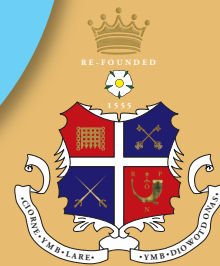


theclocktower

keeping alumni in touch with Ripon Grammar School

Issue: 3 Autumn 2012

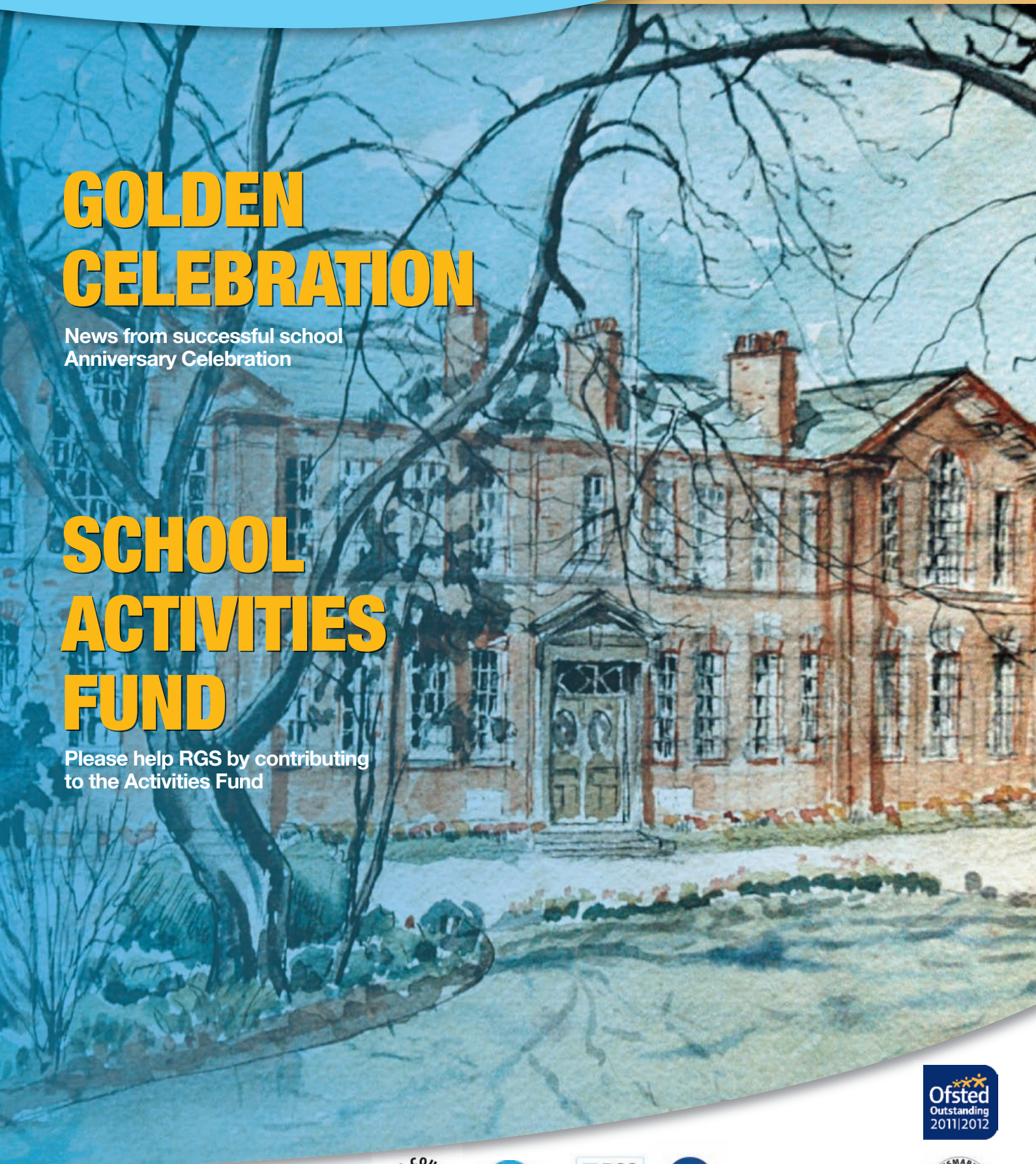


GOLDEN CELEBRATION

News from successful school
Anniversary Celebration

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FUND

Please help RGS by contributing
to the Activities Fund



Ripon High School, from an original
watercolour by George Jackson (1962)



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you, our former students, Old Riponians and supporters. We are now into the swing of the new academic year where numbers at school are at a record high and the school is looking good after much work during the summer break. The music block is ready and being used; it is an outstanding new facility which can be enjoyed by all.

