

Q-news

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Magazine

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www.qegs.blackburn.sch.uk

A word from the Headmaster



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Q-news is edited in school by Mr Phil Lloyd. Thank you to all who contributed to this edition, including Geoffrey Kemball-Cook (OB 1962-65) for his proof-reading skills.

Photographs are by Mr Lloyd, with additional images by Mrs Ingham, Mrs Lavelle and Mrs Taylor. Other images are courtesy of the AF Academy, livethecity.com and DE Photo. We are also grateful to the *Lancashire Telegraph* for permission to use images of the cast of *Oklahoma!* and the official opening of the Sports Hall extension.

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As always, I am delighted to introduce this edition of *Q-news*. Last term was a particularly busy one, not least because of the ISI inspection, which took place in two parts, the final visit having been completed on 9th February. The report was overwhelmingly positive, as you would expect, with pastoral care and personal development of our pupils being singled out for particular praise. While this is not at all surprising for anyone associated with the school, and fits entirely (as did all the judgements) with our own self-assessment, it was good to have our impressions reinforced by objective external observers. Despite the huge amount of additional paperwork, and the time demanded especially of senior colleagues, on balance we all felt the inspection was a positive experience which gave us some useful pointers as to ways in which this very good school might improve still further. We have begun working on those suggestions already. For those who have not yet done so, if you wish to read the report in full, or just scan it in a leisurely way as you sip a summer Pimm's, it is available via the link provided on the website.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Trevor Glover, who has been an outstanding teacher and Head of Economics and Business Studies. Understanding the need for all-round participation at schools like ours, Trevor has been thoroughly involved in school sport since he has been here and has continued to run a cricket team with undiminished enthusiasm. Schoolmaster may be an old-fashioned word, but it captures something that goes beyond 'teacher', I believe, and Trevor Glover's twenty-five years of unstinting service to school life here evince the difference. We thank him for all he has done.

As you will see as you read on, last term saw the opening of the excellent extension to our Sports Hall at Lammack: the new changing rooms and showers and classroom/catering area are very impressive and will certainly be much appreciated by our pupils and the many other users of this facility. This development was made possible by what we believe to be the first major grant from the Football Association to an independent school, and it was supplemented by many other sponsors. The application was made jointly by Queen Elizabeth's and the Blackburn Community Sports Club (formerly Lammack Juniors) and the arrangement will consolidate formally a partnership that was already strong.

Appropriately enough, sporting successes aplenty characterised last term, alongside the outstandingly successful musical, *Oklahoma!*, which was extremely well performed by our actors and musicians, under the experienced and talented guidance of Mrs Arkwright and Mrs Lashbrook. The Engineering Education Scheme enabled some of our students to show their creative solutions to scientific problems (see cover picture) and there were countless other activities going on, including Duke of Edinburgh (a good crop of awards this year) and charitable ones which, so far this year, have seen £7,816 raised by our pupils for good causes.

Our most important purposes, learning and teaching, have not been neglected, of course. Sadly, most year groups are now involved on what feels like a permanent basis in public examinations. It is a great tribute to them that despite the academic pressures, they continue to make such a splendid contribution to the wider life of the school, supported by many staff who do the same. There have been some individual distinctions as always, including Olivia Lalude-Haworth's finishing in the top sixteen nationally in the UK Linguistics Olympiad, and Leao Leech (Year 6) who has been selected as a finalist for this year's Memory Championship Final, following in the footsteps of Shwuaib Malik who achieved the same distinction when he was in the Junior School. We wish all of our pupils luck for the revision in which they are currently engaged and for the coming examinations.

The next edition of *Q-news* will be in a different format. We are intending to move to a scaled down, but I hope attractive, newsletter, with links to the website where those who want to will be able to read about stories in more depth. There will, of course, be no decrease in the amount of information on offer to our various constituencies, nor to the frequency of publication.

May I take this early opportunity to wish everyone associated with the school a really enjoyable and relaxing summer break once it arrives.

Simon Corns

Testing, testing!



Boys and girls in Year Two studied vehicles of all shapes and sizes in their Design Technology lessons. They then designed their individual vehicles on paper before proceeding to construct an array of trucks, cars, taxis and farm transport. The highlight was testing the vehicles on the playground slope and then going back to rectify any design faults that emerged!

Finally, the children were able to race their vehicles, with Zakariyya's proving the fastest!

Cover story

Four Lower Sixth Form students, James Gaffney, Christian Brown, Lucy Midgley and Qiyang Chen, have successfully completed a project for United Utilities under the Engineering Education Scheme (EES). The team designed and built a machine to test the efficiency of a wind turbine and the cover image shows them with the testing rig they have created

The EES offers the challenge to apply the Physics and Maths learned in the laboratory and classroom at school to a real-life situation. The four QEGS students worked independently, but with guidance as required from United Utilities engineers, and all four agree it was an excellent experience.



