

The **CLOCK** TOWER

Summer/Autumn 2017
Issue 12

Ripon Grammar School alumni magazine

**Pearman's
progress**
Thirteen
momentous
years

**Thank you
for the
music**
Our link with a
world famous
rock star

**RGS's got
TALENT**

INSIDE: RGS retains top school title. Plus, meet the new headmaster, our rugby Lions hero and a giant among journalists



Grateful: Dr Peter Mason

A letter from our chair of governors

Dear former students and friends of RGS,

Schools are accustomed to change - they take it in their stride, but when it arises from a change in headteacher it is time to pause, reflect and, most of all, be grateful. Martin Pearman retires in summer after 13 years as Headmaster; leadership of the highest quality that has enabled RGS to become the outstanding school it is today.

Those readers who were at RGS during his tenure will have their own memories of the MLP era, and central to those memories will be Martin's detailed knowledge of each and every student, and his uncompromising commitment in wanting the very best education for all. Full tribute will be paid to Martin (and his constantly supportive wife, Fiona) at various events before the summer but for now: our sincere thanks for a fantastic job well done, farewell (but do keep in touch) and our very best wishes for the most active of retirements.

And from a fond farewell to Martin to a warm RGS welcome to Jonathan Webb, who was appointed as the next Headmaster from September this year. You will find some background details on Jonathan in this edition of Clocktower but suffice it to say that governors are delighted he will be joining us and have no doubt he will build on the outstanding strengths of RGS and lead the school to even greater success.

With best wishes,

Dr Peter Mason

Cover photo by DAVID HARRISON

Where are they now?

WE CATCH UP WITH SOME FORMER RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF AND DISCOVER WHAT THEY ARE UP TO NOW



KAREN MARSHALL
Nee Cooper. Left RGS 1977

Having mistakenly left school at 16 to do a pre-foundation course at Harrogate Art College, I came back to school disillusioned and confused about what I wanted to do.

After a rather unconfident time reading for a degree in English and art, I trained as a nurse and over the next 25 years got a lot of satisfaction working in a variety of areas of the health service, though I desperately missed more artistic and literary pursuits.

A BSc in community health and a master's degree in child protection took me into a specialism in child safeguarding during the time of the Climbié Inquiry, and also gave me opportunities to develop skills in training and development.

However, the winds of change were blowing and a call to ordained ministry resulted in theological studies at Durham University and

eventually a curacy in West Leeds, followed by a time as a priest-in-charge in East Leeds. I'm now vicar of two churches in North West Manchester. Of course I always work on Sundays and most other days of the week as well, and am involved in an incredible range of activities from working with children in schools, school governance, church projects, preaching, drama productions (Calendar Girls) and contributing more widely to the work of the diocese as well as choreographing liturgy. Priestly ministry takes me to places that once I might only have imagined and with some very interesting people, especially when it comes to funeral ministry. In amongst all of this I still have time occasionally to keep up with the art and design, textiles (thank you Tony Smith/SAS, Tim Proud and Les Smith for the inspiration) and also creative writing, though it's mainly through holiday journals and making clothes these days.

I haven't quite left Yorkshire though, as I am back and forth to my home near Ripon whenever I get the opportunity, and I'm still always open to new possibilities for my creative side.



Creative spirit: Karen Marshall pictured top row, left, in 1973 and left, as she is today



GARETH ALLINSON
Left RGS 1971

The son of John Allinson, who taught maths, and Win Allinson, who taught biology, I studied geology at St John's College, Oxford, after leaving RGS.

From 1974 to 1992 I worked for British Petroleum, with postings including Aberdeen, London, Singapore, Oman, Tunisia, Great Yarmouth and Glasgow.

From 1992 to 2015 I worked for the large Norwegian oil company Statoil and was based in London working for 11 years as exploration manager - managing explorations in the UK, Ireland, Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark - and three as a senior advisor.

I am now retired and married to Jess, with four grown-up children. We live in Peaslake, a village in the Surrey Hills.

Gareth pictured right, front left, next to Bill Petchey in the RGS RAF cadets, and left, at a recent RGS reunion

MAGGIE COBBETT
Left RGS 2001

I first arrived at RGS in 1989 to cover a maternity leave in the modern languages department, and became a fixture from 1992 to 2001. During that time I taught mainly French with a little German when required and the occasional foray into general studies. Some of my happiest memories are of accompanying exchange groups to the Institution Saint-Louis in Pont l'Abbé d'Arnoult and second form visits to the Château du Molay in Normandy.

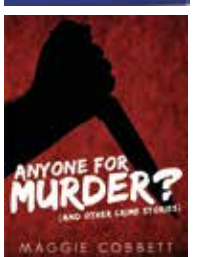
Having hung up my board marker for the last time, I took a completely different path and became a film/television extra. I have made many appearances in shows such as Heartbeat, The Royal, A Touch of

Frost and Emmerdale as well as braving Anne Robinson's withering sarcasm on The Weakest Link. These days I work mainly for Emmerdale, in which I am classed as a 'village regular'.

With all the sitting around in between scenes and inspiration from the many different people encountered along the way, I find it a perfect job for the writer that I have always wanted to be. Shadows of the Past, a novel, based to some extent on my own experiences as a teenager in France, might raise a few eyebrows amongst my former pupils. I doubt if any of them would recognise my seventeen-year-old self as the girl in the framed photograph on the front cover. In addition, I have written many short stories and articles as well as a handbook on how to earn money from 'fillers'. Not

surprisingly, perhaps, Easy Money For Writers And Wannabes is my best seller to date. Still living in Ripon, I always enjoy catching up with former colleagues and pupils and can be contacted through my website www.maggi Cobbett.co.uk

Novel career: Maggie pictured with her form, 2D, in 1996, below left, and working as an extra in Emmerdale, below. Some of her book covers, including Shadows of the Past, right



To advertise your business in the next edition of Clocktower magazine, please contact Ruth Savage on: erc46@btinternet.com

ANDREINA BENIGNO-THOMAS

Left RGS 1976

studied modern European studies (French, German and economics) at Loughborough University from 1976 to 1979.

After finishing university, I worked for Sainsbury's as a graduate manager in London for one year before doing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education in French and Physical Education at the University of Keele.

I have been teaching for 35 years now in various senior schools in Worcestershire, Shropshire, Dudley and as deputy head of a girls' private school.

I am now working in my final year as a classroom teacher before retirement.

I am married with two children.

My 23-year-old daughter works at Charing Cross Hospital as a genomic coordinator on the 100,000 Genomes Project.

My son is in his first year at the University of Bath, studying mechanical engineering.



Teaching for 35 years: Andreina pictured right in the front row with teacher Miss Denton and, top right in sixth form. Above, today



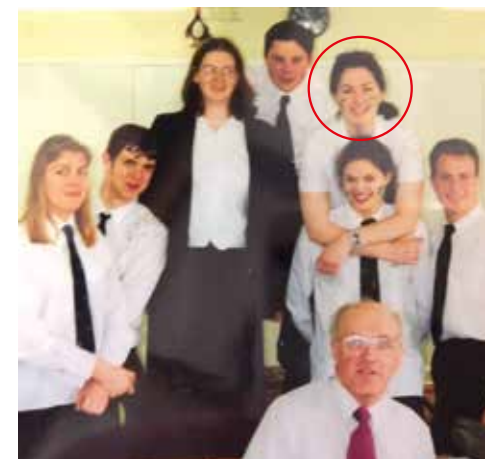
JAYNE DALE

Nee Kitching. Left RGS 2000

In 2004, I graduated from Loughborough University, with a BEng in chemical engineering and a diploma in industrial studies, having completed a year's industrial placement in Chicago, Illinois.

I returned to Chicago for eight months, before starting work 'on the road', travelling to oil refineries around the world for more than two years, installing and commissioning commercial 'Parex' units in South Korea, China, India, Israel and parts of Europe.

Busy mum: Jayne with her boys, left, and fourth from left in second row, below left. During sixth form leaving week with maths teacher Mr Saul, below



It was an amazing experience and I was lucky enough to visit many places, including the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal and Jerusalem, but living out of a suitcase gets old after a while.

Ten years ago I returned to the UK and have spent the time since working in the nuclear and defence sector for an engineering design company as a process engineer. I work with some great people and the variety of projects is challenging, interesting and rewarding. I am a Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) ambassador and member of the Nuclear Institute, promoting Women in Nuclear (WiN UK) and taking part in their annual conference in Westminster.

I have been asked countless times the question 'Why did you choose engineering?' by both students and peers, perhaps because many people don't see me as a typical engineer - I was brought up in Grewelthorpe, near Ripon, with no family background in engineering, I like to bake cakes, I love clothes and shoe shopping and am currently training for the Tough Mudder mud run and the Great North Run in 2017.

My answer is that my RGS sixth form chemistry teacher, Dr MacMillan, suggested it - her selling points were that there would be lots of boys on the course, it would give me opportunities to travel and I would odds-on be guaranteed a good job at the end of my degree, which all sounded like good reasons at the time.

In all seriousness though, a degree in chemical engineering allows you to build a wide variety of skills and opens up a very wide range of potential careers and opportunities and I would encourage anybody to study engineering.

My parents and family have been hugely supportive in my career choices, even sending care packages of winter clothes to China to help keep me warm on 12-hour night shifts.

Eight years ago, I married Nick Dale (RGS class of 1987-1992). We live on the outskirts of Ripon and have two boys, Tom and Jacob. I now balance working three days a week as an engineer, with home commitments and doing the accounts for Nick's business, there is never a dull moment in our household. Tom is six and wants to be a gold miner in the Yukon in Alaska. I can't wait to see if his dream comes true.



Are you in this 1965-66 Rugby First XV photo? Captain Ian Sedman, pictured right with wife Joyce at Saltburn Pier



IAN SEDMAN

Left RGS 1966

Sadly I missed the Sixties reunion through illness and read with great interest the articles in Clocktower.

When I left RGS I went to Southampton to study business studies and computing, a very rare programme in those days. After a few fill-in jobs I founded and ran a registered housing association in Leeds and Bradford as chief executive. In the years before my early retirement due to ill health I saw growth from zero to more than 1,400 mixed tenure dwellings, mostly for key workers who could not find suitable alternative dwellings and had no place on local authority waiting lists. At that time a worthy cause I thought. Gradually I managed a less frantic work pace and I took a two year part-time master's degree in housing studies at York University, and even lectured about it at Castleford Technical College for a short while.

