

Foreword

While this magazine focuses on events that occurred in the Trinity Term, I trust all readers had a good summer break and are looking forward to the Michaelmas Term which is almost upon us, after a considerably better summer than the previous one.

As you will see, this edition of **Q-news** as usual gives some of the flavour of the many activities in which our pupils are involved and, as I often point out, this is in addition to the hard work that is rightly required of them in the classroom. That has paid off again, with some excellent A level results: 15% A* is a real achievement, beating last year's students by 2% and placing us significantly higher than local competition again. As last year, around a third of the Upper Sixth received A*/A grades, which has helped them achieve their university places, including just the one at Oxford this time. This year's students, by and large, worked very hard indeed and were a thoroughly pleasant and cooperative year group who deserved their success. At the time of writing GCSE results have yet to appear.

It is this combination – hard work and success academically, coupled with distinction in our many activities – that characterises the school at its best. It is, of course, not just about the high flyers, though inevitably those are the statistics one tends to quote: there are many other personal successes at a slightly lower level that have enabled pupils to gain what they needed. We have, of course, provided all candidates with the sort of opportunities that help to make them the excellent, rounded human beings they are and, as one leafs through this magazine, I think anyone could see at a glance why we are so proud of them.

I am very conscious that there are people who believe that our change of status, by which we will become a Free School from September 2014, will mean that the ethos of the school could change. Leaving aside the obvious philosophical point that the ethos of the school is not immutable and has, of course, changed many times in its 500-year history, I believe the highly successful

dynamic that places academic achievement first but lays huge emphasis on developing pupils by encouraging them to discover themselves in a wide variety of contexts is so central to our distinction, that it is not something any of us will be willing to surrender. We shall continue to appoint staff who understand this and who are prepared to make a contribution beyond the classroom, and will continue to stress to pupils the importance of trying new things and, above all, of working cooperatively with each other in all contexts so they acquire the sort of confidence (and modesty at the same time) that marks our pupils out once they leave.

I am sure future editions, no doubt electronic ones eventually, will continue to show a diverse and beneficent educational experience for pupils at Queen Elizabeth's and that increased numbers will create still more possibilities within the curriculum, on the games field, in music and drama and all our other activities. It has been heartening indeed for all of us to witness the number of pupils at the school going up dramatically, even within the last year (from 435 in September 2012 to 514 by the end of the Trinity Term). We will be commencing the academic year 2013/14 with over 700 pupils – and the fact that the Infant and Junior Schools have doubled in size is a clear statement about the future of the school.

Simon Corns,
Headmaster



Sun Shines on Sports Day

The annual School Sports Day at Witton Park was blessed with bright warm sunshine for the first time in a number of years.



There was some great competition at a variety of levels, from the star athletes like Ross Liddle who set a new record in the U14 Hurdles in a time of 12.01s and Georgina Mackenzie who leapt 4.34m in the Long Jump, to those fighting out the lower positions to gain points for their House. Two other field event records were set by Annabel Harvey who threw the cricket ball 27.97m in the U14 competition and Maddie Brighthouse who broke the shot putt record with a throw of 7.65m.

Ross and Georgina, have both been improving all season. Ross, who was the U14 Champion Athlete, has recently represented Blackburn with Darwen at the county championships where he came 4th in the Long Jump with a PB of over 5 metres. Georgina, who was the senior girls Champion Athlete was also at the county championships competing in the high jump following on from the Town Sports where she finished 2nd in high jump and 3rd in hurdles.

Unusually, the final result was a tie between Drake and Frobisher, one point ahead of Raleigh.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Defibrillators

The school now has three defibrillators available in case of emergency. The latest of these has been installed in the swimming pool where it will also be reassurance for all the members of the public who use the facility.

The funds to pay for the defibrillator were raised by a whole school Red Nose Day event and the PE Department Sporting Dinner held at Mytton Fold Hotel.