Q-news

Val tells a tale



Val Tyler, author of the popular children's books *The Time Wreccas* and *The Time Apprentice*, visited the school Library in February, as part of the activities organised by Mrs Dewhurst during National Storytelling Week. Val read excerpts from her books and answered questions from the pupils about the art of story-telling, and she is pictured here at a lunchtime book-signing session with Mrs Dewhurst and some of the Senior School boys and girls.

Oxbridge Dinner *Last few places*



The annual Oxbridge Dinner will be held on June 10th at Balliol College, Oxford. It is open to all Old Blackburnians, whether or not they attended Oxford University. It is a very special occasion in the beautiful surroundings of one of Oxford's oldest colleges, founded in 1263. The numbers are very limited for this event, so if you would like to dine in wonderful surroundings at Balliol, contact the Foundation Office for more information.

The speaker for this dinner is Allen Gibbons (OB 1976-83), Managing Director of the IWSC Group Ltd, which owns (among other things) the International Wine and Spirit Competition, the UK's oldest and most prestigious wine and spirit competition. Allen, who is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Distillers, will give an insight into his business and the wider wine and spirits industry and will also offer guests the opportunity to try some unusual medal-winning products from the competitions.

Cheque to the charity



Mrs Taberner, Mr Smith and the Second Year pupils were delighted that the proceeds of the 2010 "Gherkin Challenge Fun Run" (on which we reported in Q-news 35), topped £1,000. Helen Redman from the NSPCC thanked the boys and girls at a special assembly for all their efforts and told them how valuable their fundraising would be in helping to protect and assist vulnerable children.

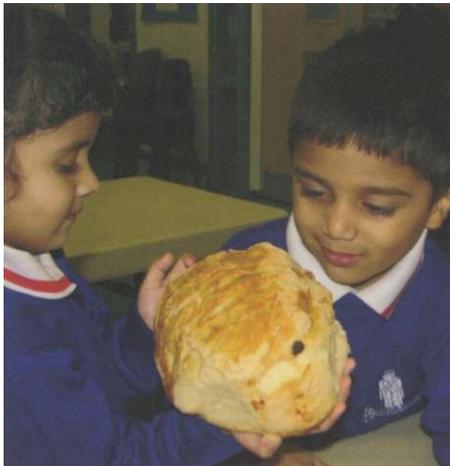
Including Gift Aid, the total amount raised for the NSPCC since the annual challenge was instigated six years ago now exceeds £10,000.

More on the web..



Born and bread

The visit to our Early Years by Warburton's Bakers was as eagerly anticipated as ever, and the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience of kneading the dough and creating their hedgehog-shaped loaves, as this photo of Nursery pupils Inaayah and Muhammad-Yusuf shows!



Good cause to keep fit

First Year pupils went through a strenuous workout in the Main Hall - and raised money for charity in the process!

Head of First Year Miss Wildman and the First Year tutors joined in as the boys and girls were put through their paces to raise sponsorship money for LEPRO Health In Action, the charity which fights diseases of poverty (not just medical treatment, but also health education, preventative measures and economic rehabilitation) among the poorest and most marginalised people in the world.

Q-news



More on the web...



Photo: Lancashire Telegraph

Doin' fine, *Oklahoma!*

This year's school musical was *Oklahoma!*, directed as ever by Mrs Arkwright and with the school's musicians performing splendidly under the baton of Mrs Lashbrook.

Thomas Watts and Jasmin Stott took the lead roles of the young lovers, Curley and Laurey, with Joseph Westwood and Alice Schofield as Will and Ado Annie and strong performances came too from Hannah Wooldridge as Aunt Eller, Tazamul Sarodia as the roguish pedlar Ali Hakim, and Sam Danson as Jud Fry.

It was a first-class and thoroughly entertaining show that attracted many compliments from members of the audience at both performances. Well done to all!

Lost Sheep



As part of the archive project we are trying to enter on to the school website everyone for whom we no longer have contact details. Do have a look now and then and see if you recognise any names. If you know where any of our **"lost sheep"** are now living or working, let us know or ask them to get in touch.

Whenever we organise a reunion people always tell us they know of someone who didn't receive an invitation, but if we don't know where they live we can't send them one! If we have listed the name of somebody whom you know has died, please let us know about them as well.

Please write to:
jlavelle@qegs.blackburn.sch.uk

Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy

We are thrilled to confirm that the Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy is coming to the Harrison Playing Fields at Lammack from 1st-5th August. The Academy is a fun-filled cricket course for boys and girls aged 5 to 16, whether they are cricket enthusiasts or just want to have a go. The week is filled with quality coaching, challenges and games.

Freddie says: 'I'm delighted my Academy is at QEGS this year. Although it is sad that my playing career has come to an end it means that I am able to devote more time to my Academy. I've been working on the curriculum and we've got some fantastic coaches on board'.

'I plan to visit more Academies in 2011 and see lots of youngsters enjoying playing cricket. Lancashire has always been a great area for developing cricketers and my Academy aims to continue this in the future.'

You can visit
www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk for
more information and to book a place online.



