

ISSUE **13** // APRIL 2012

# TRANS- FORM

THE ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER FOR BALSHAW'S C.E. HIGH SCHOOL

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Number 13 – unlucky for some but not for us as our Transform magazine goes from strength to strength. The circulation to past students and staff means that we constantly get excellent feedback and contributions for the next edition. Sadly some of our keen readers over the last few years have died and memories of them have been sent to us.

With the Centenary of the Titanic in 2012 we have a special article written by a relative of a survivor. Whilst it may seem as if Engineering and STEM subjects are not the only areas of school life that we include, clearly the building of the Titanic was an Engineering feat.

Another modern form of Engineering is IVF and we have an excellent account of the wonder of this.

This alongside the bi-centenary of Dickens means that there is something for everyone.

As I said, Issue number 13 – even better than ever. Enjoy reading.

**Yours sincerely**  
*J M Venn Headteacher*



# KAFELE'S STORY

## ■ THE SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS WORKED WELL WITH LEYLAND ROTARY CLUB

in a variety of ways such as Mock Interviews, Youth Speaks and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Now we have joined forces with Sue Ryder to sponsor a clinic for 12 months in Malawi. In order to do this we hope to work together to raise £3,000 as well as for each House to sponsor a child for 12 months. We have had a non-uniform day towards this and our next venture is to have a joint stall at the Spring Fair to sell 'dammit dolls'. If you have any spare wool let us have it!

As an Engineering School one of our tasks was to make the 3 Barometers to show how we can keep an on-going record of how much we raised. Mr Melling has come up trumps and made one for each of the 3 partners.

This clinic will help to keep children alive and give them a chance in life.

It will help pupils like Kafele\*. Kafele is an eight-year-old boy who was hit by a car and as a result had to have his left leg amputated below the knee. When the Sue Ryder rehabilitation team first came across him he was using crutches bought for him by the driver of the car.

He was pretty speedy on them although he couldn't go long distances. He attended school irregularly as the walk there was too tiring for him.

The Sue Ryder rehabilitation team began by giving Kafele exercises to do to prevent the leg becoming deformed and to strengthen it with a view to getting a prosthetic limb. We also provided metal crutches which would last longer and which were properly measured to fit him.

Once the exercises were going well Sue Ryder referred Kafele and his mother to a central hospital to be measured for a prosthetic limb. This was provided within a few weeks of him being measured.

Now Kafele can walk without the crutches. He attends school every day, helps his mother around the house, and plays football with his friends. Just like any other eight-year-old boy!

*\*Kafele's name has been changed to protect his privacy.*

# KING JAMES BIBLE

## ■ AS WE COMPLETE THE CELEBRATIONS OF 400 YEARS OF THE KING JAMES

version of the Bible, we celebrate the fact that this "remains a unique monument of scholarship, devotion and imagination which has a crucial place in our common life". So said the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The 1611 King James Bible or Authorized Version may be seen as a crucial landmark within a process of English Bible translation which stretches from the late Middle Ages until the present day. It is still read regularly in Christian Worship. If you want to find out more visit [www.kingjamesbibletrust.org](http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org).