I am also delighted to report another year of exceptionally high attainment in public examinations. Over 74% of the grades at A2 were A*-B, the third highest in the history of the school. Lawrence Holmes recorded six A* grades (including his EPQ) which earned him a mention in the Yorkshire Post.

The school also achieved record results at GCSE with over 67% of the grades at A*/A. This compared well with local schools and placed RGS comfortably in the top 100 maintained schools in the country. Further details of the results appear on the school website.

There were some very successful trips over the summer including the World Challenge Trip to Cambodia and Vietnam, the Battlefields trip to Belgium and France and the water sports holiday to France.

There were also very successful lettings during the summer holidays which generated significant income for the school.

It was a great pleasure to meet so many former students from the early sixties at our celebration event to mark the merging of Ripon Girls' High School with Ripon Grammar School on 14th July, 2012. There was a great air of excitement around school that day and the current school officers did a marvellous job guiding former students around the site. Thank you to all who loaned school their photographs for the photographic exhibition.

Now that you have made contact with school we sincerely hope the relationship will grow and that you will join in Alumni events as they are planned.

If you are organising an informal event or have any ideas for gatherings tel: 01765 602647
or email: development@ripongrammar.co.uk

M L Pearman

M L Pearman (Headmaster)



STRATEGIC PLAN

The 5 year strategic plan and the post-Ofsted action plan have been updated and seen by staff at the beginning of term. Copies are available on the website. These documents outline the strategic direction of the school for the next five years.

If you have any observations or comments the headmaster would be happy to receive them by email via his secretary Mrs Storey, email: storeyp@ripongrammar.co.uk

Plans for a new classroom block have been drawn up. Cynthia Welbourn, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services is to meet with the headmaster and the chair of governors to discuss potential funding for a new classroom block on 26th November.

The feasibility study undertaken by Mrs Caroline Hutt during the summer was positive about a capital fundraising campaign for a new classroom block in 2013. Thank you to all those former students, Old Riponians and alumni who took part in the study.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CATHEDRAL CONCERT



Cathedral photograph by kind permission of the Chapter or Ripon Cathedral

All former students of Ripon Grammar School are invited to a concert at Ripon Cathedral on Thursday 8th November, from 7.30pm to mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the merging of Ripon Girls' High School with Ripon Grammar School.

For details see the school website www.ripongrammar.co.uk or telephone school on 01765 602647.

NEW GOVERNORS

At the full governors' meeting held on Monday 17th September 2012, Dr Peter Mason was elected as the new Chair of Governors and Mr Dick Edwards as the Vice Chair. Three new parent governors have also been elected. They are Mrs Catherine Sutcliffe, Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor and Ms Jackie Smith.

TURN YOUR ONLINE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING INTO DONATIONS FOR RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association at no extra cost to you!

That's right - over 3000 well known retailers including Amazon, M&S, Boden, Waitrose, House of Fraser, Vodafone, Virgin Atlantic and many more, will donate a percentage of what you spend to Ripon Grammar School PA each time you shop with them, via fundraising website easyfundraising.org.uk

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It's like nectar but instead of earning points, each purchase generates a donation.

So instead of going directly to a retailer's website, go to [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) first and choose the retailer you want to shop with - then everything you spend with that retailer earns a free donation for Ripon Grammar School PA. It's completely free to use and your shopping won't cost you a penny more.

On average, each retailer will donate 5% of the cost of your shopping - and those donations soon mount up.