Nick Hartshorne-Evans of the Pumping Marvellous Charity handed over the new defibrillator which adds to those already in the school Reception and the Lammack Sports Pavilion.



Shake My Paw!

For Year 9 pupil Josh Gaffney the visit of Chief Scout Bear Grylls to Bowley camp, was a very important occasion. He was one of a select few to be presented with his Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest award available in the Scout Section. Travelling by helicopter (Bear Force One), Bear Grylls dropped in at Bowley Scout Activity Centre, Gt Harwood, to visit more than 1,000 Scouts who were having their annual county rally there.

Josh has been a scout for the last four years and having completed this award he will now move on to be an Explorer Scout.



James Sails On

For James Grummett, year 9, 2013 has already proved to be significant. As part of the Team GB National Performance Squad for Sailing, James had a busy start to the year with a heavy focus on coaching interspersed with a few major regattas. He is now sailing and training regularly in two different boats, in preparation for moving from the junior U16 programme to the youth classes targeted at U19s.

The start of the Easter holidays saw James and his crew Daniel Budden heading to the RYA Youth National Championships held at Largs in Scotland. This event is the first in their campaign to be selected for the RYA Youth 29er Transitional Squad in November 2013. This is one of the biggest events in the RYA youth calendar, with a range of single and double-handed boats and windsurfers competing on four separate courses. Approximately 350 sailors attended the event and for some, including James and Dan, this is their

first youth championships where they find themselves sailing against 18/19 year olds. James and Dan had a great week, racing every day in tricky and challenging conditions. At the end of a long week they secured 4th place in the 29er silver fleet, missing out on 3rd place by 1 point. This is a fantastic result for the boys who were the third youngest pairing in the fleet.

Having finished racing on the Friday, James swapped boats and headed for a week long National Squad camp at Pwllheli, before journeying to Datchet (Windsor) on the final Friday of the Easter break to compete in a National Series event in his Topper. He completed the weekend with a 9th place, in a fleet of 186 boats.

Since then James has competed with Dan in their 29er in the Welsh National Championships at Pwllheli, and he has a full programme of events throughout the summer in both boats, before he switches primarily to the 29er in the autumn.

Extreme Physics Course

Four Year 10 pupils: Cara Murray, Annie Johnston, Jack Entwistle and Elliot Gaughan accompanied by Mrs Wild, competed in an Extreme Physics Team Competition over three days at Lancaster Grammar School. Cara Murray reports.

On arrival we got straight down to business with a treasure hunt around the school grounds and then designing and building a minute timer with everyday objects found in your home. In the afternoon we had to design and build a rocket which was then tested to see how far it could be propelled by an air launcher. In the evening we attended a lecture on Nuclear Power given by Dr Melanie Windridge, a fusion Physicist. Arriving at the boarding house around 21.00 we then set to work on our diaries. On the second day we rose early and after

breakfast we all set off to Manchester where we were going to rock climb and learn how to free fall at AIRKIX. The day was exciting and we all achieved our flying colours. That evening was spent at a second lecture on Astrophysics given by a very enthusiastic lecturer from Liverpool John Moores University called Dr Andy Newsam, whose specialism involves collecting and analysing data from stars.

We again arrived back at the boarding house after 21.00 and spent time completing our diaries and socialising with the team members from other schools.

On our third and final day we had to produce a presentation to explain a concept of Physics. We had to explain stability and centre of mass. We worked well as a team to develop ways of demonstrating our concept and produced posters and models to support our demonstration. We then had to present our explanation to the other teams, teachers and parents.

Of the thirteen teams who competed QEGS came sixth and won several rosettes for their team work, originality and knowledge. Jack Entwistle came first in one of the individual competitions on memory.



Maths competition adds up to success

A maths competition organised by the University of Liverpool has resulted in some good news for some of our pupils who had to put in extra work during the February half-term holiday in order to enter.

