools on different continents before coming to Leeds Girls' High School. She won the Lucy Lowe Scholarship and went up to St Hilda's College, Oxford. Following graduation she wanted a challenge, so applied to the police force. As a female graduate entrant, Hendon Police College, an almost all male establishment, was daunting. The men were critical and at the start of the era of equal opportunities, male and female constables were expected to do the same work - this in spite of inappropriate uniform, no truncheon or handcuffs. Promotion to sergeant after three years put her in charge of a police station with no senior officer to give guidance, and with junior men finding it difficult to accept her authority. Despite these challenges she enjoyed her career enormously.

Later on, when she had children, she encountered very negative attitudes, both during her pregnancies and on her

return to work. At that time, there was no opportunity to take a career break or work part time. She was able to prove that it is possible to combine the requirements of family life with continuing a very responsible career. The culture was such that no concessions could be sought for family reasons. When Elizabeth was in a position of responsibility, she tried to create an environment where men as well as women could be more open about family life and seek some flexibility to meet their caring responsibilities.

The miners' strike in the 1980s meant many male officers in London were drafted to strike duty, leaving female officers to show that they were quite capable of managing on their own. Gradually conditions improved for women, enabling them to rise through the ranks. Elizabeth was the first Deputy Chief Constable in the country and was then promoted to Chief Constable of Wiltshire. Many of us felt, from her comments, that women in such positions of authority have a different approach from the men. In her experience, they tend to be less confrontational, have greater flexibility and care for junior staff. She attributed her own progression to an appetite for taking on new challenges and opportunities.

Elizabeth attributed her success to her years at LGHS, giving her the quality of education and confidence to take up the challenges of the police force. In turn, we felt her commitment and success provides a great example to young students to take up the careers they love, whatever the obstacles and challenges.

Elizabeth now holds posts as a non-executive director of the Serious Fraud Office and a member of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, as well as undertaking adjudication work. Following questions covering the policing of demonstrations, the poll tax riots and the onerous task of form filling, the London Branch were delighted to thank Elizabeth for the time she had given for this talk and for the privilege of hearing about her career.

# OG WINS INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE AWARD

Terroir Languedoc, owned by OG, Gemma Crangle has won the International Wine Challenge (IWC) Specialist Merchant of the Year award 2009. Gemma received her award in September at the annual IWC dinner in London and commented: "Together with the Sud de France team, the tastings they organise at London's Maison de la Région Languedoc-Roussillon and events such as the International Wine Challenge, we are changing people's perceptions of wines from Languedoc-Roussillon - one of the world's oldest and most innovative wine growing regions."

The International Wine Challenge merchant awards build consumer and trade awareness, and the rigorous judging process ensures that the winning merchant exemplifies exceptional quality and outstanding achievement in customer service.



## Margaret Dick (nee Gentles) OG1947 wrote...

"During a recent holiday in Germany, I was most surprised to meet Alan Hughes, the nephew of Miss Melross, who taught me and many other LGHS pupils the piano in the 1940s. Alan's parents were abroad, so he spent most of his holidays with his aunt and came to Bolton Abbey with her, when she came to teach there. He had fond memories of the Happold family and told me that Murray Perahia practised on Miss Melross's piano before the Leeds Piano Competition in 1972 and won!"



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? LGHS girls who left in the ...

### 40s...

**Christine Clingan (nee Ashworth) OG1946**

Christine sang in the choir and remembers the practices held in Rose Court. She also remembers the many hours spent helping to make camouflage netting and knitting for the 'adopted' servicemen in the the war. Qualifying as a teacher in London, Christine spent much of her career teaching and travelling overseas, including Pakistan, Iran, Dubai, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Paraguay. In 1957 she married her Scottish husband in Iran and Lenzie, near Glasgow, became their base where they continue to live today. They now enjoy a very happy, semi-rural life.

**Jean McCallum OG1947**

In 1957 Jean travelled by ship to Cape Town and she is still living there! Now living in a delightful nursing home, her greatest hobby is keeping in touch with friends overseas – mostly from LGHS.

### 50s

**Wendy Bowen (nee Fieldsend) OG1955**

Wendy has now retired for a varied teaching career ranging from Primary to First Year Undergraduate Greek. She spent 15 years in Tanzania and Kenya, and 15 years in Nottingham. Currently Wendy is a lecturer at Cambridge Africa Forum.