Juniors Dream of the Bard

The drama group Shakespeare 4 Kidz helped the boys and girls in Years 5 and 6 to turn the Junior School Music Room into an enchanted forest as they performed their own adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The company is the UK's national Shakespeare company for children and young people. It has been described (by *The Stage*) as "The Shakespeare Company for Children and Young People Who Want to Learn About Shakespeare and Be Entertained by His Stories in a Way That Everyone Can Enjoy or Understand". On the evidence of their visit to Queen Elizabeth's, that seems a very good summary of what they do!

Special FA Cup package...



Thanks to the generosity of the Lanes Group, we are pleased to offer a very special auction prize: four tickets for Manchester United's first home FA Cup fixture in the 2011/12 season. The tickets will give you entry to the Champagne Lounge, car park pass, champagne reception, matchday programme, first-class four-course meal with complimentary drinks, half-time nibbles, drinks/sandwiches and cakes post-match.

To be in with a chance of winning this wonderful prize, all you have to do is to decide how much you would like to bid and write to the Foundation Office, stating your name and contact number. Your bid must reach the Foundation Office at the latest by noon on Friday 1 July. Mark your envelope "Football Auction". The envelopes will all be opened at the same time in the presence of an impartial observer. The highest bid will win the auction. If the highest bid has been made by more than one bidder, those bidders will be invited to make an increased bid and the new highest bid will win the auction.

Bids which are received after midday on 1 July will not be counted. Bids cannot be accepted over the phone. The proceeds from this auction will go to enhance the sporting provision at the school for the benefit of the school's pupils. £4,000 was raised at the sporting dinner in April and we look forward to seeing how much more will be raised by this splendid prize.

Rotary Prize for Timothy

First Year pupil Timothy Cuffe won £40 in photography vouchers when he was awarded second place in the 11-13 age group at the Lancashire and Cumbria District stage of the Rotary International Young Photographer competition.

Timothy, who submitted a "portfolio" of two photographs on the theme of "Landscapes, Seascapes and Sunsets" is seen here after being presented with his vouchers and certificate by Head of Art, Mr Tim Birtwistle.



Concert for Uganda



£2,000 was raised for the Good Samaritan School in Kampala, Uganda, which a group of Sixth Formers from the school visited last summer (see Q-news 34), through a charity concert held in the Main Hall.

Members of the school's jazz band were among an array of young local musicians who entertained an appreciative audience at the concert. The event was organised by former QEGS pupil Jan Buckingham (nee Lewis, OB 1980-83). Jan is married to Head of Geography Andy Buckingham, who led the Ugandan trip with Head of Upper Sixth Fom Andrew Priory. Another former pupil to contribute to the fundraising effort was Alistair Conquer (OB 1962-69), now director of the Nottingham Youth Theatre, who made a very generous offer for a set of costumes kindly donated for the cause by a local fancy dress company following an approach by current student Chris Brees.



Mr Buckingham confirmed that the money raised would "make a real difference to the lives of the children at the Good Samaritan School".

Shortly after the concert, the school's Design Technology Department presented to Mr Paul Wright, who helped to organise and lead last year's visit to Uganda, an engraved wooden plaque that will be affixed to the wall of the new hall that the QEGS party helped to construct at the Good Samaritan School.



Spotlight on...

Peter Murphy



Our feature on a former pupil in this issue looks at the career of Peter Murphy (OB 1959-63), whose legal expertise – and linguistic abilities – have taken him to the USA, to involvement in high profile international law cases, and finally back to the UK, where he is now a circuit judge.

Peter Murphy joined QEGS, and Frobisher House, in the 5th Form. A stalwart of the English and French Play-Reading Societies, he also edited the school magazine for some time. Peter was British under-15 chess champion in 1961 and a member of the fine QEGS chess team which dominated the East Lanes League for several seasons.

On leaving school, Peter read Law at Downing College, Cambridge, and went on to an advanced degree in International Law. He was called to the Bar in 1968 and practised for a number of years in chambers in London, mainly in criminal law. He also taught Evidence and Criminal Procedure to Bar Final students at the Inns of Court School of Law. In 1980 he was offered the opportunity to qualify and practise law in California, and took the huge step of emigrating to the United States.

Four years later, he was head-hunted for a professorship at South Texas College of Law in Houston, accepting this position "for a year or two, to see how things work out". They clearly worked out well and he remained a faculty member for some 23 years until 2007, while

retaining close links with the UK through his writing on English law and his teaching.

He is a prolific legal author. *Murphy on Evidence*, first published in 1980, is entering its 12th edition in 2011 and is an established favourite with students. He was the founding editor-in-chief of *Blackstone's Criminal Practice*, one of two major criminal law texts used by judges and practitioners. *Blackstone* was first published in 1991 and he continued as an active editor for every annual edition until 2007. He has written a number of other books and articles on Evidence, Criminal Law and Procedure, and International Criminal Law, and is a frequent speaker on these topics.

Peter's life changed dramatically in 1998, when a former student asked him to work on a case at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Over the next nine years, he helped to defend a number of high-ranking political and military leaders accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. He lived in The Hague for some six years and commuted from Houston with some frequency for another three.