Kimlam Nguyen from Year 8 took part in the maths challenge part of the competition designed for Years 7 and 8. He gained a certificate and a prize, coming in the top 10 out of 1600 pupils. Year 9 pupil Hashim Ali competed against many Year 10 pupils and came 3rd out of 600 pupils.

At the top end of the school, Sixth Formers Joseph Westwood and Sophie

Thomas took part in the Open Challenge aimed at Years 11, 12 and 13. They have been awarded runners up and certificate winners respectively.

All the prize winners have been invited to a prize evening with their parents at the University of Liverpool.

Head of Maths, Mrs Claire Gammon said, "The success in these competitions is just reward for these pupils who enjoy pitting their wits against the problems and fellow competitors. It shows what fun can be had with maths and it certainly helps with their progress."



The Annual QEGS Sports Awards

The annual Sports Presentation Evening held at Mytton Fold Hotel & Country Club proved, once again, to be a resounding success.

Guest of Honour was John Atkinson who helped lead the Paralympics GB swimming team to 39 London 2012 medals and now heads Swimming Canada's high-performance programme. The evening was a celebration of sport at QEGS, a school which has been synonymous with high sporting achievement throughout its history. The awards were for the Players Player, selected by fellow teammates and the Managers Player in all the main sports, rugby, football, cricket, netball and swimming. Pupils who have achieved county and national honours were also recognised along with those who have professional contracts with football clubs. A Special

Achievement Award was made to James Grummett who is now part of the Team GB National Performance Squad for Sailing.



Team Captains

Back L-R; Swimming Captain Oliver Roberts, Football Captain Danny Birchall, Mr John Atkinson, Guest of Honour.

Front L-R; Rugby Captain Jake Peake, Headmaster Mr Simon Corns, Netball Captain Millie Parker, Cricket Captain Max Humberstone.

East Lancs Golf Champion

The cool and windy conditions that greeted golfers competing in the East Lancashire Golf Championships held at Rossendale Golf Club did not deter Year 10 pupil Patrick Bedford who carded an 89 gross which was a net 61 after his handicap deduction.

This result meant that Patrick was crowned East Lancashire Champion and with team partner James Henaghan he was runner-up in the team net competition.

This was certainly a personal best performance by Patrick who is leading the way for a strong group of players in Year 10. Considering the conditions, this performance by Patrick, a member of Pleasington Golf Club, bodes well for a good season for this talented golfer.

QEGS Golf team continued their good form at the Lancashire Schools U-15

Championships. Tom Sumner and Patrick Bedford played exceptionally well below their handicaps in order to score net 62 and 63 and finish 2nd & 3rd respectively. The competition was held at Leigh golf club, which was in excellent condition for play. A field of over 70 golfers were competing in what is one of the major events of the season for this age group. Declan Bateson, finished 5th in the gross competition with an excellent score of 78.

QEGS fielded 10 golfers in this event, which bodes well for the future of the sport in school. All of the boys played well and enjoyed the competitive atmosphere.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Geographers Escape Winter Weather

With their A2 fieldwork paper to prepare for the Sixth Form Geographers enjoyed the warmer climes of Majorca accompanied by Mr Buckingham and Mr Northin. They were able to study sand dunes, microclimates and tourism on the island in a more relaxed environment, followed up each evening by further study in the classroom.



Heads of School Handover

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School has an honours board for Heads of School which records the names of those holding the office back to 1888. In 1889 there was an occasion when the Head Boy, Thomas J Garstang, was followed the next year by his brother, John Garstang. It happened again in the 1990's when the Coleman brothers held the honour and it is about happen again this year, as the outgoing Head Boy Sam Westwood hands over the reins of office to his brother Joe Westwood.

Pictured: Deputy Head Boy Conor Hamilton, Outgoing Head of School Sam Westwood, New Head of School Joe Westwood, Deputy Head Girl Millie Parker



UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Daniel Rae and Kimlam Nguyen achieved their Gold Certificates at the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge earlier this year.