So whatever you need to buy, from your weekly grocery shop or fashion musthave, to your business travel, office supplies or mobile phone, buy it via [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and raise money for Ripon Grammar School PA - North Yorkshire at no extra cost to you!

Mrs. Griffiths said: "I do my weekly Sainsbury's shop using [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), I started using it around Easter, and I have already raised £13.11 for school. It's so simple and all the big names are on there - Asda, Argos, Clarks and John Lewis.

Jane Robinson, Chair of the Parents' Association added: "we only have eighteen people registered so far and they have done an amazing job and have raised almost £100 to date; just think what could be achieved if we had the whole school and Alumni helping us"

Please register to supporting us when you shop online - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rgspa>

SEARCHING FOR A DONATION

You can also raise money for your cause everytime you search the web with easysearch.org.uk. If your cause is registered with [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), it will also appear on [easysearch](http://easysearch.org.uk) and you and other supporters will raise ½p with every search. It may not sound a lot but it all adds up.

GOLDEN CELEBRATION A SUCCESS



Around two hundred people attended Ripon Grammar School on Saturday, 14th July, 2012 to mark the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the merging of Ripon Girls' High School with Ripon Grammar School.

The event was organised in conjunction with the Old Riponians' Association to enable former students to share their memories of school in the early 1960's, a pivotal time in the school's history.

Former students had been encouraged to dig out their old photographs and memorabilia from their attics in the weeks leading up to the event, which formed the backbone of the photographic exhibition. A selection of the photos was compiled to make a photo album by Muse Photography as a keepsake of this very special day.

The event also 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. There were also tours of the school and boarding facilities conducted by the current sixth-form students. The event concluded with a dinner organised in conjunction with the Old Riponians' Association at The Old Deanery which was attended by forty people.

Mr Martin Pearman, Headmaster said: "I would like to record my sincere thanks to Muse Photography, staff, students, former students and the Old Riponians' Association who have all worked so hard over the past months to make this celebration such a success. It was lovely to meet so many former students, hear their news and catch up on school life during the early sixties".

Mrs Jenny Bellamy, President of the Old Riponians' Association, said: 'On one of the rare sunny days we've had this year, Old Rips, both pupils and staff, gathered together to revisit the school, sit in the sun, tour the new buildings, meet old friends, have tea together, look at an exhibition of old photographs and memorabilia and share lots of memories. One of the former staff said that although the years had gone by and the school buildings had changed so much, there was still the same atmosphere of friendship and consideration for others that had always been the hallmark of the schools at whatever period. A day to treasure in all our memories!'

Thanks in profusion to a wonderful headteacher, staff and student cohort for putting on such a high standard of displays, tours, hospitality and welcome as well as to all involved in creating the splendid exhibition in the library, and the Old Rips and Staff who planned this event.

Saturday's extravaganza did the heritage of the old High School and RGS such credit! It far exceeded expectations.

Not only was it a chance for guests to wander down memory lane, it re-awakened old memories and re-united old friends, and helped make new ones, but was such a feast of reminiscences as one is rarely lent in this life, was chance to meet old acquaintances and indulge in celebrating the continuum of effort and excellence that RGS has come to stand for!

It was such an amalgam of indulgences from which everyone took such an array of pleasures and enrichment.

It was a day for you to be highly proud of and for the visitors each to remember in a variety of different ways for a very long time to come.

It was a day I never expected to have the chance to experience in my life and I'm sure many of us who were guests will treasure that opportunity and the memories for the rest of our lives to come. It was such a privilege to enjoy with so many people the heritage of RGS and to celebrate the extent to which it changed and enriched the quality of our lives in such an enduring way, and finally to share in the joy of its present day high standards of achievement and its legacy to come.

Thank you to all Staff, Students, Admin, Headteacher, Governors and Old Riponians for all the effort and time invested in the celebration at the end of long and successful year!

Thank you for honouring all the endeavour of the last 50 years as well as the memory of the Girls' High School at Ripon.

Kindest regards,

Sharly Boukhari (nee Kibbat, 1961 - 1968)





President/Secretary:
Mrs Jenny Bellamy
Treasurer:
Mr George Owram

OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

JOHN ROPER'S STORY



I first saw Ripon Grammar School in September 1940. The view from Clothholme Road has not changed much. My father had moved to work near Thirsk. He decided it was much safer than our home in Ipswich.

