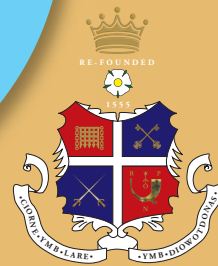


# theclocktower

keeping alumni in touch with Ripon Grammar School

Issue: 1 Summer 2011



## P3: SPORTS AT RGS

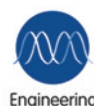
Celebrating new facilities

## P5: ROSEMARY'S GAP YEAR

Trekking up Mt  
Kilimanjaro for charity

## P6: RGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Latest fundraising news



Specialist Schools  
and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY





# INTRODUCTION

As Chair of the Governors I am pleased to introduce the first edition of The Clock Tower, the newsletter for Ripon Grammar School which aims to celebrate the school's past and look towards the future.



As a parent and Governor I am very proud of the school and all it achieves. I am delighted to be involved in this innovative project to help create a family of supporters as we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of Ripon Girls' High School with Ripon Grammar School.

The Governors are already thinking of ways to mark this very special occasion and we will be sharing our views leading up to 2012. We hope that the entire school community will become involved in this exciting project by joining with us.

**Richard Marsden**

# JACKIE DAWSON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE



**I joined Ripon Grammar School in November 2010 as Commercial Development Executive. This new role created with the support of the Governors aims to identify, initiate and implement a range of income-generating activities on behalf of the school. My role is part-time**

**21 hours and my core hours are Monday to Thursday 9.45am to 2.45pm.**

I am starting to develop strong links with the Old Riponians' Association; we have now met on a number of occasions to agree how we can work together in the future. I wrote to all Old Riponians in February to ask them for their contact details so we can start to build a database. This will keep everyone up-to-date with exciting plans for events and reunions over the coming year, culminating in a celebratory event on Saturday 14th July 2012, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of Ripon Grammar School and Ripon Girls' High School in 1962. Thank you for taking the time to respond. If you haven't yet got round to it please do send your forms back as I am still interested in hearing from you and having the most up-to-date, accurate records possible.

I am keen to form a network of regional contacts to help facilitate meetings and events for former students around the country. I would love to hear from parents, former students and current students and would welcome your views and feedback about the content of this Newsletter, and what you would like to see in future editions, so please do get in touch. My details are below: dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk or Tel: 01765 602647 x 392.

# HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

Ripon Grammar School has been serving the community of Ripon for well over 450 years and has a rich heritage and tradition which informs much of our daily work today, but it also prides itself on being forward looking.



Exciting opportunities and challenges in all aspects of school life enable individuals to develop the self confidence necessary to go on to fulfil their potential in a caring and supportive community where each individual is valued.

The supportive relationships between students and all those who teach, guide and care for them are evident as one walks around the school. Many visitors comment on the atmosphere which pervades the school as friendly, purposeful and lively. The emphasis is on the individual, and ensuring that their needs are met. The students here are talented in many areas, and the wide-ranging programme of extra-curricular activity ensures something for everyone.

Students have got to enjoy their time at school in order to fulfil their potential. When I speak to students they are very happy, and are glad they have chosen Ripon Grammar School. The school is a selective co-educational grammar school with boarding which makes it one of a small, select group of schools in the country. I value the diversity of backgrounds that this can bring and it makes it such a vibrant community.

As we approach the fiftieth Anniversary of the merging of Ripon Girls' High School with Ripon Grammar School, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on the school's achievements whilst considering how the school can continue to thrive for future generations. I hope you will enjoy reading "The Clock Tower" and that you may be inspired to join in some of the many events that are proposed.

**Martin L. Pearman**

# ALUMNI EVENTS



**No other Parliament building in the world is more instantly recognised than the New Palace of Westminster. It is a unique venue and a very special**

**place, so we are delighted that Julian Smith, MP for Skipton and Ripon, has agreed to sponsor the first Ripon Grammar School Reunion event on the evening of Thursday, 20th October 2011 at the House of Commons in London. Dinner is open to all former students, members of the Old Riponians' Association; husbands, wives and partners are most welcome to attend.**

This is a once-in-a-life time opportunity to dine in these auspicious surroundings and spaces are limited, so why not join the Headmaster and our local MP for this inaugural event? To reserve your place by **Friday 8th July**, please contact Jackie Dawson at dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk .

I am also thinking of holding reunion in Ripon if there is enough support so let me have your views. Also, are you a current or former pupil of Oxford or Cambridge and have links with your former college or live in the area? Again, I would love to plan an Oxbridge dinner so do please get in touch if you want to become involved.

# GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S FUNDRAISING RESULTS IN NEW SPORTS FACILITY



Ripon Grammar School celebrated the launch of a new AstroTurf pitch on Friday 20th May, which was made possible as a result of fundraising. The new pitch will further enhance sports facilities at the school and will be available outside of school hours for five-a-side football and hockey teams in the wider Ripon community.

Back in 2008, Ripon Grammar School launched a fundraising campaign to build a new Sports Hall. Thanks to the generosity of parents, governors, staff and supporters through gifts, donations and pledges, the fundraising target of £750,000 was exceeded, and the new Sports Hall was opened in 2010 by England rugby legend Neil Back. The additional funds raised have paid for the new AstroTurf pitch which was officially launched in May. The opening event featured a festival of sport including: football and hockey on the AstroTurf, badminton, rock-climbing and Rock-It-Ball in the sports hall, swimming, tennis and cricket. Team GB even showed up to demonstrate fencing! This was followed by a drinks reception held in the library supported by Lockwoods.

The Sports Hall is now fully functional and is going from strength to strength. Almost every one of the available sessions outside the school timetable is being used by local clubs for a variety of sports such as netball, badminton and five-a-side football. The cricket nets proved to be particularly popular last term with about a dozen local cricket clubs using the nets for practise sessions on a regular basis.

Headmaster Mr Martin Pearman said "This is important for a number of reasons: firstly because it gives students at school and people in the Ripon community more opportunity to play sport and, secondly, because it provides an additional income stream for school".

Cleveland Land Services Ltd. commenced work last term on the AstroTurf pitch located on the original 'Redgras' pitch alongside the Sports Hall. The provision of the AstroTurf is significant as it will provide a full sized high quality playing pitch for hockey and also training facilities for football and rugby when the playing fields are unusable. The AstroTurf also includes a 100m running track alongside the hockey pitch, which will be used for athletics training.

Dick Edwards, Chairman of the fundraising campaign, said "The generosity of our supporters and their continued commitment over a five year period has made a significant difference to sports provision within school and the wider Ripon area. The availability of the AstroTurf will be another fantastic facility for the community".

To hire either the Sports Hall or the AstroTurf pitch, please contact Mr Don Hanson, Premises Manager 01765 602647 or e-mail [hansond@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:hansond@ripongrammar.co.uk)





# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE BY THE HEADMASTER

The Headmaster wrote to parents at the beginning of the year asking for volunteers to contribute to the schools' strategic vision for the next five years and beyond. Much has been achieved during the last five years regarding facility development: the Mathematics and Engineering block opened in 2007 followed by a brand new state-of-the-art Sixth-Form Centre shared with Ripon College in 2009. In 2010 we celebrated the opening of the sports hall. An official event to mark the opening of the Astro turf pitch was held on 20th May 2011.

Ripon Grammar School had applied to the North Yorkshire County Council for funding to extend the dining facilities and create a new classroom block to replace the temporary classrooms; however we have recently learned that our bids were unsuccessful.

Over the past two terms we have been consulting with parents, staff and students to discuss their varied priorities. It is important that we are all united behind Ripon Grammar School to secure the resources needed to support continued development in the next five years and beyond.

The strategic plan has now been drafted and it will be shared with all interested parties. The first event to discuss the plan involved a drinks reception for parents of forms 1A and 1B on 15th June. A further event for parents of students in 1C and 1D has been scheduled for 30th June.

# HELP BOOST THE SCHOOL GENERAL FUND?



At present 134 out of 699 families contribute to the 'School General Fund' for which we are extremely grateful. The funds raised are ring-fenced and help to subsidise our drama and music activities at grass-roots level and the underwriting of public productions such as "Romeo and Juliet", "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Return to the Forbidden Planet". Any surplus generated by productions is always ploughed back into the fund, although some is used to improve the stock of lighting equipment and other drama resources.