NEWS IN BRIEF

China Day

With China becoming an ever-increasing commercial presence globally we were delighted to welcome two native Chinese teachers from UCLAN recently to lead five linguistic and cultural sessions to raise our Year 7 pupils' awareness of China's significance worldwide. Pupils enjoyed taster sessions in Chinese languages, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese lantern-making, Chinese playground games and Chinese brush-painting.



Founder's Day

The Founder's Day Service held at Blackburn Cathedral was a time to give thanks for all those benefactors who were involved in the establishment and continuation of our 500-year-old school.

The address by The Right Reverend Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury, highlighted the fact that we should never be afraid of failure, and indeed, it is often what makes us stronger and leads to success.



The victorious U15 Cricket Team at the Blackburn with Darwen Cricket Festival.



High Sheriffs

Since receiving the Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth I in 1567, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School has always carried its Royal title with pride.

The link was reinforced again when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited the school in 1987.

It was another proud moment for the school when Old Blackburnian and Chairman of Governors, Jeremy Gorick was appointed to the High Sheriff's role in 2012 to: "protect and assist in upholding the dignity and well-being of Her Majesty's Judges and to represent The Queen's executive powers in respect of the administration of justice in the county".

Imagine then, our delight when it was announced that the new High Sheriff of Lancashire for 2013 was to be governor Ann Dean. Ann said she was "delighted and humbled" to take over the role from Jeremy Gorick.

As a former chairman of the north west branch of the Institute of Directors between 2006 and 2010 and a director of her family's chain of builders' merchants she said she wants to support young people looking to set up their own



businesses in the county and plans to focus on education, business and community work during her time as High Sheriff.

Mrs Dean said: "To be named as High Sheriff, you have to receive approval from The Queen. This makes it a very prestigious appointment and one which I'm both delighted and humbled to receive."

Not many schools can boast a High Sheriff as a governor but QEGS can now boast two. It would seem that the royal connection continues to thrive.

Swimming Gala

The senior house swimming gala is always a competitive affair and was no less so this year, with fantastic performances from the elite to the stalwarts of each house.

Notable performances included Katie Gaffing's superb 25m Butterfly breaking Helen Rushton's 1994 record in a time of 15.63 seconds. Scores were extremely close by the time of the relays and the teams had everything to swim for with double points for the taking. Drake House pulled away to relay victory and an overall gala win with 74 points to runners up Howard (51) and third placed Grenville (46).



Year 7 placing their time capsule in the school chest. The capsule contains letters to their future selves to be read in 20 years' time!

Silver Tongued Students

The 2013 UK Linguistics Olympiad has proved to be a happy hunting ground once again for our Languages students. Sophie Thomas and Andrew Nowak in the Lower Sixth gained very commendable Silver Awards for their endeavours.

UKLO is a competition for students who are still at secondary school which involves solving linguistic data problems.

This year over 6000 pupils took part and the test papers were extremely challenging, with students having to deduce grammatical patterns in a variety of languages, including Dutch and Bulgarian, as well as Phoenician.

The performance of our students reflects the high quality of the language teaching at QEGS and follows on from the success in 2011 of Lower Sixth Form student Olivia Lalude-Haworth, who won Gold and went on to study Classics at Oxford University.

Ingleton Falls Trip

It is true that for many former pupils, school memories are often related to field trips outside the classroom and for our Year 7 & 8 Geography pupils their memories may well be of Ribchester and Middlebrook Retail Park or Ingleton Falls which they visited recently.

Year 7 pupils enjoyed their Geography field excursion to Ribchester and the retail park at Middlebrook. The weather was fair as they set off to Ribchester where they carried out housing quality surveys in the quiet surroundings of the sleepy village. The highlight for many being the excellent play area in the village and an opportunity to spend their pocket money in the village Spar!

A short trip down the motorway took them to Middlebrook Retail Park near Bolton where they undertook questionnaires of unsuspecting shoppers.