I can only thank the RGS teaching and school regime for eventually bringing out the best in me; without doubt the best years of my life.

I was captain of rugby First XV, prefect and flight sergeant in the RAF cadets where I won the Northern Command 500 yard Shooting Championship with an old wartime Enfield 303 rifle, beating cadets from most public schools in the North. We used to have shooting practice in the newly built 25 yard range kindly run by Mr Petchey, but no long range shooting practice on proper ranges, unlike those public schools.

I tried last year to contact those ex-pupils who played in the 1965/66 First XV, which I captained, realising it was some 50 years since we played in that team. I managed to get in touch with a good few by email.

■ If you are interested in organising a school reunion, or were in the same rugby team as Ian, please contact the editor on erc46@btinternet.com

VICKY COWIE

Left RGS1994

in Westminster as an administration officer before I went to work for Siemens Business Services/UK Passport Services as an executive officer. In 2007 I joined a large aerospace defence company where I worked in quality assurance and gained an HNC in project and quality management at the University of Central Lancashire. I then moved into internal audit as a head office and international audit manager. I now work in head office as a project manager.

I am an associate member of the Association for Project Management (APM) and Chartered Quality Professional (CQP). I am also a Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) ambassador. I live in Hampshire and like swimming, reading, going on cruise holidays and visiting my family in North Yorkshire in my spare time.

Email address:
victoria_lisa_cowie@hotmail.com.
I am also on LinkedIn.



Project manager:
Vicky Cowie at
school, right, and as
she is today, above



Then and now

Pictured then (right)
Some of those who attended the Class of '77 reunion (recounted below right) include head girl Tracy Watson: front row, fifth from left; Chris Francis: front row, fourth from right; Rosie McGilvray: second row back, fifth from right; Rachel Wade: second row back, sixth from right; Lisa Chambers: fourth row back, fourth from left; Weem Whitaker: back row, fourth from right

And now (below)
Pictured in the One Eyed Rat, l to r, Weem Whitaker, Adrian Stockill, Alexa Stott, Rosie McGilvray, Chris Francis, Anjie McGhie

In front of the Obelisk (bottom)
l to r, Adrian, Simon Lewington, Rachel Wade, Alexa, Lisa Chambers and Weem



Do you remember the laundry bag sack races?

Fifteen of us who started school in 1977 got together for an informal reunion last year in the One Eyed Rat in Ripon, prompted by the fleeting return to the UK of Adrian Stockill, who emigrated to New Zealand years ago, and the fact that we are all turning 50. Almost half of the D form were there, as well as a number of people from other forms—quite an achievement after so many years. Quite a few of us had not seen each other since leaving RGS more than thirty years ago and in some cases there were a

few pauses before recognition dawned. Many a photo was scrutinised over a few beers and we had a lot of stories to exchange, from memories of different teachers, to the girl boarders' recollections of using laundry bags for sack races to relieve the tedium of life in Johnson House in those days. As well as talking over shared experiences, we caught up on the many different directions we have all taken since leaving RGS. The evening was rounded off with a pizza at Mario's. Oh and more after-hours beers

at The Unicorn Hotel thanks to resident Fiona. It was a gathering that drew people from all over the country and beyond. A few of us, on the other hand, have either stayed put, or realised the merits of the Ripon area and moved back.

We all much enjoyed renewing old friendships, and have very loose plans to do the same again in June in York this summer.

Weem Whitaker and Lisa Chambers

Have you met up with old school friends recently?
We would love to hear more about your RGS reunions.
Please contact the editor Ruth Savage on erc46@btinternet.com

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A Lion's pride

As the British Lions tour New Zealand this summer, Peter Squires recalls his time as part of the elite rugby squad. He tells **Ruth Savage** how, as a schoolboy at RGS, he never dreamed he would go on to play for his country

As a schoolboy at Ripon Grammar School, Peter Squires never dreamed he would play rugby for his country. When he won his first England rugby cap, he thought it was the highlight of his career.

But that was before he was selected for the British Lions tour to New Zealand, the ultimate rugby union accolade, four years later. It was an experience that surpassed all his expectations.

A talented all-rounder, he was lucky enough, he says, to be able to play both county cricket and rugby for Yorkshire: "But playing for the Lions is one of the things I am most proud of."

He made 49 first class appearances for Yorkshire County Cricket Club in the Seventies, just as the side was on the wane and racked by divisions between those who supported captain Geoffrey Boycott and those who didn't.

Being a professional cricketer meant he missed selection for the 1974 Lions tour but Peter, who first started playing rugby at RGS before joining Ripon and Harrogate Rugby Union Football Clubs, was one of only five Englishmen to tour New Zealand with the Lions three years later.

As the Lions prepare to tour New Zealand again in July, watching the class of 2017 in action is sure to bring back memories of his own exploits in 1977: "It was a great tour to be involved with, but it was a hard slog. In



Inspired: Peter Squires pictured when he was captain of the RGS 1968 rugby team, centre front

the competition back in 1977, following New Zealand's defeat by the Lions in 1971, was fierce. Having pulled a hamstring during the tour, Peter battled injury: "We were playing twice a week for three-and-a-half-months against sides who were out to beat us or beat us up," he says.

The Lions lost the series 3-1: "It was New Zealand's wettest winter for 20 years, it was a real slog, grind and battle. But, even though I didn't play as much as I'd hoped, it was still great to see the country and the passion its people have for rugby."

Peter had played in New Zealand four years before as a member of the

Still, it's in the record books and that's all that counts. It was some party afterwards. It's a miracle we all made the flight back home the following morning."

Peter had made his England debut six months before, against France at Twickenham in the Five Nations. "I don't think I ever anticipated going on to play for my country; I'd never even made it into the Yorkshire Schoolboys set-up and, as a club player at Harrogate, I used to play fly-half not wing.

"It was only really by accident I ended up there. Yorkshire favoured a counter-attacking style and had a preference for

try was probably in an international against Argentina in 1978 when I stepped past several defenders on my way to the line."

He also played in England's 23-6 victory over Australia at Twickenham in January 1976.

"Another memorable moment was arguably beating JJ Williams to the ball in the in-goal area to save what Welsh fans must have thought was a certain try in the 1974 Five Nations. We went on to beat Wales that day and we were all pretty euphoric afterwards as they had some of the best players in the world in their team at that time."

Having gone into teaching after leaving RGS, Peter went on to work in sales and marketing for Theakston, Scottish & Newcastle, John Smiths, Caledonian and Heineken breweries until his retirement in 2016.

He finished playing international rugby for England in 1979 but continued playing club rugby for Ripon until his early 40s. He ended his county cricket career for Yorkshire in 1976 but continued to play league cricket until three years ago.

Still living in Ripon, his advice to budding cricketers and rugby players at RGS today is: "Nowadays there are even more opportunities to take up a sporting career but it can end abruptly due to injury, lack of form or fortune. It is important to gain your academic qualifications, in case you need to fall back on them. Remember the saying 'Always work hard and play hard'."



Peter today, left, and playing for England, centre front, right

'Playing for the Lions is one of the things I am most proud of'



those days Lions tours to New Zealand lasted for over three months in their winter months."

He reflects on how times have changed. Unlike today, he and his team mates were all amateurs with jobs and he had to request permission from his employers Harrogate Grammar School, where he was teaching PE, to take three-and-a-half months off work.

New Zealand is the most intimidating destination for any team to tour and

England team that became the first nation from the Northern Hemisphere to beat the All Blacks on home soil in a Test.

"Scrum half Jan Webster was man of the match and put me in for a try but the back row of Uttley, Ripley and Dixon weren't far behind him, they were a pretty formidable unit.

"I'd love to say my try—my second in three games for England—was a classic but it was from about two yards out.

ball players out wide. It was me on one wing and Ian McGeehan on the other. Eighteen months later I was playing for England."

Peter had been inspired at school by teachers John Chambers, David Postlethwaite and Ken Locke: "They all helped me up the sporting ladder through their enthusiasm and expertise."

He went on to win 29 caps for his country and scored six tries: "My best

Goodbye, Mr Pearman

‘Ripon Grammar School is an inspiring community and place to work’

*As Martin Pearman bids a fond farewell after thirteen years as headmaster of Ripon Grammar School, **Ruth Savage** seeks out his views on education and more*

What kind of education did you have and how did it affect your future?

My father worked nights and my mother stayed at home to look after myself and my brother and sister, both of whom are now in the USA. We lived on a council estate and I was fortunate enough to pass the 11-plus. I know I benefitted from a grammar school education, coming from a family where nobody had been to university before. We moved from London to Bournemouth and the boys' grammar school there was a typical all-boys school in many ways, with a very competitive element to every activity, both sporting and educational, which encouraged me to try hard and do my best. I enjoyed my school years a lot, particularly the sixth form, and was fortunate enough to go on to read chemistry at Oxford, an inspiring place to study.

Do you think grammar schools should change admissions procedures to favour children from disadvantaged backgrounds?

Grammar schools should be engines of social mobility. I would like to see as many children from disadvantaged backgrounds as possible at RGS. The issue is how we measure deprivation

and I don't think the government has worked that out yet.

What sort of student were you?

At primary school my report said I was a 'chatterbox' and I used to finish my work too early. At secondary school, I had to work hard to achieve success and behaved myself. The cane was still used in my day but I avoided it, I am pleased to say. Whilst at Bournemouth School a few friends had motorbikes so, whilst in the sixth form, we would go to the beach at lunchtime, go for a swim and then be back in time for afternoon school.

What would you like to have done if you hadn't gone into teaching?

I must admit I would have liked to have been a professional sportsman but sadly I lacked the talent in whichever sport I chose! After university, I applied to several management consultancy firms in London. Deloitte's and Arthur Andersen did offer me jobs but I decided at the last minute that would

not fulfil me as a career. So I went into teaching, a decision I have never regretted.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

Working with young people is incredibly motivating and inspiring. I also wanted to put something back into the system which gave me so much. Selection worked for me and raised my aspirations.

What made you want to be a headmaster?

I have always loved teaching, something I have looked forward to every day as I have come into work. I didn't set out to be a head; it was a natural progression as my career developed. The job of headmaster is totally different from any other job in the school and nothing you do beforehand prepares you for what it is actually like. I certainly wanted to be a head because I wanted to try to create a school which reflected my beliefs for education.

What were the main challenges you faced when you arrived at RGS?