I was interviewed by the headmaster who decided to put me in the 11 plus form a year above my age. My parents chose a boarding school so that I would not have to change when my father was posted. Initially, it was traumatic; I had a southern accent and nobody knew that Ipswich was larger than York.

Because of the war, the younger teachers were replaced by women or retired teachers. I knew I could not be a teacher and chose to be an electrical engineer. I applied to Cambridge because it was the nearest university to Ipswich!



After the war, priority for university places was given to those returning from military service. After National Service, I persuaded my director of studies that I could manage the 'fast' course which reached degree standard in two years. He was very surprised when I obtained first class in the first year exam. His reaction was the opposite of that I received from Mr Strachan eleven years before. I received a scholarship from Christ's College, Cambridge for the last two years.

Having had a successful career in engineering nylon and polyester machinery, I retired at the age of 56 obtaining a good pension!

About four years ago, I realised that when my wife and I died, the zero band inheritance tax would be absorbed by the value of our house. Any extra money would be subject to the advertised tax of 40% which is actually 67% (if I wish to give £1,000, I have to provide £1,670 taxed at 40%). Any gifts made from INCOME are exempt from inheritance tax.

First, I spent money on a new car and one for my daughter. Then I completed the planned improvement to the house and installed solar panels. I also gave my daughter money to reduce their mortgage.

After that, I considered gifts eligible for gift aid at 28% to the recipient. In addition my income tax has been reduced taking me out of the 40% band. These payments are in addition to the exemption from inheritance tax and are not available after death. The first was a gift to Ripon Grammar School in recognition of the fact that I received a good education and had an extra year allowing me to establish a place at Cambridge before starting National Service.

It has been very satisfying to make gifts while I am still alive. One is able to savour the gratitude of the recipients. When I retired, 26 years ago, I received a substantial lump sum under my employers' voluntary redundancy scheme. I was asked what I would do with the money. I said "spend it or give it away". Thanks to the NHS, I can still do that.

John Roper

Mr Roper's donation was used to help fund the refurbishment of the main changing rooms. Work was completed during April 2012. The changing rooms are used by students at school during the day and in the evening and weekends by clubs hiring the facilities. The wider Ripon community and RGS students will therefore benefit from these improved facilities



OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION - CHRISTMAS REUNION



Every Christmas the Old Riponians organise a Christmas reunion at the school. Beginning at 12 noon in the School Library with the AGM of the Association, the activities go on all afternoon. This year it's on Saturday, 15th December.



The real fun begins with a large variety of games, such as soccer, hockey, netball and a series of activities in the Sports Hall and the school swimming pool is open, so bring your costumes! Last year this was particularly popular!

From about 3.00pm there is afternoon tea in the School Hall. This is an opportunity to have a chat and exchange memories. You don't have to be a member of the Old Rips to join in. You can even come to the AGM but you have to be a member to vote.

Do come! Since we've had the Sports Hall we haven't been at the mercy of the British weather any more and everyone who came last year thought it was the best reunion for a very long time. Come and join us.

NOTE- If you want to join in any of the Old Rips teams contact George Owram on george.owram@virgin.net

Mrs Jenny Bellamy - President, Old Riponians' Association

BELGIUM TRIP

On Tuesday 20th July fifty two second form students and six members of staff embarked upon a trip to the battlefields of the First World War. Our base was the wonderful Oude Abdij hostel just outside Ypres in Belgium and over four days we visited significant battle sites and memorials on the Ypres salient in Flanders and the Somme in northern France.