The number of students involved in school games continues to be high and we have maintained an impressive range of sports matches for a state school of our size. The number of fixtures which are taking place in rugby, cricket, hockey and rounders, in addition to soccer and cross country running, has continued to grow. This is placing an increased demand on school funds to transport our players to matches and we all know how the price of petrol is rising!

The school also subsidises some school trips and further financial support is given to particular projects and to a large number of individual students to help those suffering genuine hardship with a contribution towards the cost of school uniform or participation in school trips. Every student in school therefore benefits to some degree from this support which helps the school run such a varied and rewarding programme.

At the moment the 'School General Fund' is running extremely low and we therefore urgently need your help. To give, please download a form from the letters section of the website or contact Jackie Dawson, Commercial Development Executive at [dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk) or telephone 01765 602647 x 392 Thank you!

# NEW MUSIC BLOCK

Ripon Grammar School has secured funding from the local authority to build a new music block. It was originally anticipated that building would be completed by September 2011, however ground work investigations on the planned site revealed gypsum deposits, thus slowing down progress of the project.

Planning permission has been granted. However, the design of the building may need to be adjusted in light of recent energy efficiency legislation which has come into force. It is now hoped that work will commence in the autumn following the tendering process.



# ROSEMARY PRINGLE

**A former RGS student has set herself not one but three challenges of a lifetime to raise money for charity. Rosemary Pringle who left Ripon Grammar in 2005 is fundraising for Cancer Research UK by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, trekking up Mt Kilimanjaro and running the coast to coast trail.**

Rosemary is attempting the challenges during her gap year following the completion of her degree at the University of Cambridge.

Rosemary started her challenge in February when she succeeded in making the 3175 nautical mile journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The crossing from Barbados was completed in three and a half weeks on a 72ft former racing yacht. She arrived in the Azores with the 15 other crew on 13th March. However, the voyage was not without its challenges. She had to compete with gale force 9 winds, four to five metre swells and the accompanying cold, fatigue and seasickness. "We didn't get to sleep for more than 3 hours at a time for 17 consecutive days, I was sick so often my teeth ached and at times our boat was blown over by the wind to the point that I found myself standing on things that once were vertical!"

After sailing she went on to trek Mt Kilimanjaro, which at 5,895m tall is the world's highest freestanding peak and Africa's highest mountain. Despite suffering from altitude sickness she reached the Uhuru peak on 7th May. "Doing a trek like that makes you appreciate the little things - like oxygen!"

Since returning from Africa, Rosemary has been focusing on training for her last challenge, to run from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay following Wainwright's coast to coast trail. She aims to complete the 192 mile journey in one week, which will mean running over a marathon a day. Although a competitive runner who trained twice a day to represent Cambridge University, Rosemary said she specialised in 800m and 1500m races and has never done any long distance running before.

*"Each of these challenges is a test of endurance with its own unique difficulties. However, all of them pale in comparison with what cancer patients must face every single day."*



Rosemary wants to use her challenges to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

She lost her grandfather to cancer and her grandmother has also suffered from the disease, so she thinks it is important to "do her bit."

Rosemary has also worked alongside Cancer Research UK scientists while she was a student at Cambridge University and says she knows how well their money is used.

So far Rosemary has raised £2,000, and she is aiming for a total of £10,000.

*"The trips are entirely self funded so every penny I raise in sponsorship and donations will go to charity," she said.*

**To sponsor Rosemary go to her charity website at [www.justgiving.com/Rosemary-Pringle](http://www.justgiving.com/Rosemary-Pringle)**





# NEWS FROM THE Parents' Association

**Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association (RGSPA) is a group of parents who volunteer their time to raise funds for school. They meet on a monthly basis to plan and discuss fundraising activities.**

Fundraising over the past year has focused on a comedy evening in September which generated £800, Burns' Night in January which raised £3,000.00, and the RAW Talent art exhibition and Tapas Evening, sponsored by Lockwoods in April which boosted funds to the tune of £3,000. The lease for the school mini bus and its maintenance is also funded by RGSPA.

The group provides tea and coffee at parents' evenings and various school events. They recently called on all parents to help with cake stalls in Ripon Market place and parents responded magnificently baking exquisite cakes and buns, the first event of which raised £400. Due to the success of this event, a further cake stall has been booked for 9th July so get your cake tins ready!