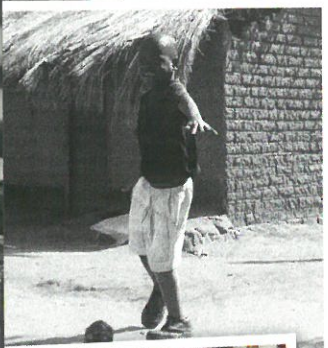
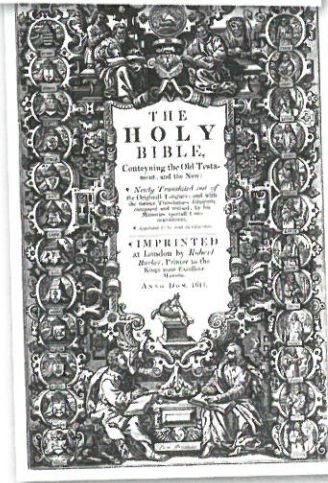
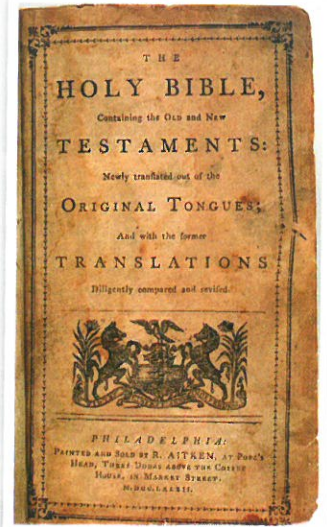
At school we receive New Testament Bibles for all of our Year 7's each year and a full Bible for our Head Boy and Head Girl each year. These are given by the Gideons. You will see Gideons' Bibles in Hospitals, Hotels and other places. Do you know how the Gideons started?

In 1899 three commercial travellers in the USA formed an association of Christian businessmen to encourage each other in their Christian faith, and to spread the knowledge of God through personal evangelism and united service for the Lord Jesus Christ. They chose the name Gideons after an Old Testament leader who, with a few men, did great work for God.

Today, over 250,000 members work in over 190 countries, placing a total of over 80 million copies of the Word of God annually as well as witnessing personally for Christ. Internationally over 1.5 billion Scriptures have been presented. Their objective is to share God's message of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ by personal witness and through placing Bibles and New Testaments into people's hands.

The Gideons became established in the British Isles in 1949. To date, over 30 million Gideon Bibles and Testaments have been presented nationally and there are 5,000 members involved in the work across Britain.

There is a copy of the Commemorative King James Bible in our new Library.





# DREAMS DO COME TRUE

## ■ HAVING SPENT 12 YEARS ON IVF TREATMENT, AT A COST OF AROUND £32,000 MY HUSBAND AND I DECIDED TO WRITE A

book to help other people going through what can only be described as a gruelling experience. With each failure the process became more difficult. My final IVF came in 1998, I only managed to produce 3 eggs instead of the usual 22 to 25, I was devastated, and one of my 'crop' had to be destroyed due to its poor condition, so this was my final attempt. There would be no frozen embryos.

All my previous attempts had failed so I wasn't holding my breath but I quietly prayed for a miracle, I stayed positive and kept a happy disposition to give my embryos the best possible chance I could. If this failed I would be left with no alternative other than to buy eggs from another source and that would cost an extra £2,000 on top of the treatment.

I made a decision that no matter what the outcome I would find a way to help people going through similar traumas and hence the larger dream was born.

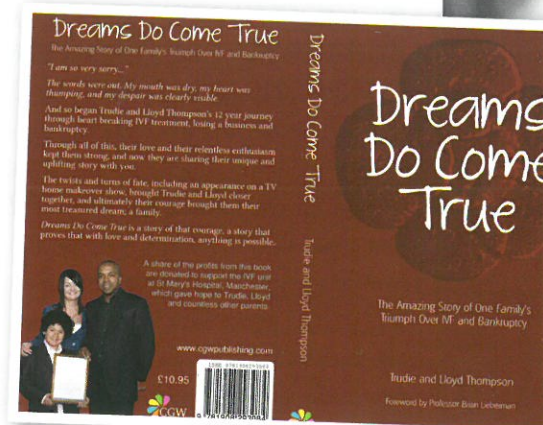
After my son's birth I researched ways we could assist St Mary's Hospital. Unfortunately when Jaja was 9 years old my husband lost his company and ended up bankrupt. By this time I had already started writing, hoping that eventually I could produce a book. My husband joined in and wrote about his own experiences from a male perspective, dealing with IVF along with the bankruptcy journey. We amalgamated our efforts and the book was born. Somewhere along this journey I'd managed to convince Professor Brian Lieberman to write the foreword for us. All we needed was to find a publisher and sell as many copies as we could, to produce revenue to enable St Mary's to produce babies for the poor lost souls walking the lonely miles we'd walked. It has taken 2 years to secure a publisher but just like Jaja, he was worth the wait.