"This was the most challenging work of my career," he says. "International criminal law is in its infancy and there were often no indications of how the judges would deal with questions of law and sentencing. The judges of the Tribunal come from different legal systems and often prefer French (the other working language) to English. I can recall listening to evidence in French and venturing a few exchanges with the bench in French during a 16-month trial presided over by a French judge."

In 2007 Peter's career took yet another turn when he was appointed a circuit judge. He sits at Woolwich Crown Court in London, and is enjoying this culmination of his career. Thinking back on his time at QEGS, he says: "I owe more than I can say to QEGS and not just for specific skills, such as speaking French (thank you, Mr Ingham!). So many gifted and dedicated teachers, men such as Harry King, 'Spike' Kennedy, Eric Kay, Frank Tyler, and 'Killer' Watson, who not only taught me their subjects, but also encouraged me to think for myself and to believe that I could set goals and achieve them. My previous school lacked teachers of that quality and it made a huge difference in my life."

Peter is married to Chris, whom he met in America. They each have a son by a previous marriage and now live in Huntingdon. Peter would be happy to hear from friends from school and the Foundation Office can supply a contact email address on request.



Howard's Way

The 2010 World Cup Final referee Howard Webb proved a fascinating speaker and chief guest at the PE Department's Sporting Dinner, held at Mytton Fold Hotel in April.

Former policeman Webb attracted a sell-out audience and had forthright views on the topical issues of refereeing, video technology and player behaviour.

Director of PE Dr Mark Butler was delighted with the evening, which also featured comedian Terry Cotta, and with the amount raised, which was in excess of £4,000.

Corporate Golf Day

The annual golf day at Pleasington, the brainchild of former parent Steven Lamb of Blackburn Chemicals, has been running successfully for six years. We have again held the entry fee at £320 for this year's event, which will take place on Friday 23 September. The event is limited to twenty teams and, unlike most corporate golf days, the QEGS day combines student and adult players. Each team has one QEGS pupil on the team and three adults. If any team member has a relative at QEGS, they can elect for him or her to be on their team. The day begins with breakfast at the club and sandwich lunch (for those back in the clubhouse by 3.30pm).

To find out more or to reserve a place, contact the Foundation Office. If you would like to sponsor this event or to donate a prize, we would love to hear from you.



Dr Stephen Gunn and his winning team at the 2010 Corporate Golf Day.

Lammack Sports Hall extension opens



The official opening of the school's new extension to the sports hall at the Harrison Playing Fields at Lammack was performed in March by Gordon Taylor, Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, accompanied by Blackburn Rovers player David Dunn. The new facilities, which include six players' changing rooms, three officials' changing rooms, an education and community room, a sensory room and a kitchen, will enable greater use of the Lammack site by the school, its pupils and parents and by the Blackburn Community Sports Club, with whom the school has a close working relationship. The facilities will also be available for hire.

The Headmaster said: "We are delighted to see the fruition of this major project and very grateful to all those who have played a part in making the vision of the school's governors and the Blackburn Community Sports Club become a reality. We are especially grateful to all those who have helped to fund the development, but in particular to the Football Foundation, whose very generous and substantial grant has made this excellent facility possible."

Pupils from the First Year were joined by David Dunn as they planted a screen of shrubs and trees above the new development.



Photos: Lancashire Telegraph

More on the web... 

'Mathletics' for Juniors

A morning's "Mathletics", timed to coincide with World Maths Day in March, kept the boys and girls in the Junior School in good mathematical shape.

The challenges ranged from shape and space challenges to an online Maths quiz and there was also an outdoor challenge, in which the pupils had to calculate the area of a shape in the Junior playground using only 1p pieces.

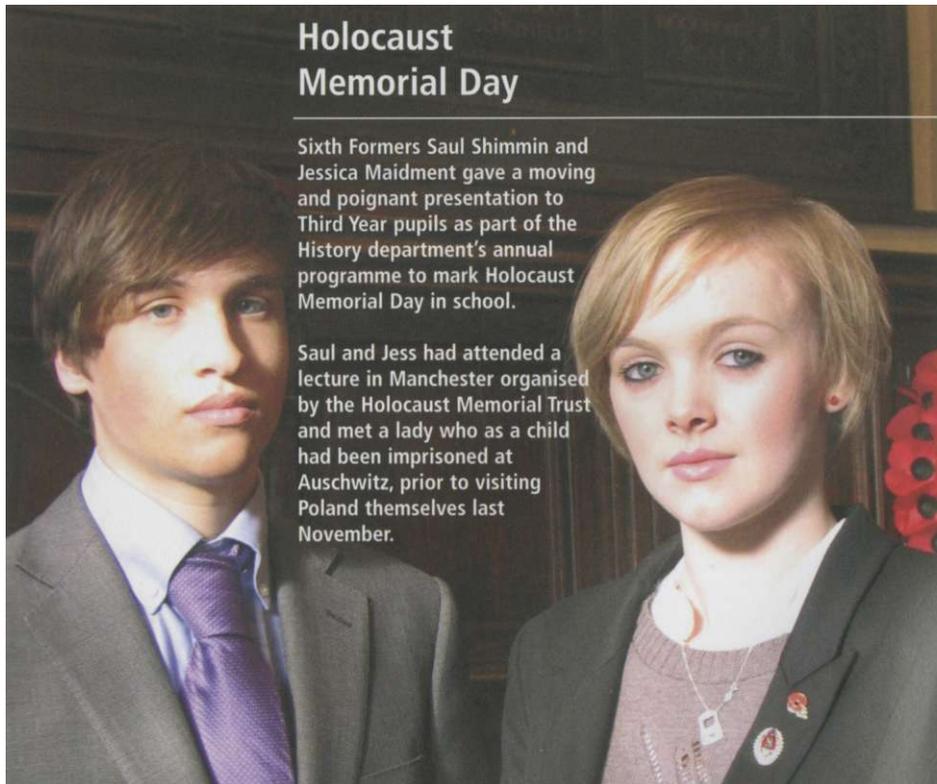
The pennies had a second use, as they were bagged up and donated to Unicef, the children's charity and Ms Lawrence, Deputy Head of the Junior School, who had organised the event, said she was delighted with the way the children had responded to all the challenges they had faced, working both in teams and individually, depending on the task in hand.