**Judith Caplan (nee Brostoff) OG1956**

Judith is married to Alan and has three daughters and six grandchildren, two granddaughters are currently in the sixth form at GSAL. She enjoys music theatre and is a member of the Friends of the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition.

### 60s

**Rosemary Boaz OG 1965**

Rosemary married Tim Gray in September 2008 in Malvern. Having been a head of biology for most of her teaching career, Rosemary is now a library assistant at Homerton College, Cambridge, and an assistant archivist at the college.



**Lesley Glanville (nee Padgett) OG1968**

Lesley retired in 2005 after thirty years in private practice as a solicitor specialising in probate and trusts, tax planning and affairs of the elderly. Initially Lesley practised in Leeds and then moved to Sussex and practised in Brighton for 18 years. Now she is enjoying foreign travel, choral singing and Sudoku. Lesley has been very happily married to Roger for 18 years and remains in close touch with Anne Balcerkiewicz (nee Walton) OG1968 and her husband Andy, who live in Wimbledon.



## Barbara Newling-Ward (nee Stokoe) OG1960

Following secretarial work at Leeds Medical School and the LGI, Barbara joined British European Airways as a stewardess. She was based in Heathrow and loved it – hard work but great fun. Barbara married a chief steward and had two children. As there was no maternity leave in those days Barbara worked in her local playgroup after her children started school. Now happily retired, Barbara enjoys travelling with her husband, John.

## Judith Timms (nee Blay) OG 1963

After studying at the universities of St Andrews and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Judith qualified as a medical social worker and child care officer; and embarked on a career in child care law and practice. She was the founder and Chief Executive of the National Youth Advocacy Service, and a former Chair of the British Association of Social Workers. Judith is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law at the University of Liverpool and a Vice President of the Family Mediators Association. She received an OBE in June 2000 for her services to young people. Judith and her husband live in Kent near their three children and five grandchildren.

## 70s

### Gillian Heiser (nee Sutherland) OG 1979

Gillian and her husband live on a cattle ranch in Wyoming and raise Black Angus cattle. They love to ride their horses and walk their dogs. In the winter months Gillian travels to Montana and Wyoming ski resorts to ski.

### Dr Lesley Hordon OG1973

A Consultant Rheumatologist at Dewsbury & District Hospital, Lesley's research interest is Osteoporosis. She is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Leeds University. Her hobbies include spinning and fibre crafts, and breeding angora rabbits. She has three children.

## 80s

### Linda Bentley (nee Nelson) OG 1983

Linda works as a part time accountant in Otley, specialising in personal tax work. The rest of her time is spent looking after her three young children and undertaking one of her main hobbies – gardening.

## Kathryn Cearns (nee Verity) OG1982

Kathryn is Consultant Accountant at Herbert Smith LLP, an international law firm. She is Chairman of the Financial Reporting Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Living in South London and married to Simon, she enjoys walking and bridge as well as regularly attending the opera, ballet and theatre - and cricket matches.



## Harriet Sherbourne

OG1981

Harriet left Cambridge with a 2:1 in classics and is a part time joint head of classics at a school in Sheffield. She is also studying for a counselling diploma part time. Her proudest achievements recently have been obtaining a brown belt in karate and playing the bass guitar in a rock band.

## 90s

### Sian Parker

OG1997

Sian is a TV producer at a London advertising agency. Her main interests are going to the theatre and cinema. She is also hoping to try yoga.

### Philippa Quayle (nee Borlant) OG1993

Philippa has been a press office and communications manager in London and Leeds, she is married with two children and has recently launched her own business, RunningWoman, offering personalised running training for female beginners. Her website address is [www.runningwoman.co.uk](http://www.runningwoman.co.uk)



## Helen Reed OG1994

Helen has been a veterinary surgeon in a mixed practice for the last nine years and is also President of the East Midlands Veterinary Association. She has two children and is very involved in the Parents Association. Helen also loves walking, jet-skiing and lunching with friends.

## 00s

### Laura Du Pre

OG2003

Laura qualified as a vet in 2008 after studying veterinary medicine at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College at the University of Edinburgh. She is currently in a small animal and equine job in Boston Spa and enjoys riding, playing hockey and photography when she gets a spare moment.



### Rebecca Hemmingway

OG2008

Rebecca is currently at the University of Southampton studying Oceanography. She is very interested in global warming and climate change; and how it is affecting the world.