In 2004, facilities were in considerable need of upgrading and I had reservations about showing prospective parents to any room other than the library. We had sixteen temporary classrooms and the labs dated back to the 1950s. The overall appearance of the school suggested much needed to be done to bring it up to date. Academic standards lacked a little in ambition, so I focused on these two areas and have continued to do so during my time here.

What inspires and motivates you?

Committed colleagues and outstanding students inspire and motivate me to do the job.

What has been the most difficult part of the job?

It has been very enjoyable here but any management job can have its frustrations. I simply accept that as part of the role and just get on with finding a solution. Fortunately there

Continued over

School's out for ever:
Martin Pearman in the
grounds of RGS

always is one. Being a head means you become detached from the staff to a large extent and I have enjoyed the social side of being part of a staff room in my previous schools. Unfortunately the role of head means that you have to keep a distance. I never quite realised that I would miss this aspect quite so much.

What is the thing you are most proud of?

At Ripon Grammar School, I have aimed to create a school which encapsulates many of my beliefs of what education should be about – not collecting certificates and getting numbers and letters; it is much more important and bigger than that. I have aimed to create a community which sets its aspirations high in terms of encouraging and nurturing each other, and working together with both staff and students to ensure that every individual who comes to RGS can enjoy an outstanding education and develop their character, confidence and resilience to face the world.

at a school on the banks of the River Thames; to demonstrate sodium reacting with water on a large scale, the chemistry department would take a class and a large piece of sodium to the banks of the river! We had to shoo away the swans first before throwing the sodium into the river. Quite a memorable explosion but it didn't do much for water quality!

If you were education secretary, what three changes would you introduce tomorrow?

Rolling back the years

Martin Pearman is the 30th Headmaster of RGS since the school's refounding in 1555. More recent names may ring a bell with many of our readers: 1935-1957 W J Strachan 1957-1974 Robert Atkinson 1974-1991 Brian Stanley 1992-2004 Alan Jones 2004-2017 Martin Pearman

not prepare students for life beyond school or for a university experience, despite what Mr Gove said. 3. I would abolish Ofsted for a period to allow a new system to emerge which would hold schools to account more effectively.

RGS is an inspiring community and place to work and I am proud of the transformation over the last thirteen years.

What has been your biggest mistake or regret?

As a headmaster and teacher you inevitably make mistakes but I am not sure I have any major regrets. I have enjoyed my career enormously but have had many ups and downs, and there have been some students for whom the education provided at RGS has not quite worked out for them, so in a sense I regret that, as I want all students to achieve their very best.

What's the funniest experience you've had in your teaching career?

In my early days of teaching I worked



Photograph by ED KNOWLES kpsmedia.co.uk

New facilities, better results and more students: RGS has been transformed over the past thirteen years

and the need to work collaboratively with other schools, whilst ensuring that RGS remains the best school it can possibly be. This is going to be a very difficult juggling act for my successor.

Do you have any plans for your retirement?

My wife Fiona and I intend to stay in Ripon. It is a city we have grown to love and we have a lot of friends in the area. But I have always enjoyed experiencing different cultures and am looking forward to travelling more; we are planning a holiday in Italy in September and a visit to the Antipodes next year. Although my sons Tom, Alex and Joe - all former students of RGS - are now grown up, it will be excellent to be

able to spend more time with them. Fiona, who has embraced whatever being the wife of a headmaster has entailed over the past 13 years, has been a tremendous support and has a genuine fondness for the school. It will be wonderful to be able to spend more time with her. I can also hopefully catch up with friends I have not managed to see very much over the last thirteen years, so it looks like I will be very busy.

How do you like to relax?

I have a wide range of interests, many of them sporting, such as football and cricket, running and cycling, and am an avid birdwatcher. I have also followed AFC Bournemouth for nearly 50 years and it is a golden period for the club. I am also looking forward

to reading more in retirement and I enjoy the theatre and cinema.

What is your favourite film, your favourite book, record and TV programme?

Film: Love Actually.
Book: Bird Song by Sebastian Faulkes.
Record: London Calling by The Clash
TV programme: anything by David Attenborough

What three things might surprise people about you?

I was very ill when I was born and was not expected to survive. My mother called the hospital chaplain to administer last rights! Whilst at university and during the holidays, I used to teach foreign students English. My parents ran a hotel in Bournemouth when I was growing up. When I returned from university one summer, I found they had let my bedroom for the summer!

What will you miss most when you stop work?

I will miss the daily rhythm of school, which has been part of my life for the last thirteen years, but I am looking forward to a change and the time is right to hand over the responsibility to someone with new ideas, passion and energy to help the school to continue to develop.

I look forward to hearing of its continued success.

■ Meet the new headmaster P13

It's a big, wide world out there



Chris Barber talks to past pupils for our new column about those who have made a new life abroad. Chris, who left RGS in 1962, worked in the construction industry in Dubai in the Seventies then moved to Zambia and finally Tanzania, before returning to Yorkshire 30 years ago. He says: "If you get the chance to work overseas, take it."

Sarah Mackley, pictured below, left Ripon Grammar School in 1998 and has been running her own translation and interpreting business in Lyon since 2010

Why did you decide to work abroad?

Having been fortunate enough to spend a year studying in France during my degree, on an Erasmus exchange, I initially decided to return to my adoptive country just for the excitement of trying out life abroad, being immersed in another culture and language and, as is often the case, for the sake of a Frenchman I had met!

How did you go about getting a job?

I opted for a reasonably easy way in initially, choosing to teach English. At the time, a simple Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) qualification was enough to walk into most training centres and obtain a contract.

attached you can become to the country you have left behind, to which, over time, you no longer fully belong either. This can be hard to come to terms with.

What do you miss most about home? And least?

There's so much I miss about the UK. Apart from the obvious decent supply of tea, Indian takeaways and a good roast dinner, there's the humour and the ability not to take yourself too seriously which I long for. More fundamentally, there is a sense of identity which you lose once you have left your country of origin, and that is something which is sometimes hard to come to terms

with. Of course, I miss dear friends and family, but I am fortunate only to be a Eurostar away.

There are so many joys to compensate for all of that however, and I certainly enjoy living in warmer climes, in France's capital of gastronomy, with the Alps on my doorstep!

What advice would you give to others?

My viewpoint is quite naturally biased, but I genuinely believe experiencing life in another country can broaden your whole outlook, help you understand the world in more real terms and offer a type of learning and experience which cannot be replicated by other means. Whether for a few weeks or a few years, if you are offered the opportunity, take it!

Do you plan to return to the UK eventually?

The eternal question! And a very difficult one to answer. Personally, I have no plans to return right now. Things can change however and I always keep this option in the back of my mind.

www.clayborncommunications.com

■ If you are working or studying overseas, please contact Chris on: chrisandpambarber@talktalk.net to tell us about your experience

'I have the Alps on my doorstep. I do still get the feeling I'm on holiday'



- RGS marks 450th anniversary of its refounding with the launch of a major fundraising campaign, aimed at improving facilities, in 2005
- Six science labs undergo major refurbishment between 2005 and 2009
- New maths and engineering block opens in 2007
- New sixth form block, with e-learning facilities, laboratories and drama studio, opens in 2009
- New £1m sports hall and fitness suite opens in 2010

Pearman's progress

Ruth Savage looks at the impact Martin Pearman has made during his 13 years leading Ripon Grammar School

- All-weather Astroturf pitch and running track completed 2011
- RGS rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2012
- New music block, with teaching and rehearsal spaces, opens in 2012

- RGS achieves the highest score in the country for student progress at A-level in 2013
- The Sunday Times names RGS top state school in the North in 2013. And again in 2014, 2015 and 2016

- RGS ranked in the top four per cent of schools in the country for exceptional progress at GCSE in 2014
- New £1.5m two-storey, eight-classroom humanities block opens in 2015
- RGS wins an Educational Outcomes award for outstanding achievement at GCSE in 2016
- New £1m boarding extension opens in 2016
- RGS student roll hits an all-time high with 920 pupils, including 81 boarders, in 2017

Funding cuts are a threat to our future

Ripon Grammar School Headmaster Martin Pearman says he fears for the long term future of the school if proposed changes in national funding go ahead.

As grammar schools across the country consider asking parents for cash to make up the shortfalls set to be caused by the proposed new national funding formula, Mr Pearman has raised his concerns with Ripon MP Julian Smith.

Further budget cuts at Ripon Grammar School, which is already one of the lowest funded schools in the country, will affect students' education for the worse, says Mr Pearman.

He also claims that while grammar schools in the South are set to benefit, those in the North will suffer.

According to the Grammar School Heads' Association, families could be asked for contributions of up to £30 or £40 a month to ensure teaching standards do not fall and some schools have warned they could be forced to choose between cutting facilities and switching off heating to keep costs down.

In a letter to Tory backbencher Mr Smith, Mr Pearman writes: "The situation regarding funding for schools is, I believe, reaching a critical state. The national funding formula proposals mean all grammar schools in North Yorkshire would lose out by the maximum amount."

"This would mean a reduction of funding for RGS of around £80,000. The education we are able to provide will be affected for the worse."

He also alerts Mr Smith to the fact that schools in the North will be hit harder by the changes than those in the South: "Ripon Grammar School is already one of the lowest funded schools in the country and, with more funds being removed, I fear for the long term future of the school."

"This reduction in funding seems to be at odds with the publicly stated aim by Theresa May to support grammar schools. Surely education is paramount to the future prosperity of the country and should be funded accordingly?"

The proposed new national funding formula announced by Education Secretary Justine Greening in December increases money targeted at schools with additional needs, including deprivation.

Although MPs from all parties have been pressing the Government to review the reforms, Ms Greening claims the changes, to be introduced from 2018 to 2019, will mean more than 10,000 schools gaining funding.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

OUR Activities Fund, which relies on voluntary donations, ensures RGS students enjoy a wide range of scientific, sporting and social activities for free. For less than the price of a cup of coffee a week you can help us continue to transform lives by bringing out the best in every child. Visit ripongrammar.co.uk for more information.

Shining a light

RGS has been chosen by University College London as a Beacon School in Holocaust Education. It means the school is at the forefront of an important national initiative encouraging young people to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and explore its relevance to their own lives and the contemporary world.

Last year Iby Knill, who survived 40 days in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, came to RGS to talk to students

about her experience. And more than 50 students have recently returned from a GCSE history trip to Krakow and Auschwitz, where they met a Holocaust survivor.