After a very early ferry crossing students displayed an admirable enthusiasm in battle fields associated with the first battle of Ypres. The first experience of the trenches was standing ankle deep in water in a muddy trench at Hill 62, a fantastic introduction to conditions in the trenches. Afterwards many opted to try the Belgium delicacies of waffles and crepes; the more adventurous made it to one of the finest chip shops in Europe. The following day was spent on the Somme and the expert guide Peter enthused the students with heroic tales of the volunteer Pals Battalions from the north of England who fell on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. In just one day we covered the entire battlefield length of the July 1916 offensive. Some students found ancestors' names on the Thiepval memorial to the missing, having researched these individuals via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There was a fantastic reunion of sorts as Imogen Morgan was greeted on the Somme by the relatives of a couple who housed her great-grandfather, a member of a Pals Battalion sent to fight during the war. The personal connection to the Great War clearly had an impact on many students who wandered the vast



memorials with a sense of both awe and a great respect. The students also had an opportunity to visit the huge German cemetery at Langemark in Belgium, resting place of the thousands of young German students just a few year older than them, who met their end during the early phase of the war. The last post is bugled every evening in Ypres as a sign of remembrance for all of those British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell and have no known grave: students stood underneath the vast Menin Gate memorial in Ypres and observed a two minute silence to remember the fatalities of the war. Other sites of interest included the Canadian trenches and Toc H rest house. When students were not visiting the battlefields they could be found playing table tennis or belting out favourites on the hotel's karaoke system. Students were impeccably behaved throughout the trip and this won them the admiration of the guide. I have absolute confidence that the trip will stand them in very good stead for their third year studies and would like to thank the wonderful staff members who accompanied the students, the students for their great maturity and fantastic questioning, and also the parents for supporting this trip from the beginning.

Mr Spiers (head of history)

NEW MUSIC BLOCK



The new music block, funded by North Yorkshire County Council, was officially opened by Cynthia Welbourn, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, on Thursday 4th October.

The opening of the new music block has caused much excitement within the school community. The new facilities are fantastic, and allow the music department to nurture the talents of all of

the students within a state-of-the-art-block. The main rehearsal room is spacious and airy and provides an excellent multi-purpose learning environment as well as recital venue and rehearsal space large enough to house a concert band. The room has been extremely well designed and features acoustic panelling on all walls to ensure that the sound quality in the room is at an optimum. The rehearsal room is also the main 'live room' for the recording studio.

The studio has been very well designed to be able to take microphone inputs from three different neighbouring rooms within the block. This will make recording possibilities for AS and A2 music greater and give the students much more scope for experimenting with recording techniques. The second classroom in the block is a high-tech suite of Apple iMacs that will be used for composition and Music Technology lessons throughout all key stages.



This room is an excellent specialist teaching room and learning environment. For the first time at RGS the music practice rooms are in the same block as the teaching rooms, which will allow Mr Lancaster and Miss Jackson to have much more insight into the instrumental tuition within the school, and the progress students are making. The new music block is a very exciting development at Ripon Grammar School and will have a great impact on the musical education of students within the school.

Fergus Scholes U6C commented: "The new facilities are a massive improvement on what we had before. It's nice to have our own spacious area where we can work away from the sounds of the school hall." Sarah Owens L6B added: "It's great to have a purpose built, large rehearsal room where the ensembles can work and strive to improve. I like being able to practice my cornet in a practice room with good acoustics.

Miss Jackson (music teacher)

THE GREAT BRITISH GARDEN SCHEME

In February 2012, Mrs Mackenzie submitted a bid for Ripon Grammar School to take part in the Great British Garden Scheme. Two amateur gardeners designed the garden in the Olympic Park based on an Olympic theme with a bronze, silver and a gold area. The idea was for a group of leaders from each successful school to carry out leadership and sporting activities in the Olympic garden. Only twenty eight schools were selected from across the country. One of those was Ripon Grammar School.

Rebekah Vanžo, Mr Walker and Mrs Mackenzie attended an induction day in London where they discovered exactly what was involved during the summer. They were informed that sessions conducted by schools were to take place during the Paralympics and that the games each school devised should be based on Paralympic themes and values. Mrs Mackenzie said: "This was when we discovered the difference between the Olympics and the Paralympics – each has a different logo. The Olympics logo is the five rings; the Paralympics is the three agitos. They also have different mascots – Wenlock is the Olympic mascot, Mandeville is the Paralympic mascot".