### Fedora Lynch

(OG2002)

Fedora completed a BA (Hons) in Combined Arts at Durham University. She worked for the Trade Section of the Italian Embassy for a year and a half and now has a job as a media monitoring editor with languages for a multinational company. Fedora has played in the Durham University Symphony Orchestra and has many hobbies including gym and combat classes, painting and art, dancing and travelling the world.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Eileen Hall

died August 2009

It is with sadness that we report the sudden death of Eileen Hall, a well loved and respected biology teacher at LGHS. Eileen joined the school in 1987 on a temporary part time basis until 1991 when she joined Fulneck School. She returned part time to LGHS in 1994 and became full time in 1998. Part of the careers team with responsibility as work experience co-ordinator, Eileen became head of careers in 2006. She was also a link tutor with LEAP and an excellent form teacher. Eileen retired in 2007 and enjoyed spending time with her husband and three adult children. She was looking forward to becoming a grandmother three times over later this year.

## Marie Antoinette Hamilton

OG1940

died 19 November 2009

Born in 1922, Miss Hamilton (as she was invariably known) was the daughter of a distinguished Leeds family. She lived her whole life in the same house in Balmoral Terrace, Headingley, and attended St Agnes' Infants School, followed by Leeds Girls' High School. She then read classics at university, graduating in 1944. A few months later, she was appointed to the University of Leeds Library staff, initially as one of two cataloguers. She was made assistant librarian in 1946. After working in a variety of departments, including the Brotherton Collection and the Agricultural Library, she became deputy head of the cataloguing department in 1965. In this role, she was

instrumental in the introduction of modern cataloguing principles, and she trained and supervised many of the Library's cataloguing staff. Miss Hamilton's main interests were in rare books, and she played a major part in the development of the Library's Anglo-French collections.

During her time at the University, Miss Hamilton was an active member of the Senior Common Room and her love of classical music meant that she was a regular supporter of musical events. As well as spending many holidays in her beloved Scotland – from where her parents originated – she had a great fondness for Greece. Miss Hamilton took early retirement in 1981 and thereafter spent much time in her beautiful, well-manicured garden.

A devout Catholic, Miss Hamilton was a well-known member of the congregation at St Urban's Catholic Church in Headingley. In memory of Miss Hamilton, the flag was flown at half mast on the Parkinson Building at Leeds University on the day of her funeral.

## Sandra Hutton (nee Reid)

OG1958

died in August 2009

Sandra studied maths at Edinburgh, met her husband John in York and was married in 1964. John writes that Sandra enjoyed her time at LGHS and valued the ethos she learned there; to do your best and contribute to the community. She led a very active life and had two children. She worked for many years as a research fellow at the University of York and for many voluntary organisations. She is badly missed.

## 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, 11 November, 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.



## OLD GIRL EVENTS

If any of you are organising an event and would like it publicising in this newsletter, or would like help in organising a reunion, please contact Bronwen Ashton in the Development Office.

## CALENDAR OF OLD GIRLS EVENTS 2010

### March 2010

**Saturday 13 March 2010**

#### **OGC London Branch spring meeting**

Lady Solti's house in London

Time: 2.30pm

For further details please contact either Hon. Secretary, Virginia Graves on tel: 02392 375482; or email Hon. Treasurer, Jackie Chalmers via email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com

### April 2010

**Saturday 24 April 2010**

#### **OGC Bristol Branch meeting**

At the home of Judy Witchell (nee Denton) in Clutton near Bristol. Please contact Bristol branch secretary Mrs Sylvia Young via telephone: 01202 395888.

### May 2010

**Friday 7 May 2010**

#### **OG Reunion – all welcome**

Venue: Sand Moor Golf Club

Time: Dinner: 7pm for 7.30pm

Golf: 2pm

Cost: Dinner £15.00

Golf: £45

For further details please contact Lynn Aspland via email: laspland@ntlworld.com

### August 2010

**Saturday 7 August and  
Sunday 8 August 2010**

#### **Leeds Flower Show**

The event will be held at school and further details will follow in the next mailing.

## 40th Reunion Event

Janice Chance organised a 40th Reunion Event at the school for the class of 1969....

A small but select group of 12 "Old Girls" from the "class of 1969" gathered at GSAL on Saturday 12th September 2009 on a gloriously sunny day to mark 40 years since leaving school. We had held two previous reunions at LGHS to mark 20 years and 30 years but this was the first one at the new school.