The trip gives pupils an insight into the type of fieldwork that is offered to all students in every year of the geography curriculum. It is an enjoyable and important way of teaching the subject.

It was the turn of Year 8 pupils to experience the wonderful Waterfalls Walk at Ingleton.

Some were slightly daunted by the prospect of a 4.5 mile walk around the beautiful waterfalls, yet post trip they all agreed that it was a spectacular area.

The falls were in good shape swollen by recent heavy rain, so they were particularly impressive.



Salters Challenge

Year 8 Pupils Adam Jones, Daniel Rae, Kimlam Nguyen and Oliver Cass enjoyed a successful trip to Bradford University. They came 3rd (1st Fulneck School, second Bradford Grammar) in the Salters' Chemistry Competition at Bradford University, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The young chemists took part in two laboratory skills tests, the first based around forensic analysis and then in the second they used instrumental analysis to determine an unknown concentration of a complex ion.

If a Picture Paints a Thousand Words...

The Art and Design exhibition held this year was a great success.

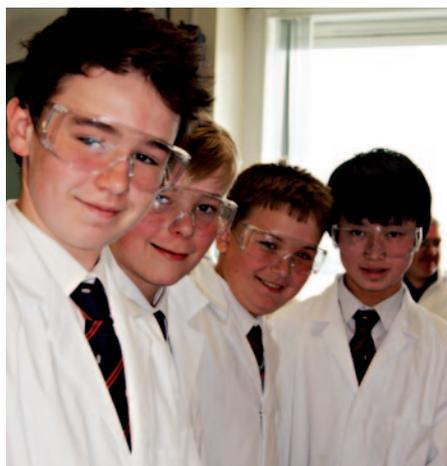
The quality of the work being exhibited was remarkable and one had to be reminded it had been produced by young students. The Mayor, Councillor Salim Mulla attended as did the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mrs Ann Dean.



Paris Music Tour



QEGS Jazz Band performed at the Luxembourg Gardens, La Tour Eiffel and Disney Land Paris in a successful and enjoyable trip. The band performed to large crowds that had gathered and were extremely well received. The Music Department would like to commend the pupils for their impeccable manners and behaviour on what was a fantastic five day tour. The Jazz Band members are a true asset to the school and worked extremely hard to put on three excellent performances. Well done to all and roll on the next one!



NEWS IN BRIEF

Bench Mark

When a parent enquired about the possibility of providing seating outside the school sports hall at Lammack, so that there was somewhere to sit when enjoying a drink or watching a game, the Elizabethan Association sprang into action. Three new benches made from recycled plastic waste materials which are low maintenance, vandalism and physical attack resistant, not subject to rot, algae or fungal growth; which in turn can be recycled when its time comes were presented to the Headmaster by the Chair of TEA Mrs Christine Wellock and committee member Mrs Jane Storm, at the Infant and Junior Sports Day.



Under 13s Cricket

Following on from the success of their U15 team in the Blackburn with Darwen Cricket Festival, our U13 team won the Pairs Cup held at Darwen Cricket Club.

Witton Park were the opponents in the final and batting first QEGS hit 113 off their allotted overs. Witton never really posed a threat as some good bowling by QEGS restricted the flow of runs. Their final total was 78 giving QEGS a 35 run winning margin.

After playing hardly any cricket in 2012 Summer term because of the bad weather, this year has been somewhat different. Not including Cup competitions, QEGS cricketers have played a total of 86 games this term, a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the commitment of the staff who volunteer to take teams.



Golf Trip Proves as Popular as Ever

The annual golfing venture to Scotland is becoming something of a historic event, even more so this year because for the first time the trip boasted a dad with his daughter.