Holocaust Memorial Day

Sixth Formers Saul Shimmin and Jessica Maidment gave a moving and poignant presentation to Third Year pupils as part of the History department's annual programme to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in school.

Saul and Jess had attended a lecture in Manchester organised by the Holocaust Memorial Trust and met a lady who as a child had been imprisoned at Auschwitz, prior to visiting Poland themselves last November.

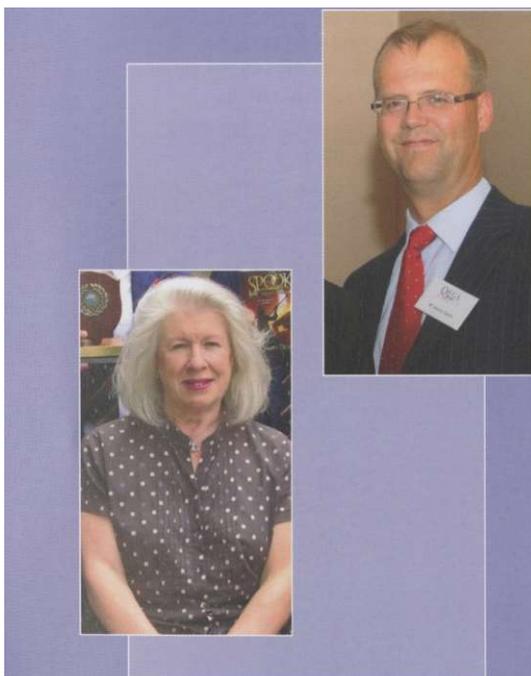
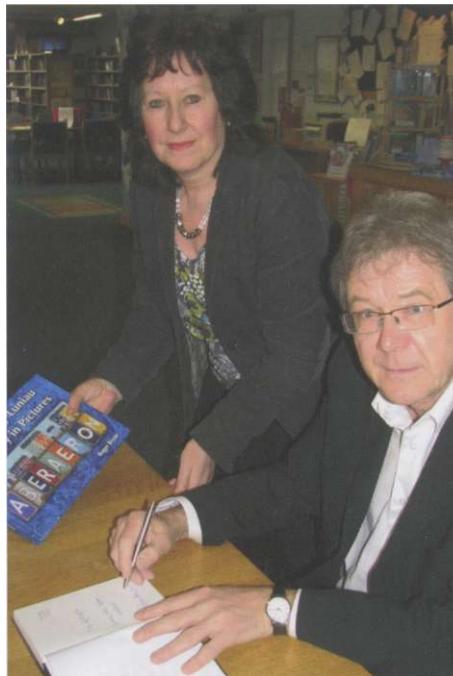


Roger books in

The latest addition to the burgeoning collection of books written by former pupils of the school has come courtesy of Roger Bryan (OB 1959-61). Roger popped in to school in March to present Head of Library Valerie Dewhurst with signed copies of his two recent publications, one on the history of the Welsh coastal village Aberaeron, and another entitled "*It'll Come in Useful One Day*".

Roger's latest book is a quirky collection of mnemonics, acronyms, acrostics and other tales intended that may (or may not!) help you to be able to remember and retrieve items of information. Much of the book's content was carefully gathered during Roger's 25-year career in Fleet Street, where he became Assistant Editor of the *Mail on Sunday*.

In thanking Roger for his contributions to the school Library, Mrs Dewhurst added that she is always happy to welcome more donations of books by Old Blackburnians.



Governors appointed DLs

Two members of the school's governing body have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants to the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, the Rt Hon The Lord Shuttleworth KCVO. Chairman of Governors Jeremy Gorick and his colleague Ann Dean will assist the Lord-Lieutenant with his duties, and may represent him in his absence at local ceremonies and official events.