History teacher David Bruce explained that a number of departments, including English, RE and art, were working to address the subject in different ways. RGS is also reaching out to local schools to host training, offer mentoring and share teaching resources.

Top of the leader board

RGS students have topped the Youth Sport Trust National Leader Board after clocking up 109 sports leader volunteer hours. Close behind was Hetton School in Houghton le Spring with 96 hours, followed by Swavesey Village College in Cambridge with 58 hours. PE teacher Helen Mackenzie said she was proud of those who took part.

Record-breaking fundraisers

OUR students raised an impressive £12,384.32 for BRACE Alzheimer's Research during Charity Week this year, breaking the school's fundraising record. Events, including break-time cake stalls and fun quizzes, were organised by sixth form school officers and involved students and staff throughout the school.

BRACE chief executive Mark Poarch said: "This was a truly remarkable effort. In one week, they nearly broke not only their own record but also the best total we have received from any supporting organisation in recent years. It just shows what commitment, enthusiasm and imagination can achieve."



Top programmer:
Jonathan Tanner



Honoured: Jonathan Webb

Meet the new Headmaster

The newly appointed headmaster of Ripon Grammar School is Jonathan Webb, who will be moving from his role as deputy head at Durham School when he succeeds Martin Pearman in September.

A graduate in history from Christ's College, Cambridge, and a former pupil of Batley Grammar School, near Leeds, his distinguished career in education has included spells at Pocklington School, York, The Manchester Grammar School and Giggleswick School.

Mr Webb, who lives near Ripon, said: "I am extremely honoured to have been chosen from such a strong field and am indeed very excited by the prospect of leading such a fabulous school as Ripon Grammar School."

On the challenge of leading an already outstanding school, he said: "We should always cherish the things that work and preserve the processes which function smoothly. However, we can and should believe in school improvement, if only to prevent 'status quoism' from drifting into complacency. I believe we can continue to improve pupil mastery of their subjects and their intellectual curiosity to do better. We have to believe in ensuring that a pupil's life experience in, and crucially beyond, the classroom develops growth mind-set, inner confidence, a sense of spiritual worth and a deep and lasting care for others."

Sarah French asks new head Jonathan Webb, who takes up his post in September, about his views on education

In short, we have to believe that a school can continue to nurture decent human beings who want to make a positive difference. This is why the extra-curricular life of a school is so important and why personal self-development and confidence is as much the marker of human flourishing as academic results."

Chair of governors at Ripon Grammar School, Dr Peter Mason, said: "We are very pleased

'A school must nurture decent human beings who want to make a positive difference'

to have appointed Jonathan Webb as the next headmaster of Ripon Grammar School from an exceptionally large and competitive field of applicants. We have no doubt the school will continue to thrive and develop

strongly under his leadership and we look forward to welcoming him in September."

Mr Webb is married to Helen and has two sons. He is a keen cricketer and coaches for a local team and enjoys all forms of outdoor pursuits. He has worked with the British Council in China helping to promote British boarding school education.

He will join at a time when grammar schools have been singled out as one method for improving education standards with the prime minister apparently keen on expanding the system.

Mr Webb said: "Selective grammar schools can deliver progress if, and only if, they maximise the talents of those successful in the entrance test. They have to deliver academic excellence through outstanding teaching and learning both in terms of raw results and, crucially, value-added measures. They also need to deliver a co-curricular programme which develops not just the intellectual but also the personal skills of their charges. However, that does not mean that the selection process itself cannot be refined further. To ensure that all pupils in the catchment area feel entitled and confident to apply is also important and depends on good outreach."

Computer whizz

STUDENT Jonathan Tanner has emerged as one of the top young computer programmers in the country.

Having secured a place in the finals of a prestigious nationwide competition he will now compete at Cambridge University for a top four place that would see him representing Britain at the International Olympiad in Informatics to be held in Tehran, Iran, this summer. Although he is only 16, Jonathan, who started computer programming aged 11, proved to be among the top 15 competitors in the

British Informatics Olympiad, which is open to students aged up to 19 across the UK. To get to the final, he took a three-hour exam at school in which he had to write a computer programme to solve problems then answer theoretical questions.

The son of the Bishop of Berwick, he will take his A-levels in mathematics, further mathematics, physics and chemistry a year early this summer. He has been offered a place to read mathematics and computer science at Oxford University in September.

RGS retains top school title

Ripon Grammar School has confirmed its status as the top state school in the North for an impressive fourth year in a row as it continues to rise in national rankings. RGS once again led the region in The Sunday Times Parent Power survey, climbing 14 places into the top 75 state schools nationally.

The Parent Power list ranks the top 2,000 state and independent schools based on students' performance at A-level and GCSE, which this year put Ripon Grammar School 27 places ahead of its nearest rival in the North. In this summer's examinations, 76.2 per cent of A-level grades at Ripon Grammar School were graded A*-B, while 60.6 per cent of GCSEs were A* or A grades.

The school also ranked highly in a measure of the university destinations of its leavers, being the top school in Yorkshire and 41st out of the 217 top state schools listed.

Among the 140 students who left Ripon Grammar School after A-levels last summer, more than half secured places at the top Russell Group universities, with a further 6.6 per cent going to Oxford or Cambridge. Two students have gone to study overseas, in the USA and Madrid.

High-achieving students in this year's upper sixth are also heading for the country's most prestigious universities, with seven securing Oxbridge offers. They have been accepted on a range of courses, from computer science to music, geography to theology and veterinary medicine.

Jonathan Tanner, who secured his offer to study computer science and mathematics at Oxford University aged just 16, will be joined by boarder Joy Sutcliffe, former head chorister at Ripon Cathedral and BBC Radio 2 Chorister of the Year 2013, who will read music.

Ripon Grammar School has been named top state school in the North by The Sunday Times for the fourth year in a row, with most leavers heading for top universities. **Sarah French reports**

Five students have been offered places at Cambridge University: Mary Cox and boarder Ross Sullivan each at Gonville and Caius, to read geography and natural sciences respectively; head girl Emily Evans to read history at Emmanuel College and deputy head girl Katie Veitch to study theology at Clare College after a gap year working for the charity Project Trust.

Francesca Haldane has secured one of only 70 places at Cambridge to read veterinary science with an offer of two A*s and an A from Sidney Sussex College.

Joining her in the veterinary world is Hannah-Olivia Foster who has a choice of offers from Surrey, Nottingham and Liverpool universities.

Performer Josh Belward has a chance to turn his favourite hobby into a career after winning a place at prestigious Bird College to study professional dance and musical theatre. Josh, who last year starred as Billy in the school's production of Anything Goes and was Mr Hardcastle in this year's school production of She Stoops to Conquer, said: "Performing has always been a hobby so to make the step from that to being able to do it as a career is amazing."

Star hockey players master a whole new ball game



The team, l to r: Emily Hamby, Amelia Simenacz, Lucy Williams, Harriet Sowray, Libby Rickard, Louise Taylor, Georgina Turner, Bethany Hamby, Jessica Merrin and Amelia Borchard

TALENTED RGS hockey players have established themselves as one of the top ten girls' teams in the country after reaching the national indoor finals in January, despite being new to the sport. Up against independent schools such as Repton, Millfield and Cranleigh, who all boast experienced indoor teams, RGS is one of just a few state schools to reach this level. The team only started training with coach Trevor Bosomworth in March and qualified as one of only two teams representing the North of England after maintaining their unbeaten record at the northern finals in Bradford. Thanks to Calverts Carpets, Williams Property Consultants, Herbs Unlimited and Quickchange for sponsoring the girls, and

also to the Parents' Association who provided indoor goals and rails for the sports hall. It has also been an impressive year for RGS's rugby players: the U18, U16 and U14 teams all qualified for the finals of the Yorkshire Cup in Wakefield and both the U15 and 1stXV were crowned champions in the White Rose finals, with our U18 girls' rugby team winning the North Yorkshire championships. In addition, a number of students won the honour of representing England in swimming and petanque and both our girls' junior and inter cross country teams, sponsored by our Old Rips, made it to the national finals.

■ If you would like to sponsor one of RGS's top sports teams, please contact Alison Balsdon on admin@ripongrammar.co.uk



Double success: above, twins George and Harry Stratford and Katharine and Louisa Chatterton pictured celebrating GCSE success last summer. They are two of three sets of twins at RGS to gain 58 A* and A grades between them
Picture: Richard Doughty Photography

Head praised

RGS's outstanding performance in last year's GCSEs has earned the school national recognition for student progress. With more than 86 per cent of results grades A*-B and 97 per cent a C or better, the school is in the top ten per cent of schools nationally. An impressive 99 per cent of pupils secured at least five A*-C grades and almost a third of students achieved at least ten A* or A grades.

Sue Williamson, chief executive of the national school, student and teachers' network SSAT, which presented RGS with an Educational Outcomes award, told retiring headmaster Martin Pearman: "Your constant hard work and dedication to your students is an inspiration to the community."

Mr Pearman said: "It is heartening for our hard-working students and their teachers and support staff to be recognised nationally for their outstanding achievement."



Proud sponsors of
Ripon Grammar School
U16 Girls' Indoor Hockey Team
NATIONAL FINALISTS 2017



Childhood memories: Bridget Kendall with chair of governors Dr Peter Mason and Headmaster Martin Pearman

Best student ever? Probably

The famous daughter of a famous past pupil visited RGS recently. **Sarah French reports**

Celebrated journalist Bridget Kendall may be well known as the BBC's former diplomatic correspondent. But many may not be aware she is also the daughter of one of Ripon Grammar School's most distinguished past pupils, the brilliant mathematician David Kendall, known as the 'British founding father of probability'.

Ms Kendall, who has just become the first female Master of Peterhouse College, Cambridge, spoke about her childhood memories of Ripon when she returned to the city recently to present a host of prizes for sporting prowess and service to the community at the school's annual Speech Day.

She told guests she was immensely proud of Ripon, where her grandparents ran a haberdashery and women's clothes shop: "I remember Ripon as a magical place full of charm," she said.

Her father, born in 1918, was home schooled for a time after developing glandular fever: "When he joined the grammar school he did very well and he loved astronomy. During a trip to the Royal Observatory, the Astronomer Royal told him to study maths and he loved it," she explained.

David Kendall's exceptional mathematical talents were clear from an early age —one teacher gave him his Cambridge lecture notes and he was reading scholarship material in his early teens, winning a place at Queen's College, Oxford, in 1936.