The next big fundraiser is the 'Try Something New' Summer Draw (your chance to win an experience you will never forget) The draw, with more than 60 prizes, includes a luxury 5-star hotel stay in a period house, first class rail tickets, cookery and dance classes, a sea fishing trip and camping out at a 3-day music festival. The summer draw tickets will be distributed to all parents and the draw will be held in early July at Squiffys wine bar in Ripon.



Jonathan Tearle, Chairman of the RGSPA, said "We try our very hardest to assist the school in whatever way we can. The funding raised each year helps fund projects within school. As a specific example, a large proportion of funds raised from the RAW Talent weekend will be used to purchase art materials. We are extremely grateful to all parents, whether they are able to give up their time to attend the RGSPA meetings, or to help out once or twice a year serving tea and coffee at school events, or baking a cake for the cake stall - it all helps - or by supporting our activities by your attendance".





# MY STORY

## KAREN TAYLOR



Karen attended Ripon Grammar School between 1991 and 1998. She studied Chemistry, Biology, English Literature and General Studies at A-Level. Her grades were not exceptional but she did perform Prefect duties whilst in the Upper Sixth form. Karen was also Girls' Hutton House Captain and was proud to represent the school in a number of sports including hockey and swimming.

Karen studied at Trinity and All Saints College (University of Leeds) whilst at the same time working in the leisure industry. After attaining her degree in 2001 Karen joined Wolseley UK in

If you are a former student and would like to share your story or would be willing to talk to students to help them decide on a career path in your chosen field then contact Jackie Dawson at [dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk)

an entry level role. By 2006 she had been promoted in a succession of roles and was working as a HR Adviser in the Logistics Division. It was at this point Karen joined North Yorkshire Police. As of September 2010, North Yorkshire Police employed 1,540 police officers and 1,425 police staff. Karen joined the force initially as a People Partner and worked in a number of roles in the organisation including Corporate HR Manager and Head of HR, before becoming Director of Human Resources in 2010.

Karen is responsible for the design and delivery of effective people strategies which support and influence the overall direction of the force. Karen is married with two children and remains in the Ripon area, close to her family and friends.

Read Karen's full story on the website at [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)

## ANYONE FOR CRICKET OR TENNIS?

The Old Riponians' Association are planning a twenty 20 Cricket Match this summer, hopefully an Old Rips XI versus the school XI on the evening of Thursday 7th July at Ripon Grammar School. Anyone interested in playing should contact George Oworm on (07923 682488) or [george.owram@virgin.net](mailto:george.owram@virgin.net). However, it's not just all fun and games for the boys! Mrs Mackenzie is also looking to arrange a festival of sport involving tennis, rounders and swimming so there is something planned for everyone. If you want to learn more or get involved please contact Mrs Mackenzie, at Ripon Grammar School on 01765 602647 x 317 or [mackenzieh@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:mackenzieh@ripongrammar.co.uk)

## YOUTH CRICKET CRICKET EQUIPMENT BAGS

Last term, a funding application was submitted to The Lord's Taverners for £4,000 worth of cricket equipment. The Lord's Taverners are accredited by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) as the official national charity for recreational cricket. Fifty percent of the funds it raises each year provide grants to support youth cricket.

Our funding application was approved and 19 local primary schools are now in receipt of Kwik Cricket sets bursting with equipment including: a small and medium bat, two kwik balls, two kinder balls and two stump sets. Ripon Grammar School also received a Colts bag on wheels containing cricket bats, batting gloves, wicket keeping pads, stumps and bails, cricket balls and helmets.

## OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of two former pupils of RGS who contributed in their own way to the enrichment of school and brought credit to School in their lives and careers. To their families and friends we extend our sincere condolences.

### Shirley Barton (née Hainsworth)

Shirley Barton, née Hainsworth attended Ripon Grammar School from 1966 to 1971, during Mr Atkinson's headship. After 'O' Levels she worked at ICI in Harrogate before marrying and having three children. She later graduated from the Open University and trained to work in the field of dog behaviour, setting up a Puppy School in Ripon. Her loves were dogs, tennis and sixties' music.

She had suffered from ill health for some years and was diagnosed with Lupus in the year prior to her death. Holy Trinity Church was packed for her funeral and she is very much missed. Former friends may contact Liz Fawcett at [liz.indexing@googlemail.com](mailto:liz.indexing@googlemail.com) or Tel: 01423 711617.