Bronwen had arranged for us to meet initially in the upstairs common room and conversations soon flowed while we enjoyed welcome teas and coffees. We were then taken on a tour of the school that allowed us to see key areas and rooms such as the reception area, library, theatre, chapel, refectory, assembly hall and sports corridor and facilities, as well as particular items of interest brought from LGHS including the grandfather clock and honours and achievement boards. The tour enabled those of us who had seen parts of the school in May 2008 during the final LGHS celebration weekend to see improvements and changes that had taken place. For people who had not previously seen GSAL the tour gave a real flavour of the new school. Most of us were more than a little pre-occupied making mental comparisons between the facilities we had had during our time at school and the host of modern, individually designed rooms and areas at the new site.



We all posed for photographs within the reception area and in part of the garden before moving onto The Harewood Arms for lunch. There we had exclusive use of one of the private bar areas, which was all set out for us when we arrived. This provided just the right setting to continue the friendly informality of the day and the conversations just flowed and flowed. There was also opportunity to look at old photographs taken when we were at school and to read notes and best wishes from other former classmates who were unable to attend the reunion because of other commitments. We eventually broke up about 5pm, with us all making plans to meet up again soon.

We would all like to thank Bronwen for her considerable contribution towards what was a thoroughly enjoyable event and to the school for kindly accommodating us.

Janice Chance (nee Barnfather)

(Photographs courtesy of Shirley Roebuck (nee Parsons))

## Visiting ‘The 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.”



## Hat Trick Of Awards For Musician Holly

Y11 student Holly Smith has won a classical guitar award at the Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts...for the third year running. The young guitarist was delighted to be presented with the Palmer Trophy again for her open classical guitar solo. Holly plays classical guitar in the GSAL guitar ensemble, as well as bass guitar in Out of the Blue, and the school concert band. She also plays electric guitar.

## Naomi Nets Prestigious Poetry Prize



U6 student Naomi Ackerman has won first prize in the prestigious The Times Stephen Spender Competition for Poetry in Translation in the 18 and under category. Competitors were asked to translate into English any poem written in a foreign language, either ancient or modern. Naomi chose to translate from ancient greek the last 20 lines of The Iliad by Homer which concerns the funeral of Hector. Judges praised the powerful sensitivity of her translation as it conveyed the sense of the original rhythm in an authentic and convincing manner.

Naomi, who received her cash prize at the University of Notre Dame in London, intends to study classics at university and said: “It is important to study classics in order to appreciate the literature, architecture and culture of our modern society which are based on those of the ancient world.”

# Students Honoured At 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 U19 England squad.

## Young Star Selected For Netball National Talent League

Star netballer Hattie Grant has been selected for the U19 National Talent League team...at the age of just 13.

Hattie, who is in Y9, has played netball since she was nine years old, in either centre position or wing attack, and trains for a minimum of eight hours a week plus matches. In addition to the National Talent League, Hattie plays for a Leeds Carnegie mixed age team of 13-17 year olds, another U19 Leeds Carnegie team, the GSAL U14 team and last year was selected for the County squad.

Hattie, whose ambition is to play for England, said, "This is amazing. I can't believe that I got in at this age. I'm thrilled."

PE teacher Cath Johnson said, "It is absolutely phenomenal for a player so young to be given this opportunity. Hopefully this will serve as an inspiration for others."



## Gabi – netball leader

Talented netball player Gabriella Trayhurn Clark faced stiff competition to attend the prestigious four-day Young Leaders Sports Camp held at Rugby School. The camp offered an inspirational opportunity for 200 young leaders from four sports with the aim of encouraging young volunteers in different aspects of their roles. Hundreds applied for a place but only 50 from each of the four sports, netball, athletics, gymnastics and rugby were selected.



Netball ace  
Gabi Trayhurn Clark.

Gabi won her place by answering an advertisement in the England Netball magazine. She had to itemise the voluntary work that she does in her sport, like helping with the Netball County Development Academy in Bradford for netballers aged 11-15 years, as well as assisting with junior netball teams at school. The Young Leaders Camp provided an opportunity for the aspiring sports leaders to hone their skills in areas like managing clubs, running events and sports psychology.