When he graduated in 1939, he won a scholarship for research in astronomy, but also wanted to continue with maths: "I was torn between the two subjects and couldn't see how the conflict would be resolved, but Hitler resolved it for me," he said afterwards.

Like other talented young mathematicians at the time he became involved in war work and his efforts led to the successful development of the rockets used in massed batteries from assault ships at D-Day, and the deadly deployment of rocket-firing Typhoon fighters as tank-busters in Normandy.



David Kendall

He spent most of his academic life at Oxford and Cambridge where he was renowned for his work on statistical shape analysis, ley lines and queuing theory, as well as his work on probability.

In 1962 he was appointed the first professor of mathematical statistics at Cambridge, where he remained until retirement in 1985, working on a variety of problems connected with everything from epidemics to archaeology. A fellow of the Royal Society, he was awarded several honorary degrees and academic distinctions throughout his lifetime.

He inspired his daughter and encouraged her to do something different and study Russian, she told students: "As you consider your choices, think about what you love, what you enjoy doing and hence, probably, you will excel. Stand out from the crowd, don't shy away from difficult challenges and give your best."



TV's political correspondent Libby Weiner, Daily Mirror assistant editor Kevin Maguire, BBC news presenter Ben Brown, Times chief sports writer Matt Dickinson, Daily Telegraph defence editor Con Coughlin and Mail chief sports writer Oliver Holt are just some of the once budding young hacks David English has taught at Cardiff University.

The former Ripon Grammar School student has trained more than 1,000 journalists, many of whom now occupy top roles in British national newspapers, TV and radio stations, as well as on regional newspapers throughout the country.

According to Cardiff University Journalism School's director Richard Sambrook, more British newspaper journalists have been trained by David English than by any other person: "It's a remarkable track record and achievement," he says.

War service brought David's father, the son of a South Wales miner, to Ripon, where he stayed on after the war to work as a grocer and butcher for the Co-op and later, Appletons. Both parents were committed Methodists and David grew up without a TV because they thought it would be a corrupting

David English, who left RGS in 1968, has recently retired as newspaper director of the UK's leading school of journalism at Cardiff University. Ruth Savage outlines the career of the man who has trained more reporters than anyone else in the country, before putting a few questions to this giant among journalists

influence and detract from reading and learning. After graduating in modern history from Oxford, English trained as a journalist with Thomson Regional Newspapers on the Belfast Telegraph and then The Journal in Newcastle. He moved to become public administration tutor at the Thomson Editorial Training Centre in Cardiff before joining what was then the Centre for Journalism Studies at Cardiff University.

Under David's leadership the Cardiff school has regularly been ranked top for journalism in the Guardian's university guide.

Sambrook says: "The vigour and strength of British newspaper journalism is revered across the world and David's played a key role in upholding and instilling this reputation through the school's doors. He's been an influential presence for many young journalists through what is one of the most formative years of their career and, as such, is held in extremely high regard."

He is well known among students for his non-sense but humorous teaching style and notoriously direct feedback, always written in red ink.

"One of David's highest forms of praise is to call someone 'a real journalist'. David is a journalist's journalist," says Sambrook.

If you could meet your 18-year-old self now, what advice would you give?

Not to see issues in black and white terms, but in shades of grey. Life makes more sense then.

What is the most important lesson you learnt at RGS?

The love of learning, a sense of curiosity and a love of politics and current affairs.

When and why did you decide you wanted to be a journalist?

At school in the sixth form I had ambitions to become an MP (I stood twice for Parliament, once in the Ripon by-election in 1973). After university, I thought becoming a political correspondent would give me the means to get into Parliament eventually. On knowing of my political interests, Thomson Regional Newspapers (now Trinity Mirror) suggested I should train in Belfast, which was then experiencing The Troubles and attempts to set up a Stormont Assembly.

Sadly, the IRA took a dislike to me (the feeling was mutual) and I had to be transferred quickly to The

PRESS MASTER

Journal at Newcastle. Moving from the news values of what was effectively a war zone to a northern provincial city with very different news values was quite a shock.

Who has been your role model in the world of journalism?

My journalistic role models were Harry Evans, who turned both The Northern Echo and The Sunday Times into campaigning newspapers, and Peter Preston, editor of the Guardian, who still writes an incisive media column for The Observer. Both were journalists of the highest integrity. Alan Watkins, political columnist of The Observer, was also a great help to me at the start of my career.

What are the best and worst things about the job?

What I loved most about being a journalist was being at the centre of major events, talking to the dramatis personae and being able to write about their roles in major decisions. The downside was the waiting around for meetings to finish in order to report the decisions. I also found death knocks rather intrusive, though they were sometimes cathartic for the bereaved families and I took comfort from that.

What was your biggest scoop?

My biggest scoop on the Belfast Telegraph was when I got a tip-off from Harold Wilson's office that he was flying to Belfast the following day to take charge of the Assembly discussions with the Unionists, who were at that stage not keen on discussing any power sharing with the Catholic parties. For security reasons, Downing Street denied the story, but Harold Wilson duly turned up the next day and I was seen as someone with an inside track on Government (I had been chair of Oxford University Labour Club, so knew many of the key players at the time, and several of my friends had become special advisers to cabinet members).

Why did you move from journalism to training and what did you enjoy about your new role?

I wasn't enjoying my time on the Journal after the thrills of Belfast, and it was suggested I might like to consider moving into management training, since very few editorial staff moved into management. So as part of the training, I moved to the Thomson Editorial Training Centre in Cardiff

Continued overleaf

The press gang: David English, top left, is pictured with students in Cardiff, left, and in sixth form, far left

FAVOURITE TEACHERS



"I WAS inspired by four teachers, three of whom are sadly now dead and one with whom I still keep in touch.

Firstly, two history teachers: Ted Thomas (who introduced me to Earl Grey tea - I thought he had washed the cup in TCP) and Dr Bill Petchey, a wonderful story teller who brought history alive. And two English teachers, Ethel Allison and Paul Binding. Paul is now a famous novelist, biographer and critic and I have visited him in Shropshire where he now lives.

I think I owe most to Ethel Allison. Firstly, she had just an intuitive sense of when I needed reassurance and a metaphorical cuddle. Secondly, on Tuesday afternoons when many of the boys were doing cadets, I studied Russian novels and modern British novelists with her. I learnt so much and acquired so much knowledge during those sessions, and I am forever grateful to her."



Remarkable track record: David English

(where I had trained initially) as the tutor in public administration - teaching trainee journalists how local government worked as well as the basic workings of central government.

And I fell in love three times: firstly, I fell in love with Cardiff. Secondly, I fell in love with journalism education and training. And thirdly, I met and fell in love with my wife Pat, a fellow journalist.

Then the opportunity came up to move to the journalism school at Cardiff University in 1980 and I jumped at the chance to join the oldest university journalism school in the UK. I was excited by the enthusiasm and ambitions of the students and have loved seeing them grow into senior figures in print and broadcasting. Famous students I have taught have been Kevin Maguire of the Daily Mirror, Con Coughlin of the Daily Telegraph, Ian MacGregor, editor of the Sunday Telegraph, Ben Brown of BBC news and, in sport, Matt Dickinson and Oliver Kay of The Times and Oliver Holt of the Mail on Sunday.

I still take great pride in seeing their names in print or hearing them on the radio. The students have kept me young and I have loved their company.

What is your favourite newspaper/magazine/TV news programme?

I have two favourite newspapers for different reasons. Firstly, I like The Times for its compact layout and general news coverage - though its political slant on some stories annoys me. Secondly, I love the Guardian for its politics, but I dislike its Berliner format and think it should revert to a compact size.

And I have two favourite magazines. Firstly, The New Statesman, for its coverage of politics and the arts. And secondly, Auto Express (I am a petrol head).

I rarely watch TV (I grew up without access to

one at home) but I am a great fan of Radio5 live, particularly the Drive programme. Sadly, Peter Allan no longer anchors it. I miss him - a truly great journalist.

How has the job of a journalist changed since the Seventies?

Journalism has changed considerably from when I started out. I grew up with a typewriter, and there were rigid delineations between editorial and

printers. We were also not allowed by union rules to take photographs. The rise of citizen journalism through social media means we are now expected to take pictures, and Margaret Thatcher and Rupert Murdoch saw to the collapse of the print unions. Sub-editing, which was a skilled job in the hot metal days, has now been demystified thanks to technology.

Do you think printed newspapers will still exist in ten or twenty years' time?

I think newspapers will survive. Firstly, circulation now seems to be stabilising, and Waterstones say book sales are rising again as Kindle sales fall. The problem is that nobody yet has got to grips with the business model needed to combine newsprint and online reading. Advertising is not getting the online traction needed to make web news a sustainable model, and there is no agreement on whether online news should be free or have some subscription gateway. Also, newspapers don't need batteries or constant recharging.

More importantly, newspapers can give background and context to news whereas the web merely reports the news, but deserves credit for often being the first with the stories. There will always be the need for analysis.

And the basics of journalism will always remain: the ability to get the information by asking the basics of who, what, where, why, how and when, and the ability to craft a narrative to tell the story simply and logically. The addition now is the ability to write for search engine optimisation on the web.

What advice would you give current RGS students who are considering a career in journalism?

My best advice is to go to university and study a subject which you really enjoy and which grabs you (I studied history), then take a one year postgraduate course either at a university or one of the NCTJ-accredited colleges. There are some

really good courses around. But also show some initiative and try to get work experience on local papers and student papers or radio stations, building up a portfolio to show commitment and an understanding of what is needed to succeed. There is still a great demand for training places, so students need to show that dogged determination to succeed. And become news and current affairs junkies, because the interview for places will involve a current affairs test to ensure you are excited and knowledgeable about events.

Which matters most when it comes to success - ambition, talent or hard work?

Ambition and hard work matter most when it comes to success, but sometimes one can be in just the right place at the right time.

How did you benefit from being a student at RGS and do you think grammar schools are a good idea?

I loved my time at the Grammar School, though I remain critical of selection at 11-plus, which I think is rather young to decide on a segregation which might impact on future careers. But I am no fan of large, impersonal comprehensive schools either - a source of conflict in the political party to which I belong.

Do you remember any comments from school reports, good or bad? And did they have any lasting effect?