### Alfred Herbert Green

6th November 1917 - 18th July 2010

Alfred Herbert Green was born in November 1917 and attended Ripon Grammar School for four years from 1929 to 1933. Sadly he died last year at the age of 92 having been diagnosed with cancer.

# CAREERS EDUCATION AT RGS

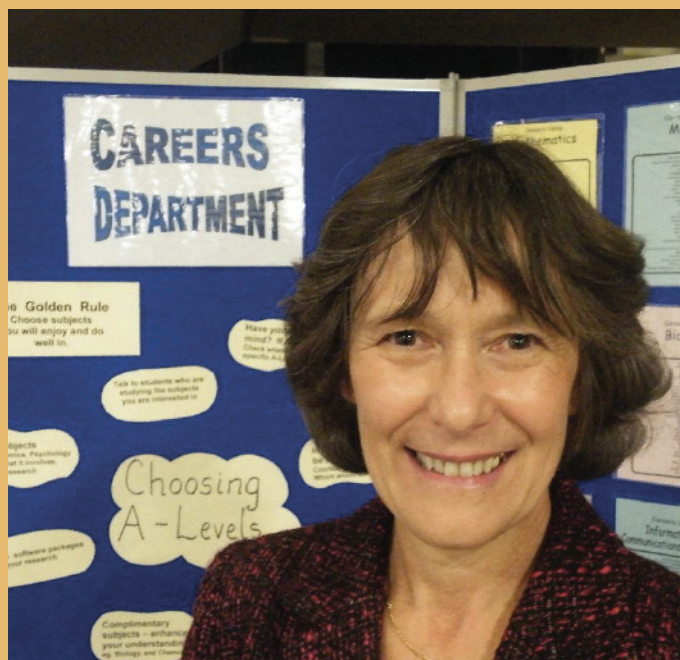
**Raising our students' awareness of the diverse range of career opportunities and developing their appreciation of the need for strong employability skills are examples of how we can help students prepare for life beyond RGS.**

Since joining the school in September 2007 I have been keen to build links with businesses, organisations and individuals who wish to be associated with our careers education programme. The students benefit greatly from direct contact with employers and we have found that many organisations have welcomed the opportunity to engage with our young people.

We would be delighted to hear from former RGS pupils who are happy to share their knowledge and experience with current pupils. Types of involvement include: giving presentations or workshops, offering workplace visits or work experience placements, mentoring, conducting practice interviews, or talking informally to individuals or small groups of pupils interested in a particular career.

We also hold a large scale careers evening every two years and planning is now underway for March 2012. The purpose of the evening is to provide ideas and inspiration to our students; it is not a recruitment fair. The involvement of former students would add another dimension to this popular event.

If you would like to know more about this or any of our other careers related activities please call Frances Wilson, Personal Development Curriculum Co-ordinator 01765 602647 extn 229 or email [wilsonf@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:wilsonf@ripongrammar.co.uk)



## SCHOOL UMBRELLA

A Ripon Grammar School golf umbrella has been produced (30") designed in school colours and printed with the school logo. It will help to raise funds for the school and would make an ideal present. The umbrella is priced at £17.00 and if you would like to purchase one please complete the slip below and return it to Mrs Storey at school. Cheques should be made payable to 'Ripon Grammar School General Fund'.

The umbrella can be collected from school. Should you need the umbrella posting, there will be an additional charge for postage.

### RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL GOLF UMBRELLA

Cheque for £17.00 made payable to 'Ripon Grammar School General Fund'

Name: .....

Address: .....

Contact telephone number: .....

Contact e-mail: .....

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### July

Thursday 7th Old Riponians' Cricket and Tennis Match, Ripon Grammar School.

### October

Thursday 20th Alumni Dinner, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

### December

Saturday 17th Old Riponians' Christmas Reunion, Ripon Grammar School.

### July 2012

Saturday 14th Fiftieth Anniversary Reunion - Ripon Grammar School.

### Jackie Dawson

Commercial Development Executive  
Clotherholme Road,  
Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG

t: 01765 602647 ext 392

f: 01765 606388

e: [dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk)

w: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)

*If you would prefer to receive future editions of this newsletter by e-mail, please contact Jackie Dawson above.*