Gabi plays in the centre court positions in the GSAL Senior Netball team as well as for Fusion Netball club and the Rebbels Netball teams outside school. She intends to develop and to take sports coaching awards as part of the Creativity, Action and Service element of her International Baccalaureate award.

# Student Heads of Faith Appointed

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.

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.

Faith coordinator Adrian Roberts, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to affirm the traditions of each faith within the overall ethos of the school, and to show how our students can combine a friendly tolerance of each other's beliefs with a firm commitment to their own."



Maths Challenge winners (L-R) Alex Philpott, Georgia Lynott, Greg Farquhar and Abhishek Oswal.

## Challenging MATHS

A team of sixth form students has won the regional final of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Team Challenges competition.

Alex Philpott, Georgia Lynott, Greg Farquhar and Abhishek Oswal faced strong opposition from 14 other schools to win through and qualify for the national finals in London in February.

The UKMT Team Challenges promote mathematical dexterity, team working, and communication skills and the GSAL team worked together very effectively in each of the three sections of the competition.

Mathematics teacher Diana Boynova, who selected the team and led its preparation, said: "This great achievement came as a result of the dedication and effort put in by all the team members. I am very encouraged that they were drawn from the wider pool of talented mathematicians that we have at GSAL."

## Here come the girls

This year, there have been an unexpected number of girls taking on subjects which have usually been dominated by boys.

Jasmine Megson, who is doing maths, further maths, physics and art, hopes to do mechanical engineering at university. Although at a glance, these subjects look almost impossible, Jasmine is not phased. "It's really interesting!" she says.

She's not the only girl doing traditionally male dominated subjects. Zara O'Connor is hoping to do physics at university. Who knows, we may have some Einstein rivals in our school. Hopefully, this will encourage more girls to give maths and physics a try. Future engineers could even help to build a new school building like the Birds' Nest. The possibilities are endless!

Lily Megson  
Press Gang

# Students perform at Playhouse

GSAL students perform Macbeth at West Yorkshire 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 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 which successfully brought the production to a close.

Head of Drama Antoinette Keylock said: "We knew it was going to be a challenging and long day, but nothing could quite prepare us for the sense of elation we felt after a performance at a professional theatre. It was a privilege to perform at the West Yorkshire Playhouse."

# TOP DRAMA AWARDS for Abi & Adam

Two U6 students, Abi Deivanayagam and Adam Memon, have been awarded the Associate of Trinity College London (ATCL) Diploma in Performing Arts.

Both Abi and Adam studied for the qualification in just one year, and Abi received a special commendation for achieving one of the highest marks in the country. The diploma, a professional qualification, is the equivalent to two years study at university, consisting of a test of practised material, an impromptu performance and an interview-style exam.



Award-winning drama students Abi Deivanayagam and Adam Memon.

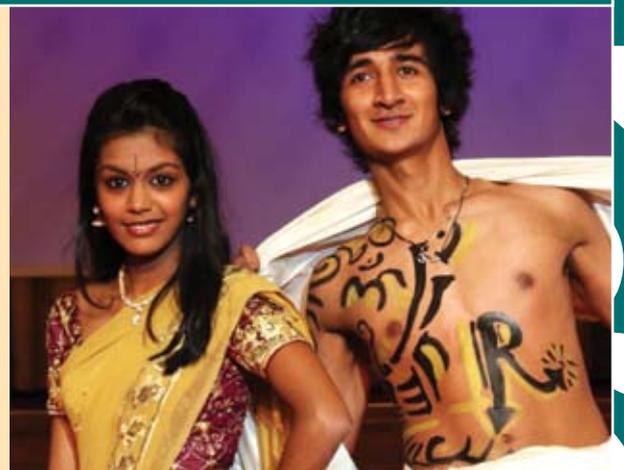
## Charity success ROUND-UP

### 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.

## Children in Need



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

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.

## Readathon

Y8 have read their way to raising about £400 for two charities - CLIC Sargent, a leading children's cancer charity, and the Roald Dahl Foundation, which gives grants to help children and young people suffering from blood disorders, epilepsy and the after effects of acquired brain injury.

## MALAWI



Barry Brindley with Y9 pupils and the books they donated.

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.

## Currying flavour



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

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.



Readathon participants, back (L-R): Vivek Kondragunta, Toby Pawlyn, Sophie Grant, and Stephanie Ocker-Lyttle, and front (L-R): Alistair Howarth, Harriet Ford and, Liberty Ogbonson.

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