Sadly, my father threw out all my school reports as dementia took its hold on him. I regret that, since they were mostly good - apart from maths and art! I think most of the teachers realised I was motivated more by the carrot than the stick.

Did you ever get an after-school detention?

I was always an obedient pupil, so never had a detention. To this day, I can never walk across formal grass areas since it was always forbidden at school. And I look askance when the postman walks across my carefully-tended lawn. I wonder if that rule is still in place.

What were the best things about growing up in this part of the country and what do you miss most?

I loved growing up in Ripon. It was a market town of just the right size for me, and I love the Dales, particularly Wensleydale and Nidderdale. When I needed to think about an issue (what A-levels to take, whether to drop A-level British Government for French to help with Oxford entrance), I used to walk to Duck House or on to Studley through the fields. I still do that walk when I return. I miss Ripon market and love French markets as a consequence. Market day was always special to me.

And I miss the debating society at RGS. I hope it is still going strong. It helped prepare me for debates at the Oxford Union, where my nemesis was Ann Widdecombe!

Do you return to Ripon often and do you keep in touch with any old RGS friends?

Since my parents died, I have not had much opportunity to return to Ripon. But I hope to do so in retirement. I still keep in touch with several RGS friends, mainly through Christmas cards and emails. Many of them were friends I made at junior schools, and whose friendship I valued throughout my school days.

What do you think of our Clocktower magazine?

It's an excellent read. I'm glad you were able to get a piece in the last edition from Paul Binding - a lovely man and a wonderful teacher to those of us interested in the course. The Clocktower has become so interesting that it is the glue keeping us all informed.

All those memories...



Steering the school during period of change: former headmaster Alan Jones pictured, centre front, with staff during his last year at Ripon Grammar School in 2003/4

The man at the helm during turbulent times

Alan Jones came to RGS in 1992. An English graduate from Manchester University, he had taught English and drama at a variety of state and independent schools, most recently in Newbury.

By 1992, the educational reforms introduced by the Thatcher government—National Curriculum, Local Management of Schools and Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) - were starting to take effect. Change and the management of change were to characterise Mr Jones's tenure as Headmaster.

A new pastoral system of lower and upper school offices, coupled with a changed sixth form regime came almost immediately. Increasing pupil numbers and curriculum demands required a raft of changes to the premises including additional science laboratories, technology rooms and computer suites and resulted in a flotilla of temporary classrooms around the site.

Forging new links with the wider community was a project tasked to Mr Jones. He worked assiduously at building relations with the local education authority, North Yorkshire County Council, serving on a number of panels and policy reviews. Initial overtures to Ripon City School were rebuffed, however success was achieved following the arrival of a new principal, Paul Lowery. The two schools started working together cooperatively, and the two heads enjoyed a warm and productive relationship, which was to prove highly valuable during the 1999/2000 selective education ballot campaign.

The parental ballot in 2000 proved to be a watershed moment, deciding the issue, which had hung over the school for more than two decades. In the wake of that decision, a series of investment programmes followed.

Ofsted first visited RGS in 1995, when the school

Ian Pringle pays tribute to former headmaster Alan Jones, who died in November following a long illness

was graded 'Good', the second visit in 2000 elevated that judgement to 'Very Good'. During this period academic results followed a steadily upward trajectory.

Mr Jones was a great champion of a rounded education for RGS pupils and did much to encourage a wide range of extracurricular activities. He was particularly keen on music and drama performances, and was a regular front row attendee of such events, taking undisguised pleasure and pride in the pupils' efforts.

In many ways a very private person, Mr Jones had strong views on the school and education. An able and determined individual, his intellect and love of language enabled him to argue his point of view both forcefully and effectively.

Underneath a seemingly forbidding countenance, there lurked a sense of fun and mischief, most visibly evidenced by him wearing a Sheffield United match shirt during Charity Week. A passionate supporter of the Blades, he travelled the length of the country every season. Any spare time in the summer was spent watching Yorkshire and England test cricket.

Much was achieved during his period of office. He ran the school during a particularly challenging period of change in education. His lasting legacy is likely to be his role in helping to create the foundations of the outstanding success enjoyed by the school over the past decade, when it has become one the leading state schools in the North of England.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Talented musician Ricky Chatto learned to play the cello at RGS and passed on his love of the instrument and music to daughter Grace, now a world famous rock star with the chart-topping band Clean Bandit.

Ruth Savage caught up with him in between gigs

Little do fans of the international supergroup Clean Bandit, who have sold more than 13m singles and 1.6m albums worldwide, know that singer and cellist Grace's treasured wooden instrument was actually made by her father, a former Ripon Grammar School student.

Ricky Chatto, a talented musician himself, was inspired by his RGS maths teacher Eric Kelsey, who made his own viola.

"Grace plays one of my cellos and it's always quite exciting when I see it on telly or on stage at Glastonbury," says Ricky who has his own successful seven-piece cello band, called Massive Violins, who Grace also performs with.

At times with Clean Bandit, which topped the UK charts over the coveted Christmas period for seven weeks in succession with the single Rockabye, Grace does also play an electric cello: "But I think she prefers playing mine," says Ricky.



Ricky with cello, front right, in the school orchestra

*'What I learnt in
woodwork was a great
help when I started
violin-making. Now
Grace plays one of my
cellos and it's always
exciting to see it on
telly or on stage at
Glastonbury'*

He first started playing cello at Holy Trinity junior school and has played duets with daughter Grace from when she was just six years old.

He recalls how his love of music was nurtured at RGS, where he played guitar in a band in sixth form: "I played cello in the school orchestra and sang in the choir. I was in the Ripon Schools Orchestra run by the inspirational Gilbert Shufflebotham and was also in the West Riding Youth Orchestra which rehearsed in Leeds on Saturdays.

"Mr Kelsey was a dedicated musician who could play most instruments and he encouraged lots of people to play chamber music. I played in a quartet with Mr Kelsey, who played viola with us, most Sunday evenings.

"I've played chamber music for fun ever since. I've also played at various times in most of the amateur orchestras in London, but I've cut down to just one now - the Tallis Chamber Orchestra."

Ricky, who left RGS in 1968, didn't do too well in his A-levels, probably because he spent too much time rehearsing and doing gigs rather than homework, after forming a band with others in the sixth form, including Pete Sage on guitar, Dave Potter on

bass and Dave Cotson on saxophone, he says.

Playing all sorts of pop music but with a bias towards soul, they initially called themselves The Growth of Herbs because of Pete Sage's name, then decided that was 'a bit daft' so changed it to Midnight Freeze.

Pete Sage went on to become 'a pretty big rock star' says Ricky: "He's in a very successful band in Germany called Santiano."

Ricky's dedication to his music clearly also paid off.

After studying electrical and electronic engineering at Leicester Polytechnic he went on to work as a scientific officer at GCHQ and later for London Underground before deciding to set up his own band, featuring seven cellos, after seeing a ukulele orchestra perform.

"My wife Ruth and I thought it would be great to do something similar with cellos and that's how the Massive Violins started."



Beat that: Midnight Freeze band poster from 1968



In perfect harmony: father and daughter on stage with Massive Violins, top. Golden girl: Grace with Massive Violins in London, above right, and, above left, on stage with the chart-topping supergroup Clean Bandit

The band, which plays at festivals and private functions, has built up quite a following in the capital, with fans including well-known actors Alison Steadman and Neil Morrissey.

Steadman says: "I LOVE the Massive Violins, wherever they are I'll seek them out."

Actor Morrissey describes one of their gigs as a unique bobby dazzler of an evening: "Seven cellists brimming over with great comic timing, charm, aplomb and a fantastic repertoire. Unmissable."

Comedian and TV presenter Simon Amstell is similarly smitten: "I like the Massive Violins—A LOT," he says.

They play virtuoso arrangements of iconic rock and pop songs such as Eminem's Stan, Meghan Trainor's All About That Bass and Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, as well as some Puccini and Mozart. "We all sing as well as play the cello," explains Ricky.

"We all have other jobs, this is entirely part-time. I guess our act

is unusual," he adds. Although he is almost retired, he still works one day a week for Transport for London as an expert on safety software.

Alongside his work, he has been making musical instruments since 1975: "I was always very impressed by the fact that Mr Kelsey made his viola."

When he heard about a local violin-making class, Ricky, who had had to miss a number of woodwork lessons at school because of his music commitments, decided to go along: "I'd always liked woodwork at school and I found Mr Chambers (Chippy) a great teacher.

"What I did learn in woodwork was a great help when I started violin-making."

He has made three violins, two violas, seven cellos and a double bass and, more recently, two guitars: "My grandson (not Grace's but my stepdaughter's son) plays the double bass I made. He studies double bass at the Royal College of Music junior

department. And his sister plays one of the cellos I made.

"I've sold one cello, which was quite traumatic at the time, but I still have the other four - some of which members of the Massive Violins play. Sometimes one of the Massive Violins tells the audience that I made most of the cellos on the stage and also made one of the band members, which always gets a laugh."

He says Grace, who studied Russian at Jesus College, Cambridge, and spent two years at the Moscow Conservatoire, did better than he did academically while managing to continue playing the cello and forming Clean Bandit with three friends from the same college.

"They've won a Grammy and two Ivor Novellos and were nominated for two Brit awards. So Grace isn't always available for the Massive Violins!" says the proud dad.

■ Massive Violins will play at Cecil Sharp House in London on Thursday 13 July

In seventh heaven

Review:
Massive Violins
at Cecil Sharp House,
Camden Town

★★★★★

GRACE Chatto's star turn with Louisa Johnson at the Britain's Got Talent TV final, when she played violin alongside the X Factor winner as they performed their collaborative single, Tears, made headlines.

But that was last night. Tonight, the Clean Bandit star proudly took centre stage with her father Ricky in Camden Town. And this time, she wasn't playing second fiddle to anyone.

Ricky's band of cellists, Massive Violins, had won North London's Got Talent the week before and the warm relationship between Grace and her dad was evident, especially as the venue, with a crowd of 300, was relaxed and intimate.

Although it was sold out, we were lucky enough to get seats on the front row. No-one seemed to have come in search of famous faces, and I'm sure father and daughter would not have batted an eyelid if we had offered to buy them a pint from the bar.

When the band struck up with Pachelbel's Canon in D, we settled down for a couple of hours of soothing culture. However, we were in for an even richer and more colourful treat than that. The band's flamboyant sparkly gold jackets and shoes should have given it away as the familiar classic morphed cheekily into the theme song from Bob the Builder. Thus began a wonderful rendition of some of the best songs of the last fifty years.