Stephen James, who has previously brought his son Edward returned to the fold with his daughter Sarah. Sarah proved to be a very consistent golfer and she was hopefully the first of many other girls who will join the golf events at QEGS. Dr Gunn, a veteran of the trip and making his seventh appearance will be sorely missed. Dr Gunn and his son Alex have been ever present whilst Alex has been at school. Their good company and sense of humour has made many a golfing experience for fellow golfers on and off the course. He gave a warming speech and presents to Mr Morgan and Mr Buckingham that were much appreciated.

The golf courses were in terrific condition and the Northwest Castle Hotel put on a fantastic spread of food and drinks for the group. The weather was exceptional for the first two days, but rain on the last day did not deter the hardier amongst the group and they were treated to some memorable days at Glenluce, Stranraer

and the spectacular Portpatrick tracks.

Mr Morgan neatly summed up the 3 days "wonderful people and wonderful company". Next years trip is already being planned so please get in touch with Mr Buckingham if you would like to book a place. All golfing abilities welcomed.



The Tea Time Concert

The Tea Time Concert this term was an occasion which showed off the musical talent of some of our younger pupils.

The venue, Big School, provided the ideal location for an intimate musical experience which allows some of our young musicians their first opportunity to perform in public. For some of the more

seasoned performers it was the chance to show what progress they are making in their musical careers. It was interesting to see how many of them develop musical skill on more than one instrument and how the young ensembles are progressing. It was a most enjoyable event, one to watch out for on the calendar next term.

Town Champs Athletics

The competitive edge to Sports Day was, for many of our athletes, a good warm-up for the Town Championships held at Witton Park recently. In what is the main athletics competition for many local schools we had some excellent performances resulting in five Town Champions.

Rob Buckley put in a great run to win the Intermediate 1500m while Year 8 pupil Harry Newman was also successful on the track over the hurdles, setting a good example for Year 7 pupil Arbaaz Ahmed who also won the hurdles.

In the field events Benji Carrera-Knowles won the Year 9 triple jump while Max Dawson won the Year 7 high jump. Overall, the boys' team came 5th and the girls 7th.

Armed Forces Day

In the lead up to Armed Forces Day flags were raised in front of Blackburn and Darwen Town Halls.

Having had many pupils go on to serve in our Armed Forces it was fitting that representatives from Queen Elizabeth's attended the Flag Raising Ceremony at Blackburn Town Hall.

Armed forces and Blackburn with Darwen Council dignitaries were in attendance with local school children.

The Headmaster attended with twelve pupils. He commented, "I think it is really

important, as the oldest secondary school in the town, that we support events such as this, if only to remind all our pupils of the importance of our Armed Services and to support Blackburn with Darwen on these Civic occasions. It was good to see a number of other schools there too, all of the children being a credit to the town."

Armed Forces Day is an annual, national campaign that gives everyone the opportunity to show their support for the men and women of the armed forces past and present, including currently serving troops, service families, reservists, veterans and cadets.



NEWS FOR FORMER PUPILS

Wine, Dine and Catch Up With Friends – The Annual OBA Dinner December 14

All former pupils and staff are invited to the annual dinner which takes place in Big School on Saturday December 14, 2013. The dinner is a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

The toast to the school will be made by our guest and former pupil Royal Navy Commander Chris Baldwin (1971-1980). The Chief Guest is local MP Jake Berry.

The dress code for the evening is black tie for men and posh frocks for women.

Despite inflation the ticket prices have been frozen for the third year running!

The tickets cost £30 for full price tickets, £25 for those who left school between 2009 and 2012 and £15 for new members who left school in 2013. It is a four-course meal followed by coffee.

To reserve your place please fill in the enclosed form and post it with your cheque payable to the Old Blackburnians' Association to the Foundation Office, QEGS, West Park Road, Blackburn,



BB2 6DF and mark your envelope OBA Dinner. Alternatively you can download a booking form from the website.

Please circulate details of the dinner to your Old Blackburnian friends. If we don't have their current contact details they won't receive an invitation. A special word to our newer members – it would be great to see you at the dinner, and a good night is guaranteed.