On August Bank Holiday Monday, the day that Leeds Fest finished, the team assembled in school to practice their games and discuss final plans. On Thursday of that week at six o'clock in the morning, seven tired students, an annoyingly lively Mr Walker and a comatose Mrs Mackenzie boarded the minibus for the trip of a lifetime. Rebekah and Emma had been up since 4.30am, Emma still in a different time zone following her World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia!

The team drove to Kingston University Halls of Residence, dropped off their bags and then walked to the tube station, each taking a turn to carry the homemade games. On the first day the group stopped at the uniform distribution and accreditation centre. This was quite exciting as it involved being issued with photo ID and a special lanyard to gain entrance to the Olympic park each day.

The group arrived at the Great British Garden soaking wet some 9 hours after setting off from Ripon that morning. Mrs Mackenzie commented that: "As we had practiced our activities during the week we were able to get straight into our shift and although Mr Walker and I were only supposed to be chaperones we soon found ourselves buoyed along by the sheer enthusiasm and capable nature that is the Ripon Grammar School student.



They were utterly fantastic, turning their hand to face painting, the International Inspiration game of Elastico and of course, our very own Mandeville game which was a massive hit, not least because it involved the parents as well as the children.

Our students chatted to members of the public in an easy, confident manner, overseeing the games and playing with the children. All too soon our five hour shift was over and it was time to negotiate the crowds, the tube and the long walk home".

She added: "It was then that I noticed something rather wonderful. Members of the public on the tube home saw our accreditation cards and immediately struck up conversations about how the volunteers had really MADE the whole Games experience. I realised that we were part of that. People were grinning at us, nodding in acknowledgement and appreciation. It was lovely and I felt very proud of our students and their part in the magic of London 2012."

The next few days took on the same format with around two hours of travelling, a five hour shift in the park, a potter round the London 2012 Megastore.

Mr Walker commented: "On the last night we took the students into the Westfield complex where we enjoyed a cinema treat followed by pizza back at the halls of residence. Cramped in one tiny kitchen eating pizza out of boxes and drinking warm coke, it struck me that we were with an incredible group of young people. We had walked miles, got soaking wet, carried wooden mascots through the underground and dealt with thousands of people coming through the Great British Garden – all without a word of complaint. There was no TV in the halls and in any case we were probably too tired to watch anything. The students were from four different year groups, different genders, different friendship groups and yet they all got on like a house on fire" A truly memorable trip.

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S PROUD OLYMPIC TORCH BEARERS

HELEN MACKENZIE

Our very own Helen Mackenzie is a former student and joined Ripon Grammar School as Director of Sport in 2006. She works with all 19 primary schools in the Ripon Cluster and spends 3 days a week based at Ripon Grammar School.

In July 2009, she was diagnosed with breast cancer however she has now made a full recovery. She was nominated by several students for her work in developing gifted and talented swimmers in the Ripon Community.



ALEXANDRA GERRITY

Alex was nominated to carry the Olympic Torch as she has worked for several youth unemployment charities helping to end youth unemployment by working with both the Government to advise on their initiatives and directly with young people to help them with employability skills.

Alex was chosen by Coca-Cola as a "Future Flame". She ran in Royal Tunbridge Wells on 17th July to a fantastic reception from residents and was lucky to have run down the main High Street where the atmosphere was unbelievable.

Alex is currently studying at UCL doing a B.A.Sc. in Arts and Sciences, majoring in Maths, Engineering and Politics.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FUND

Ripon Grammar School launched an Activities Fund at the first year tea party held on Friday 21st September.

The school has a culture of giving having raised £1m to build a sports hall and Astroturf pitch which was completed in 2010. This was made possible through the generosity of parents, staff, former students and Old Riponians, together with help from the local community.

Ripon Grammar School introduced a General School Fund in October 1981. It is a registered charity and is used to support a host of projects involving individual pupils, groups and whole-school activities. The fund has been used to finance transport costs associated with school outings, games and sports fixtures (£10,000) as well as subsidies towards the considerable costs of staging the various school plays, concerts and musicals. It also enables the various clubs and societies in the school to continue to flourish. The school fund subsidises the cost of Speech Day, Lower School Prize Giving, the Carol Service and Commemoration Service as well as providing library furniture and sports kit.