Anyone with a penchant for old numbers might have known the lyrics to every song, as I did. There was a delicious mix of the greats such as Elvis's In the Ghetto and Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, sung soulfully by the bass singer, Guido. There was also Michael Jackson's Thriller, Fleetwood Mac's Everywhere, Dolly Parton's Jolene and The Beach Boys' Good Vibrations. You know the kind of songs you often forget about but can't help but love when you hear them at a party? Ricky Chatto sang the Beatles' When I'm 64 but changed the 64 to his own age, which was lovely. Anyone with a soft spot for musicals would have adored the Sound of Music medley, including soprano Camilla's lively version of Favourite Things. Jess's performance of Major Tom was a moving tribute to David Bowie.

Moving onto more modern pieces, there was Miley Cyrus's Wrecking Ball, Bjork's It's Oh So Quiet and songs from Adele, Spice Girls, Eminem and Dido. Meghan Trainor's All About That Bass epitomised the talent of these classically trained musicians with their tongue-in-cheek enjoyment of putting their own spin on popular songs. If you fancy a treat, look them up on YouTube, where you'll find fun covers such as Teenage Dirtbag and Clean Bandit's Rather Be.

With only 633 followers on Twitter (well, 634 now that I am following them) and a sparse website, www.massiveviolins.com, it is difficult to find information on the band, but they do have an album, Bowing 24/7, released last year. As it is only available to buy exclusively at their concerts, I will be keeping my eyes peeled so I don't miss their next one in the summer.

SUE EDWARDS





Striking: Baker and his new book

Body work

AWARD-WINNING illustrator Andrew Baker, who left RGS in 1982, is behind a stunning new book, *Body, A Graphic Guide to Us*, the ultimate visual guide to the human body.

Andrew, who studied at Liverpool and the Royal College of Art, lectures at Middlesex University and his work regularly appears in national newspapers and magazines. Andrew's striking infographics in *Body* illustrate everything from the smallest cell to the biggest bones and the secret elements hiding in your body, capturing the mind-bogglingly complex in deceptively simple images.

Body, published by Aurum Press, costs £25 in hardback.

Don't miss our in-depth interview with Andrew in the next edition of *Clocktower*.



Marking 20 years in art: Seeger

Where the art is

ARTIST Lesley Seeger is marking her successful 20-year career as a painter with a new book called *Coming Home*. Lesley, who left Ripon Grammar School in 1975, describes it as a 'mid-career retrospective'.

"I had a very inspiring art teacher at RGS, who was only known as SAS - we never knew his real name—and we were given essays where we were asked to interpret things visually. That was my idea of Heaven, as well as the school putting an emphasis on creative writing, my other great love," says Lesley, who has just taken up an art residency at Burton Agnes Hall.

Coming Home, a contemporary colourist's approach to English landscape, is published by Quack Books of York: www.quackerquip.org and costs £25 in hardback.

We will be featuring Lesley's work in a future edition of *Clocktower*.

Special KAY

Creative branding expert Kay Dower was the brains behind the Quality Street 'Big Purple One' name. **Charles Hutchinson** talks to her about her latest venture while we discover other former students who are making an impact on the world of art and design

Kay Dower used to come up with new ideas for chocolates at Nestlé. Now she has a new product to market: her first gallery in York. The talented artist's new venture is the Corner Gallery, part-working studio, part-gallery, where she also runs courses.

Kay, who studied management and French at Nottingham University after leaving RGS in 1993, started art classes with York art tutor Andres Jaroslavy three years ago.

She took A-level art at RGS and has fond memories of classes with SAS and LV Smith: "I remember the London art trip in sixth form, where we were free to roam the city and take in the diverse selection of art galleries, from the bizarre to the beautiful."

After university, her creative path led to Nestlé in York. "I went to work there on inventing chocolate bars as part of the innovation team. We'd sit on bean bags thinking up new chocolate flavours for KitKat, like cookies and cream and strawberry cheesecake, and I remember we came up with the idea of a chocolate spaghetti-making machine, but unfortunately that didn't come to fruition. "We worked on KitKat, Aero, Quality Street, and the job involved understanding the consumer and branding design. I can safely say that I named the Big Purple One when they were looking for a name to launch the Quality Street chocolate. I said, 'let's call it that because that is what consumers call it!'"

Eleven years ago, Kay and a friend who also came up with chocolate bar suggestions set up their own innovation company, Idea-licious, to 'help companies think more creatively'.

Companies such as Nestlé, ASDA, Arla Foods in Leeds and McCain Foods in Scarborough have since used their services.

"Then I had children and that's when the art bug struck me again," says Kay. "I started doing life drawing classes and a little bit of screen-printing and joined the painting and drawing classes Andres was running."

When Andres, who used to run The Corner Gallery, decided to work from a bigger studio, Kay offered to take the gallery over, dropping 'The' from the old name.



Ripon Cathedral, by Kay

As well as landscape painting sessions and continuing to run Idea-licious, Kay is holding children's after-school Art Squad sessions. But the main idea behind Corner Gallery is to offer local, stylish and affordable art, she says. As well as her own acrylic paintings of York, she has pottery by Emily Stubbs, photography by Ohio-born York resident Julie Whelan, oil paintings by Kate Pettitt and trays, scoops, spoons and ladders

made from Lake District wood by the aptly named artist Woody.

And look out too for Claire Morris's witty works where she cuts out the characters from the covers of old pulp-fiction books to animate their story in glass-framed collages.

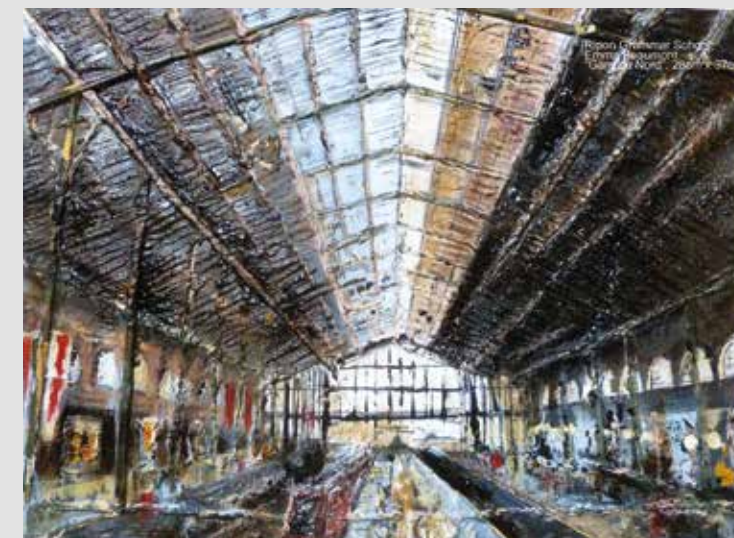
"Basically, if I like it, it's in," Kay explains.

Corner Gallery, on Scarcroft Road, York, is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, Saturday, 10am to 1pm, or by appointment on 07973 656717. For more details, go to facebook.com/CornerGalleryYO or instagram.com/cornergallery

■ A version of this article first appeared in York's *The Press*



Photo by DAVID HARRISON



Poignant award after terror ordeal

A poignant painting of a deserted rail station in Paris in the wake of the deadly terror attacks in the city has won a major national award for one former RGS student.

Emma Beaumont was one of 26 sixth formers and three members of staff on an RGS art trip, staying near the Gare du Nord, when Isis terrorists killed 129 people in a series of bomb and gun attacks.



Brush with success: Emma

Her painting, developed from a photograph taken as the group made their way home after being confined to their hotel during the traumatic ordeal, won a special commendation after being selected from hundreds of submissions to be included in a prestigious London exhibition.

Head of art Fiona Henson said Emma's award was well-deserved: "Emma's painting is very calm, open and spacious. The station was deserted and the sense of space and emptiness resonates within the piece."

The work will sit alongside 21 other pieces in the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS)/Royal Society of British Artists exhibition, initially at the Lloyd's of London building and later at the headquarters of NADFAS, which is a leading arts charity, on The Mall.

Emma is now studying landscape architecture at Sheffield University.

Cornering a new market: Kay pictured centre. Photo: David Harrison. Left, York Rooftops, and below, A Roof With A View, both by Kay



Scottish king's face unveiled after 700 years

A former RGS student has given us an amazing first ever look at warlord Robert the Bruce's face.

Ruth Savage finds out how she did it

Robert the Bruce's looks have, until now, been shrouded in mystery. Despite being depicted on Scottish bank notes and lionised in the song O Flower of Scotland, no-one knew what the man who inflicted a military defeat on the English, which still resounds today, actually looked like.

Now, more than 700 years after he led the charge at Bannockburn and beat back the forces of Edward II, RGS past pupil Prof Caroline Wilkinson of Liverpool John Moores University has created digitally reconstructed images of the infamous warlord.

Her recreation of the face of 'The Bruce', based on a cast of the 14th century warrior's skull, was unveiled at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall, where a variety of images on show portrayed a stocky and muscular man at the height of his powers and an older monarch bearing the scars inflicted by the early stages of leprosy.

Some media commentators said he looked like Lionel Messi. Others observed he had the build of Wayne Rooney.

Prof Wilkinson used the same technology she harnessed to recreate the image of Richard III, which featured in a previous edition of Clocktower.

It was a challenging task as images from royal seals and coins are highly stylised and vague and more modern images are

wildly contradictory: "There are very vague descriptions of him being beautiful and looking like Paris, but that's it," she explained. She used the cast of his skull, which is held in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, to build up a detailed and sophisticated picture of his features, a process which took two years to complete.

"The skull shows a deterioration of the nasal aperture and the front teeth. However he was a very strong, robust character with a warrior's build. He was a heavy duty athlete who could certainly swing a sword or an axe."

The skull was excavated in 1818-19 from a grave in Dumferline Abbey, the mausoleum of Scotland's medieval monarchs.



Challenge:
Prof Wilkinson



Disability campaigner Margaret Clough, who left RGS in 1968, pictured with her son Tony, who has received an MBE for his work alongside Margaret, campaigning for more accessible toilets and changing places for disabled people.



Wayne Rooney or Lionel Messi? Prof Caroline Wilkinson's recreation of the face of Robert the Bruce

MBE for our Jack

OLYMPIC champion Jack Laugher, who left RGS in 2013, has been awarded an MBE for services to diving.