If you would like to find out more about the dinner contact Joanna Lavelle at the Foundation Office on 01254 686308

Student Work Placements

Part of a student's development is learning about the world of work through work placements. The work placement not only teaches young people about the discipline of a working life but also can give them an insight into a particular profession to see if it is for them. We would like to collate a list of local businesses and professional organisations who may be able to help with work placements. Previous work placements over the years have included retail, engineering, broadcasting, hospitals and education.

If you can help or would like to find out more please contact Joanna Lavelle in the Foundation Office 01254 686308 email jlavelle@qegsblackburn.com

Are You Free On November 8?

The termly Fish and Chip lunches were introduced in 2012 as an informal event for former pupils and staff to return to school on a normal working day. The event starts with drinks in the Garstang Room followed by a Fish and Chip lunch and then by an optional tour of the school. It is a great opportunity to meet old friends and share memories of school life. The Headmaster and some teachers are always present giving guests a chance to ask about developments at school. The numbers for this event are limited to 18 in total. If you are interested in reserving a place contact the Foundation Office without delay. If you want to make up a small party of Old Blackburnians from one era the office will help to trace individuals.

So the only question that remains is, "are you free on November 8?"

Dr Joyce Walsh 1929- 2013

Joyce Walsh, who was school governor for almost twenty years, died in July at the age of 84.



Joyce joined the governing board in 1986 which was then under the chairmanship of John Singleton. During her long service she worked with no fewer than five chairmen and two headmasters. In this period the board steered the school through many significant changes including the opening of the Early Years department in 2002 (now known as Infant School) and the change to full co-education in 2001. In 1986 when Joyce joined the board the school was still adjusting to the change from a Direct Grant Grammar school to the introduction of the Assisted Places scheme which had been brought in six years earlier and was itself abolished in 1997. Although her service on the board finished in 2005 Joyce remained loyal and supportive of the school. Both Joyce's sons, Noel and Robin are former pupils and the next generation is now represented by her grandson, Thomas and granddaughter Jessica. As a proud grandmother Joyce was frequently present at school events.

It is ironic that Joyce was a member of the board which took the decision to move to full co-education as she could argue that she in fact was an old girl. The young Joyce Cragg attended Blackburn High School. However, her school was unable to accommodate her sixth form science choices which she needed to fulfil her ambition of medical training, so after school Joyce trekked up to West Park Road to study Physics with Dr Tyler at QEGS but only when the boys had all gone home. After A-levels she continued her studies at Edinburgh University.

Joyce was a popular GP in Mellor for many years. Read Joyce's full obituary on the website. www.qegsblackburn.com/2013/07/dr-joyce-walsh/

NEWS IN BRIEF

● Congratulations to **Lloyd Aitken** who has graduated as a United States Marine Officer: www.qegsblackburn.com/2013/07/congratulations-to-us-marine-lloyd-aitken/

● **Dr Bob Gibson** travelled to Blackburn to give a lecture entitled "The American Civil War – a local parish perspective": www.qegsblackburn.com/2013/07/blackburns-famine-and-the-american-war-of-independence/

● Well done to **James Austin** who has joined the Royal Dragoon Guards following a twelve month assessment process

“Accrington’s Pals – The Full Story” by Dr Alan Jackson

The Accrington Pals is probably the best remembered of the battalions raised in the early months of the First World War in response to Kitchener’s call for a volunteer army. Groups of friends from all walks of life in Accrington and its neighbouring towns enlisted together to form a battalion with a distinctively local identity. In its first major action, the battalion suffered devastating losses in the attack on Serre on 1st July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. The losses were hard to bear in a community where nearly everyone had a relative or friend who had been killed or wounded. Although the battalion was to fight again, its Pals character had been irretrievably lost.