Mr Gorick, a Director of Preston-based Stonehouse Orion Ltd and the former Managing Director of Liquid Plastics Limited, became Chairman of Governors at Queen Elizabeth's last year. Mrs Dean owns her own marketing and PR company and holds several other positions in business. She was also for four years the Chairman of the north-west region for the Institute of Directors, before joining the IoD board this month.

Mr Gorick said: "It must be very rare indeed for a school to be able to number two Deputy Lieutenants among its governing body, and perhaps even unique for the two appointments to be announced at the same time."

IN BRIEF

Congratulations to Sixth Former Olivia Lalude-Haworth, who was one of just 16 students from across the country invited to Edinburgh University at the end of March for Round 2 of the UK Linguistics Olympiad. Olivia, who is a very talented linguist and was a winner of the Blakey Sixth Form Languages Scholarship to join our Sixth Form, is studying French, Spanish and Latin among her AS levels. Unfortunately she did not win selection for the UK team to compete in the International Linguistics Olympiad this summer, but she will have another chance next year and she is already looking forward to that.

Congratulations too to the school's Foundation Director, Joanna Lavelle, who has been awarded a First Class BA Honours degree in Humanities with Art History by the Open University.

Award Winners

Eighteen Fifth and Sixth Form students have earned a Duke of Edinburgh's Award with the school under the supervision of Design Technology teacher Mr Sirkett, and they were congratulated on their achievements at a special presentation ceremony held at St Wilfrid's School Sixth Form Centre.

Bronze Awards were presented to: Nadeem Ali; Alastair Barrie; Sam Cleasby; Edward James; Oscar Metcalf; Will Paton; Oliver Roberts; Jasmin Stott; Adam Van Cleef; Daniel Watts; Sam Westwood, and David Winter.

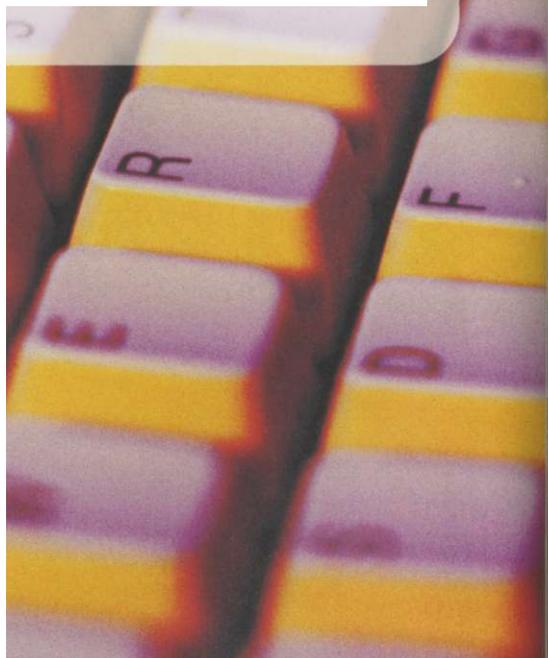
Silver Award winners were: Qiyang Chen; Farhan Huq; Lucy Midgley; Faheem Rokadiya; Julia Shekleton, and Dean Ward.

Congratulations also to Alexandra Ibbotson in the Upper Sixth Form, who has completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award under the auspices of her previous school.

Q-news

Enjoy researching on the internet? Could you spare us some time?

In the Foundation Office, we are in the process of rationalising archive files but we need some help. Old Blackburnian Colin Briggs has been doing some sterling work over the last nine months, but another pair of hands would be very useful. If you can spare a day or so a week and would like to help, we would love to hear from you. To find out more (without committing yourself), please ring or email the Foundation Director: Joanna Lavelle on 01254 686308 or email jlavelle@qegs.blackburn.sch.uk



The Old Blackburnians' Association

Welcome to this edition of Q-news. I trust you have all recovered from the excitement of the Royal Wedding and the extended Bank Holiday.

It was my pleasure and privilege to attend the OBA London Dinner at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on February 18th (see page 21). We were lucky to be entertained and fed at this wonderfully historic venue, courtesy of EUR ING Brian Corbett (OB 1943-47), who welcomed everybody before the meal. We heard from our President and had a report on school matters from the Headmaster.

Our Chief Guest was Shahzad Malik (OB 1978-85), a general partner in the firm of Advent Venture Partners. Shahzad joined Advent in 1999 after six years practising medicine. He specialises in the biopharmaceutical and medical device arenas. He gained an MA from Oxford and an MD from Cambridge and formerly specialised in interventional cardiology.

Our Oxbridge Dinner will be held at Balliol College Oxford on June 10th. The Dinner is not of course restricted to Oxbridge graduates, but is open to everyone. If you get the chance to attend, please do so: these are wonderful occasions.

I attended the Sporting Dinner on April 1st, organised by Dr Mark Butler, Director of PE to raise funds for the PE Department. We were entertained (at length) by the internationally famous referee Howard Webb, who refereed the last World Cup Final. The comedian was the excellent Terry Cotta from Bolton.

Please make a note in your diaries of the OBA Annual Dinner on Saturday December 10th. An application form for tickets can be downloaded from the school website.