This year we decided to re-launch the fund and have renamed it the Ripon Grammar School Activities Fund, which we believe more accurately reflects the purpose of the fund. The fund enables parents, Alumni and Old Riponians the opportunity to enrich the lives of Ripon Grammar School students by providing those 'little extras' which makes Ripon Grammar School what it is today. Mr Dick Edwards, Vice Chair of Governors said: "I am a parent and a Governor and if we all give a little to the Activities Fund then it helps spread the load so that all our children get the education they deserve through these important enrichment activities".

If you would like further information about the Activities Fund, please download a form from the website or email: development@ripongrammar.co.uk or tel: 01765 602647



PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES BY MAKING A WILL

Will Aid's 'Make a Will' month in November is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for you to protect your loved ones by writing a proper, valid will and at the same time help people in need in the UK and around the world.

Friendly and approachable solicitors in your area are taking part in this year's campaign. Instead of charging their usual fees for a basic will during the month of November, they will invite will-makers to make a donation to the Will Aid charities. The suggested minimum donation is £90 for a single will, £135 for a pair of mirror wills and £40 for a codicil. The solicitors are now booking appointments and advise readers to book early as demand is bound to be high.

The money raised is shared between the participating charities (ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SCIAF and Trocaire) and provides vital funds to help people in the UK and around the world to build their communities and improve their futures.

Last year's campaign enabled around 27,000 people to make a proper will to protect their loved ones and raised £2.2 million for the Will Aid charities, beating the previous best of £1.5 million achieved in the 2011 campaign.

For peace of mind it is very important to seek professional help to write a will. Only then can people feel confident that their will is valid and their wishes will be carried out. Many people don't make a will because they assume that their partner will automatically inherit everything. This is not true. For example, people who are not legally married or in a civil partnership are not automatically entitled to anything from the estate of their partner. There are even financial limits on what a surviving legally married person can receive. This may be less than the value of the family home – possibly forcing its sale to pay off other relatives. As a result, many surviving loved ones may have to endure a drawn out legal process and a good deal of emotional stress.

It is also very important to keep the will up-to-date.

This is particularly important when family circumstances change. There may be births, deaths, divorces, marriages and of course people named as guardians for children or executors of the will may become unsuitable through age or ill health.

With preparation and the help of a Will Aid solicitor, making a Will need not be difficult or time-consuming. In fact, it can often be done in a lunch hour. The Will Aid website www.willaid.org.uk has lots of information to help, including a useful Will Planner.

It's so easy to take part in Will Aid. Simply find a convenient solicitor at www.willaid.org.uk or by phoning 0300 0300 013. Call the solicitor directly as soon as possible to make an appointment for November and get peace of mind from knowing your affairs are in order.

LEAVING A LEGACY TO RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL GENERAL FUND (CHARITY NUMBER 512105)

Leaving a gift in your will to a cause close to your heart is your opportunity to make a huge difference. Legacy gifts to charities are tax-free under current legislation.

There are three types of gift. You can:

- Leave a share of your estate (a residuary gift)
- Leave a fixed amount of money (a pecuniary gift)
- Leave a particular item (a specific gift)

The most valuable gifts to charities are residuary gifts. But any gift in your will, large or small, will help the current and future generation of students at Ripon Grammar School.

Mr John Dodd, School House 1951-1955 said: "I have made provision in my will for a part of my estate to go to Ripon Grammar School General Fund and I suggest former pupils think about this when they are making or changing theirs, after all the school played a major role in making them who they are. The pursuit and maintenance of excellence are worthwhile aims indeed, and who knows, it may benefit their descendants one day".

OBITUARIES

THOMAS MARTIN MYERS

Thomas Martin Myers was born as an only child to Thomas Spencer Myers and Bessie May Myers (nee Debenham), at East Layton, Richmond, North Yorkshire on 17/01/1917. His father was the village carpenter and undertaker, and his mother was the village schoolmistress. His father had served as a cavalryman in the First World War, where he contracted consumption, (TB). He returned home but died in 1924 when Thomas was only 7 years old.