Old Blackburnian Dr Alan Jackson has just published a new history of the Accrington Pals, “Accrington’s Pals – The Full Story” Alan’s interest in Accrington’s role in the First World War was inspired by visits to the battlefields of the Western Front with his father Maurice. Andrew who was born and raised in Accrington joined QEGS in 1968. Following a D.Phil. in Chemistry from Magdalen College Oxford, he pursued a career in research and now lives in Switzerland where he is the Global Product manager for Clariant International.

www.pals.org.uk/pals_e.htm

The book is a readable and fascinating insight into the role played by the Accrington Pals.

The book is a readable and fascinating insight into the role played by the Accrington Pals.



Twitter

There is now a presence on Twitter just for former pupils but we need your help to promote it do follow @joannalavelle



Alumni Facebook Page

Have you had a look yet? QEGS Blackburn Alumni

Fred Bury Memorial Service

Former staff and former pupils travelled from all over the country to attend the Fred Bury memorial service in June. Nick Whittle came over from the Far East to pay his respects. Fred who was both a former pupil and a former member of staff died in April at the age of 92.

The Rev Alan Sowerbutts conducted the service in the Assembly Hall. OB President Barry Brown shared his memories of a friend and colleague. The Chairman, His Honour Judge Stephen Dodds, read the poem If by Rudyard Kipling and retired Headmaster, Philip Johnston completed the tributes with his own reflections on Fred’s dedication and professionalism. The service was followed by an informal reception in Big School. Since the announcement of Fred’s death many former pupils and colleagues have sent their own memories and tributes. Check the website to read Fred’s obituary and the tributes.



www.qegsblackburn.com/2013/04/fred-bury-qegs-1931-1939/

Back to school lunch for Business and Professionals in East Lancs. October 22 11.15-2.30pm

Sponsored by the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School

This event will evoke memories of the old school days. It’s open to everyone, members and non-members.

In 2014 Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School will become a Free School. Foundation Director, Joanna Lavelle will give a brief overview of the school’s history, the plans for the future and what opportunities the new status creates for QEGS and local businesses to work together.

Ian Brown of Graham and Brown, a manufacturer of wall decorative products with a 67 year history, would like to help you understand the value a well constructed Corporate Social Responsibility plan can have to your business. Ian has had over 20 years’ experience in the area of CSR and is a national finalist in the IoD (Institute of Directors) 2013 awards for his work in this area.

Feel free to send a photo of yourself as a child/baby, via post with your full name/company name to: Chrissy Pilkington Chamber of Commerce, Red Rose Court, Accrington BB5 5JR. Your photo will be displayed at the event, there’s a prize for the winner of the most correct matches.

Come along and have fun while networking! Any queries please contact Chrissy Pilkington on 01254 356434 or email c.pilkington@chamberelancs.co.uk

PROGRAMME:

- 11.45 Open for Networking
- 12.20 Welcome & Ice Breaker courtesy of Ross McWilliams
- 12.40 Lunch Served
- 13.35 Presentations
- 14.10 Results of Photo competition/ close up
- 14.30 end

MENU - 2 courses:

Meat & Potato Pie (vegetarian option Cheese & Onion Pie) with pickles and red cabbage

Fruit cocktail, strawberry jelly and strawberry Angel Delight

Tea/coffee and retro biscuits

When booking please indicate if you require the vegetarian option or have any special dietary needs.

Parking: will be available on the road and around the school grounds. The event is during half term so parking will not be a problem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

David Clifford has been presented with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to table tennis: www.qegsblackburn.com/2013/07/lifetime-award-for-david-clifford-for-services-to-table-tennis/

The Old Blackburnians’ Annual General Meeting will be on November 13th at 7.30 pm. All Old Blackburnians are invited to attend the AGM which is followed by a potato pie supper. Come along and find out more about your Association. Names please to Joanna 01254 686308

Congratulations to swimmer Joshua Walsh who was part of the GB four man relay team at the British Champs whose time qualified them to take part in the 2013 World Championships in Barcelona.