Richard John Bennett
Chairman

Dates for your diary

Friday 10th June - OBA Oxbridge Dinner, Balliol College, Oxford

Thursday 16th June - OBA Golf Day, Blackburn Golf Club,
from 4.30pm onwards

Saturday 18th June - Languages Inspiration Day
for local Year 5 primary school pupils

Friday 24th June - Founder's Day Service
at Blackburn Cathedral, 1.45pm

Thursday 30th June - Art and Design Technology Exhibition
in Brooklands and Singleton House, 4pm to 8pm

Thursday 30th June - Junior School Prize Giving, Assembly Hall, 4.30pm

Thursday 15th September - Annual Prize Giving
at King George's Hall, 6.45pm



MAGISTER





Under-15 rugby Captain Ramzy Goorani-Nejad received the trophy from Sale Sharks player Karl Fearn.



Oliver Birchall and Louis Cross

All good sports

Last term saw several notable sporting achievements by pupils. These included:

Victory in the Lancashire Emerging Schools Cup for our Under-15 rugby team, who overcame Range High School from Formby 30-10 in the final at Liverpool St Helens playing some splendid rugby in the process. There were also individual honours for Nick Riding, who missed that cup final having been selected for Lancashire President's XV to play Yorkshire at York.

In the pool, our boys pipped St Wilfrid's by just two points to lift the Yerburch Cup once again in the Blackburn with Darwen Schools Swimming Gala. In true QEGS sporting tradition, we offered to share the trophy with St Wilfrid's for the forthcoming year.

Not to be outdone, our junior swimmers competed well in the town gala for junior schools, with Sarah Pickles, Alex Atkinson and the boys' freestyle relay squad all winners, while Kristian McNery came home first in the town's Junior Cross-Country Championships.

Chris Matthews and Daniel Walsh were selected to represent Lancashire Schools in the Aviva ESAA English Schools Cross-Country Championships at Wollaton Park in Nottingham in March, with Chris finishing as the top Lancashire runner in 44th (out of over 300 starters) in the senior boys' event.

Our footballers reached the final of the Barry Burns' Northern Eights football competition at the King's School, Chester without conceding a goal en route! Though Manchester Grammar proved too strong in the final, this was a fine achievement by our senior boys, who have enjoyed a good season this year.

First XI football captain Oliver Birchall, together with Louis Cross and Matthew Ball, were selected for the national ISFA squads to tour Finland during the Easter holidays. Oliver played for the Under-18s while Louis, who is on the books of Blackpool FC, and Matthew represented the Under-16s.



The squad that finished runners-up in the Barry Burns Northern Eights football tournament.



Our successful Junior School swimmers with the trophies and medals they won at the town gala.

OBITUARIES

We are saddened to report the deaths of a number of Old Blackburnians. Please check the school website and click on the "Q-news" link on the homepage in order to read more details and tributes, where we have them, about these former pupils, listed below according to the date of death (2011 unless otherwise stated):

James Barrie Holt (OB 1945-51), died November 2009

Michael H White (OB 1955-60), date of death in 2010 not known

Henry Ormerod (OB 1944-49), died March 2010

Graham Hyland (OB 1933-39), died December 2010

Peter Mennell (OB 1940-47), died December 2010

Stanley Atkin Johnston (OB 1937-41), died January

Frank Clayton (OB 1937-42?), died January

Fred Kemp (OB 1941-48), died February

Dr P J Nicholas Howorth (OB 1946-53), died February

John Robert Fairless (OB 1935-40), died February

Roger William Smith (OB 1949-54), died February

Geoffrey Sullivan (OB 1937-44), died February

Jeffrey Stuart Bracken (OB 1952-60), died February

Ian Charles Webb (OB 1961-68), died March

We appreciate that not everyone will have easy access to the internet to enable them to read further details about these Old Blackburnians, should they wish to do so. If anyone wishes to receive a printed copy of any individual obituary, please write to the Editor, Q-news, at the school address.



More on the web...



Anyone for Golf?

This year's OBA Golf Competition will be held at Blackburn Golf Club on Thursday 16th June. The entry fee is £10 and basically all you need to do is turn up and play from 4.30pm onwards.

Last year's winners of the event, held at Wilshire Golf Club, were Andrew Norman (net prize) and Bob Hornsby (gross prize), so come and see if you can be a winner this year - or just enjoy some good golf in friendly company.

For further details, contact Andrew Norman at andrew.norman@mooreandsmalley.co.uk or on 07976 754925.

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Finding out about Finance *Learning about Legacies*

In February we held the first in the series of financial information evenings. School governor Andy Hinchliffe gave an overview of estate planning, focusing in particular on the mitigation of Inheritance Tax and the various ways in which a Will can be structured. Those present found it very informative and were able to ask about different scenarios. If you would be interested in attending a future event, please contact the Foundation Office to let us know.