Laugher, pictured right, won gold in the men's synchronised 3m springboard with diving partner Chris Mears, six days before taking silver in the individual category in Rio.

More recently, the 22-year-old won gold in the men's individual 3m springboard at the Diving World Series in China.



Memories of Clem



MORE than 400 people, including many past pupils and staff from RGS, attended Ripon Cathedral for the funeral of Clem Carter, who died suddenly in February, aged 21. We will be publishing a tribute to Clem, who left Ripon Grammar School in 2014 and was studying pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Huddersfield, in the next edition of Clocktower. Please contact the editor on erc46@btinternet.com with your memories of Clem.

The Derek, our new Mr President

RETIRED chemist Derek Crookes, who attended RGS from 1964 to 1971, is the new president of the Old Rips.

Having served as secretary of RGS's past pupils' association since 2013, he takes over from Nicola Woolfenden who was in the post for three years. Nicola, who will remain on the committee, thanked Derek for his unstinting support: "As well

as helping school financially, the Old Rips are passionate about welcoming former students and families back to school to reconnect with old friends. Derek has played a pivotal role in making this happen and we are extremely grateful for his energy and commitment."

Derek praised Nicola for her dedicated expertise and enthusiasm: "Under her

Keith honoured for helping the poor

FORMER RGS student and international development worker Keith Thompson has been appointed OBE in this year's New Year Honours list in recognition of his work in some of the poorest countries in the world, including Sierra Leone, where he helped in the UK efforts to tackle the Ebola outbreak.



Helping: Keith Thompson

After leaving RGS in 1971, Keith, from Copt Hewick near Ripon, studied maths at Oxford and gained an MBA and a master's degree in economics before going on to work as an investment analyst in Germany where he and his wife, Hanne-Ruth, were also active members of Amnesty International.

Since first taking part in international development work in Papua New Guinea in 1976, Keith has gone on to work in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, spending three years in Bangladesh and four years in Sierra Leone.

Now working for the UK Department for International Development, he leads a team supporting poverty reduction in Bangladesh through economic development: "Most of the work aims to help provide jobs and other opportunities for poor people," he told Clocktower.

"We work in agriculture, helping farmers to produce better crops and to reach wider markets; in financial services, enabling people in remote areas and particularly women to save, take loans and set up new businesses themselves; in skill development, getting recognition for new skills and linking training with employers; in factory safety, establishing a system of factory inspections and support for safety improvements; and in renewable energy, particularly home solar systems which provide electricity beyond the reach of the main electricity grid."

Where there's a Will

WILL Savage is launching a new Midlands operation for communications firm Snapdragon Consulting. Will, who left RGS in 2010, studied history and politics at Queen's University, Belfast, before gaining a master's degree at King's College, London.

He worked as a House of Commons researcher for MP Sylvia Hermon before moving on to do political consultancy work in the capital. As senior account manager with Snapdragon, which has offices in London and Cambridge and

specialises in property, consultation, business development and corporate social responsibility, Will will



now head up the new Birmingham office. With clients including Jaguar Land Rover, Tarmac, Crest Nicholson and Redrow, Will says there are strong prospects for growth: "With the gradual shift of investment from London to the regional economies, the arrival of HS2, HSBC and the mayoral elections in May, now is a great time to establish a firm presence in Birmingham and the wider region."



Energy:
Derek



Photograph by Dave Morgan



Photograph by Joseph Samuel Priestley



Old Rips football and rugby squads, top. Current students joined past pupils for hockey and netball, above
More photographs on www.ripongrammar.co.uk/alumni/old-riponians



Together again:
pictured in the
school hall are
(l to r)
Toby Kinread,
James Riley,
Alice Scorer,
Laura Terry,
Katie Lees,
Chris Bucktrout,
Lizzie Tearle,
Scott Thompson,
Sam Crompton
and Hugh McHale
Maughan



Happy days:
(l to r) Sue
Edwards
with teachers
Kevin Auger
and Helen
Mackenzie, left

Back to school:
(l to r) George
Owram, former
teacher Jenny
Bellamy
and Euan
Raffel, former
secretary of the
Old Rips



Old Boys' Reunion

Event

Twenty seventh December, two thousand sixteen,

Forty men of age, just picture the scene,
United by school, Old Rips champs their title,

Eighty minutes rugby, flair oh-so vital.

Pre-match play

Hungover beforehand, special mention Dom Butler,

Plenty others also, perhaps they were subtler,

Catch up the focus, catching balls the key,
Spectators a-plenty, refreshments were free.

Game

Practice all over, kick off at midday,
Ref blows his whistle, the game underway,

Old Boys kick off, twenty four years or under,

Old, Old boys receiving, no chance of a blunder.

Score

Final score as usual, to Old, Old Boys,

Lol of course goes to, that post of Molloy's,

A laugh and a cheer, from all at the game,

Several years later, old friends just the same.

Thank you

The focus on reunion, aside rugby union,

Later food and drink, call it our communion,

Thanks go to all, who attended/helped out,

All more than welcome, next year if about.

Jonny Frank

This sporting life

Our past
pupils
returned
to their old
playing fields
for an action-
packed
school
reunion. Toby
Kinread
reports

Over the holiday period the annual Old Rips winter reunion gave us a full afternoon of sporting events and overdue catching up with friends and teachers from school. As always with these sports matches, the question occupying everyone's minds was: who would win, the Old Rips or the Current Rips? Starting with the hockey, it was quite resoundingly the younger ones.

A cohesive unit of sixth formers managed to overwhelm the mix of alumnae, including great goals from Lauren Hudson and Alice Foster, leaving the Old Rips team reconsidering their line-up for next year. In the netball, the younger ones also dominated.

Mrs Mackenzie commented: "The match was played in the usual good spirit and a good time was had by all but this year, the youngsters were too good for us old fogeys and by the end, even the umpires (thank you Mrs Fearnley and Mrs Kerr from Ripon City Netball Club) had given up trying to make it look like a respectable score. The final score on the official score card read RGS 52 Old Rips 37, but I suspect we scored a lot less than that and the umpires were just being kind."

The traditional Old Rips vs Current Rips format came back to life in the football match this year.

The current RGS football team battled against a range of old boys back for a break from the world of work and university.

With a sunny day and a slightly boggy field, the match drew a crowd of more than four people. In the early stages the Old Rips edged ahead but were quickly answered with a goal from the current team. Then the power of team chemistry started to come through and the Current Rips pulled ahead.

By the second half, the younger boys led 3-1 before Chris Bucktrout put his goalless school days behind him and made it 3-2. Nick Edwards made it 3-3 and the comeback was complete although, sadly, whilst still coming to terms with this achievement, the Old Rips allowed Lewis Beadle to score a fantastic goal from long range.

In the dying moments, with shouts of the prospect of the traditional penalty shoot-out if it was a draw, the current team seemed to be a little more sparse in defence and basically gave the older ones their last minute tap-in on a plate. As if by fate, the match ended 4-4 and went to penalties. Surprisingly, the penalties were largely successful until an attempt at a chip from an old boy sadly targeted a goal on top of the real one. Another couple of poor penalties left the Old Rips cold and the young ones took it. Overall the match can

be seen as a lively contest, connecting past and current students, and a fine example of the now traditional Old Rips Christmas football match.

Finally, the Old Rips' contribution to this annual event would be incomplete without the classic rugby match. The sidelines were full for this one, with parents and friends watching as the Old Rips took on the slightly Older Rips, with a handful of current sixth formers sprinkled into the younger side. Unlike the other sporting events, those few extra years of experience proved to be all the difference for the older side, resulting in a comfortable victory for the Older Rips.

Fine strings of passing by the likes of Alec Porter, Simon Whiter, Jon Dale and Will Park gave the older side a clear advantage on the attack and despite commendable efforts by the younger side in defending some powerful runs, the older ones stormed through to claim victory.

Where would the victory be without a follow-up poem by its team captain? Fortunately Jonny Frank stepped up with this masterpiece (right) to sum up the victory.

The match rounded off a terrific holiday period of Old Rips sport and socialising and will be back, even bigger and better, next Christmas.

FEEDBACK

Your news and views

Write to the editor at: erc46@btinternet.com



Headmaster Alan Jones
pictured in his first year at
RGS in 1992

REGARDING your report (Clocktower issue 11) on the death of Alan Jones, RGS headmaster from 1992 to 2004, this is very sad news.

Mr Jones was my headmaster throughout my time at RGS and we worked together during my year as head girl in 2001/2. He even took our school officer team to a Sheffield United match!

I will remember him fondly. Rest in peace, Mr Jones.

Helen Webster

■ Read our tribute to Alan Jones on page 19

YOU do an amazing job with the Clocktower.

The way it's laid out with great images just makes you want to read it. Well done.

Phil Wilkinson



Dancer Tim Casson, above, featured in Clocktower

THANKS for sending me Clocktower. It looks great, I'm really flattered. Thanks for taking such an interest in what I do and I hope it can inspire some young people in some way.

Tim Casson

THANK you so much for sending me that fascinating issue of Clocktower. What a pleasant surprise to find all those photos of our reunion!

It really was quite a day. And that was to a very large extent because of all the wonderful things the school did for us—particularly laying that great exhibition on in the library. I still look back with great fondness on those two days, and we almost all keep in touch via Facebook.

Jacky Tarleton

THANKS for my edition of Clocktower. A lot of work and jiggling has gone into it.

It was a good reminder of the 60s reunion.

I miss producing our former village's monthly newsletter. We moved to be nearer our daughter more than a year ago. There's something about Ripon Grammar School and the High School which instilled the need to contribute and create.

Janet Erskine

MANY thanks for the latest edition of Clocktower. I was particularly interested in the tribute to 'Mike' Newport as I was at RGS at the same time and in fact was a member of the school XV, 7s and Hutton House champion rugby team with him, although I hasten to add that my contribution was really one of making up the numbers.

I have been trying to organise those Old Boys who were there in the 1950s to have a reunion, but it has proved difficult for a number of reasons, not least making contact with them.

To conclude, congratulations on producing a very professional looking and informative magazine - even if it is full of stories about youngsters. I am sure there are a few Old Boys from the Fifties and Forties whose story would make interesting reading in the 'Where are they now?' column.

Peter Ellis

■ Editor's note: we would love to feature those who attended RGS in the Forties and Fifties in our 'Where are they now?' pages. Please send your contribution of between 250-300 words, along with a current photograph.



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