Following this, in 1925 Thomas Martin commenced education at Ripon Grammar School as a term-time boarder. As far as we are aware, he remained at Ripon Grammar School until 1933 when he was 16 or 17 years old. His mother then paid for him to undertake a five year apprenticeship with a firm of motor engineers in Middlesbrough. She also paid for his board and lodging in Middlesbrough whilst he served this apprenticeship.

This was at a time when very few people owned a motor vehicle, or indeed could even drive one.

In 1939, at the outbreak of World War 2, Thomas joined the RAF, where he first served as a gunner on various aircraft then trained as a radio operator, (Morse), and then for another three years drove lorries containing munitions through the Atlas mountains in Morocco.

After the war ended, he set up in business as a motor dealer, and traded successfully in both Darlington and Durham. He married his wife, Gladys in 1958 and in 1959 their only son Graham was born. He then semi-retired to Gainford (near Darlington) in 1972, and he then worked part-time in a local engineering firm. Unfortunately, in 1974, his son Graham died suddenly at the age of 15 years. This understandably caused great sadness to both Thomas Martin and his wife Gladys.

In 2001 Thomas and Gladys moved from the village of Gainford to Darlington, where they moved into a retirement flat in Squires Court. Here they made new friends. Gladys passed away in 2007, but Thomas was able to live independently in his flat with some help from his family and friends, (especially that of his good friend and neighbour Brian Jefferson), until he died suddenly but peacefully on 12th April 2012.

RICHARD KENT BAILEY 23 OCTOBER 1958 - 29 OCTOBER 2011



Richard Bailey will be remembered with fondness and respect by all who knew him throughout his life which was sadly all too short.

At Ripon Grammar School, he left his mark in many areas, particularly in one assembly where his imaginative approach created an experience which has remained in the memories of all who witnessed it. One member of staff remembered it as the best assembly ever at RGS.

His dry sense of humour did not affect his academic work however and he went on

to achieve a B.A. in British Humanities. He met Marion, also a former student at the Grammar School, and they married in 1983 at All Hallowgate Methodist Church. He trained as a teacher and took his first teaching post in Richmond. With Marian he set up home in Ripon where and their two sons, Alex and Keith, went to local schools. Keith is also former student of RGS.

In the late 1980s, Richard joined the Ripon Rowels drama group and performed with them for many years, winning a variety of awards.

He was a talented actor, being involved in all manner of plays, from the annual Ripon pantomime to playing the character of St. Wilfred in the Cathedral. Whatever part he played he left a deep impression on those who saw his performances. He was involved in local charity work, and had a real passion for playing the piano. His taste in music was truly eclectic. His love of football, particularly for Sheffield United was passed on to his sons who both joined local football teams.

Richard's final role was with the Ghurkhas in Catterick, teaching them English as a foreign language and introducing them to many aspects of British life. He thoroughly enjoyed this job and built a wonderful relationship with his students and with the staff at Catterick Garrison.

Richard and Marion moved in April 2010 to a house in Bedale, which by the time of his untimely and distressing death, they had made their own. Richard was a talented gardener, painter and decorator and their new home benefited from all these skills.

All Hallowgate Methodist Church was filled to overflowing for Richard's funeral. There were teachers from Catterick Garrison, several Ghurkhas, friends from Ripon Rowels, Masham Players, his gardening activities, friends from RGS, and a multitude of people, who counted him amongst their dearest friends. He was indeed a good friend to all and will always live on in our memories.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

Thursday 8th 50th Anniversary Concert at Ripon Cathedral from 7.30pm

Friday 9th Speech day, 2.00pm
Speaker: Professor Sir Ian Kennedy

December

Saturday 15th Old Riponians' Day at Ripon Grammar School – All Former Students Welcome

Tuesday 18th Carol Service in Ripon Cathedral

Ripon Grammar School,
Clotherholme Road,
Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG

t: 01765 602647

f: 01765 606388

e: development@ripongrammar.co.uk

w: www.ripongrammar.co.uk