Over the school's long history legacy bequests have made significant contributions to the development of Queen Elizabeth's, from Alderman Harrison's bequest which provided the funds for the purchase of Lammack, to the John Law Scholarship awarded each year to the top performer at the entrance exam. Bequests can take many forms including the value of stocks and shares, property, antiques or cash. If you would like to support your school and help future generations but are unable to help at the moment, please consider making a legacy bequest to the school.

Please ring the Foundation Office to find out more, or ask your solicitor how you can add Queen Elizabeth's to your Will.



London Dinner



The RAF Club in Piccadilly was the luxurious venue for the annual OBA London Dinner in February, thanks to the generous support of RAF Club member Brian Corbett (OB 1943-47). Old Blackburnians aged 23 to 83 were able to share experiences and re-create a little Lancashire in the capital. The speaker for the evening was Dr Shahzad Malik (OB 1978-85), whose fascinating and varied career was spotlighted in Q-news 30.

Now working for venture capital company Advent and looking at emerging biomedical opportunities, Shahzad paid tribute to the major influences in his life: his parents, the school, his wife, Dr Bitia Manzouri, and his children, all of whom he felt had contributed to his success and helped to fire him with the enthusiasm to continue to seek new opportunities.





First Year pupils were asked about "The letter I would most like to write" in this year's Rotary Young Writer competition and the winners of the first round stage, organised by the Rotary Club of Blackburn West, were adjudged to be Annabel Harvey and Uhzair Ahmed. It was a non-uniform day when they each received their prize from Club President and former pupil Peter Pearson (OB 1948-56).

Uhzair wrote a letter to his brother, who was about to undergo an operation, while Annabel's was addressed to Shakespeare's tragic heroine, Juliet.

Watch the web

The school website is currently being overhauled to improve its look, content and functionality. When the new site is ready it will be accessible in exactly the same way as now, but with new tabs that will help "parents and pupils" and "Old Blackburnians", for example, find more quickly the information they require.

The new site should go "live" during June, so keep looking out for it on www.qegs.blackburn.sch.uk - and please let us know what you think about it!

Disaster remembered

April's FA Cup semi-final between Bolton Wanderers and Stoke City caused former pupil Brian Corbett (OB 1943-47) to reflect on the meeting on 9th March 1946 between the same two sides in the same competition,

In that game, 65 years ago at Bolton's home stadium Burnden Park, overcrowding in the Railway Enclosure behind one of the goals caused the collapse of crush barriers and the death of 33 people, the youngest of whom was a Queen Elizabeth's pupil, Harry Birtwistle from June Street in Blackburn, aged just 14. Harry probably went to the game to catch a glimpse of Stanley Matthews, playing for Stoke.

Brian recalls: "As we sat in our desks in the 'New Huts' in alphabetical order, Harry sat just across the gangway from me, in Form IVA 1945-46."

Making an Exhibition

The annual exhibition of GCSE and A level work in Art and Design Technology seems to have grown more popular every year. This year, once again, the quality of the students' work is of a very high standard indeed and the two departments are making plans for another impressive showcase of the very best of what the boys and girls have produced.

The exhibition will take place on Thursday 30th June from 4pm to 8pm and, as last year, will be split between the Brooklands building and the Sixth Form Centre, Singleton House. Individual invitations will be sent out nearer the time, but if anyone else, including former pupils, would like to join us on the evening, you will be most welcome. All we ask is that, to help with the catering arrangements (drinks and light refreshments will be provided), you contact us in advance on 01254 686308 to let us know that you will be coming.



Help us to build our Physics Mosaic

Buying a tile for the Physics in the Future Project is a great way of showing your support for the school. A sponsored tile also makes an ideal present for anyone associated with the school QEGS. Supporters have "bought" tiles to mark many occasions, including: births; birthdays; anniversaries; Christmas or Easter; retirement, or just to say "thank you".

To "buy" a tile and to show your support of the Physics project please:

- Go to the Physics Project website (<http://physicsinthefuture.mosaicappeal.com/index.php/mosaic/index/99>)
- Decide how many tiles you would like to "buy".
- Choose your tiles and where on the picture you would like your message to appear.
- Decide the inscription you would like and follow the instructions on screen.



If you are a UK tax payer don't forget to tick the Gift Aid option which will add a further 25p for each pound donated.

If you would like to "buy" a tile but would prefer to make your donation through the school just send a cheque payable to "QEGS" to the Foundation Office, QEGS, West Park Road, Blackburn BB2 6DF and mark your envelope "Mosaic Appeal."

The "buy a tile" scheme has raised nearly £3,500 raised to date but we still need to sell more. So, please have a go and do your bit for the future of Physics at Queen Elizabeth's.



...and finally

Our girls enjoyed a very successful netball tour to London at the end of March.

Three year group teams travelled to the capital, the Under-13s, Under-14s and Under-15s, and all three teams recorded convincing victories in both the matches they played, against Priory School from Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Aldenham School from Hertfordshire. The total points score from the six matches was 110-25, which is rather impressive!

More than that, the girls represented the school well and had a great time on the tour, under the management of Mrs Ingham, Mrs Bamber and Miss Wildman.



www.qegs.blackburn.sch.uk

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