The first step on IVF is to suppress the ovaries (put them to sleep) due to the fact that on a normal cycle the ovary will only produce one egg a month and in order to enhance success they need to

produce as many eggs as possible. Once the ovaries have been suppressed by daily injections for up to 2 weeks they are then stimulated with a further daily injection. This can take anywhere between 10 to 14 days and needs to be strictly monitored due to the fact that hyper-stimulation can occur which is extremely painful and can even prove potentially fatal in a small number of cases. The ovaries are monitored via ultrasound, measuring the size and quantity of the follicles which eventually produce the eggs. I was lucky because as previously mentioned I would produce anywhere between 22 and 25 eggs, and fortunately I never showed signs of hyper-stimulation. The eggs are then harvested, again by way of ultrasound and placed in a Petri dish along with the sperm for fertilisation. The next 48 hours are crucial. If fertilisation takes place then the embryo needs to 'split' into 8 living cells within this period in order to be transferred back into the uterus. Then it is just a waiting game, two weeks after embryo transferral a pregnancy test is carried out.

Please buy 'Dreams Do Come True', to raise revenue for the Hospital and to show everyone going through the process that they are not alone. Thank you.

Trudie and Lloyd Thompson



## BALSHAW'S ACHIEVE GOLD STANDARD



■ BALSHAW'S WERE DELIGHTED THIS YEAR TO

have been awarded the Investors in People Gold Standard, having held the Investors in People Award since 1996. As one of only a few organisations in the North West alongside Runshaw, we are proud that people are at the heart of our

thriving educational establishment.

Balshaw's invests a great deal in the development of all of their staff and there is a tremendous loyalty amongst them.

The staff work together for the success and happiness of all of our young people and we were delighted to be awarded the Gold Standard.



# THE TITANIC

## ■ THE 15TH APRIL 2012 MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC. NO OTHER SHIP HAS CAPTURED

the world's attention quite like this ship that was constructed to be 'unsinkable'. The White Star Line had taken great care to publicise the fantastic engineering of the Titanic and the world waited with baited breath for the ship, built in Belfast by Harland and Wolff, to make her first voyage.

My Great Great Aunt Ellen was one of the passengers that was excited at the prospect of travelling on the biggest and fastest ship that had ever been built. She was a widow, aged 45 and had bet all her savings on the Irish Sweepstake in order to buy a ticket for the Titanic. She must have been a lady of tremendous character to even contemplate travelling alone to America. The money she won on the horse race enabled her to buy a £7 ticket to travel in 3rd class along with 1134 other steerage passengers. The cabin she stayed in was far different from the facilities available in first class. They had a swimming pool, Turkish baths and a gymnasium along with a magnificent dining room and reading room. Third class had a General room which was at the heart of the steerage accommodation, and was the main meeting room, panelled in pine and finished in enamel white with teak furniture. They also had a smoke room which was panelled in oak with teak furniture. Her sleeping accommodation comprised of a bunk bed with space underneath to store her case and basic washing facilities. Although this was very basic compared to first class, it was far better than any other ocean liner at that time.

The White Star Line had given much consideration for the third class passengers, many of whom would be crossing the Atlantic to start new lives away from their home country. The designers wanted to change the attitudes towards third class travel. The third class cabins were not dormitory like rooms but individual closed cabins, thus adding privacy to the passengers, but they would still have shared their experience with strangers. All the crockery and cutlery on board the Titanic carried the White Star emblem, including bed linen, cutlery and crockery, a symbol that the designers were proud of.

Ellen told our family about her experience on the Titanic but sadly most of it centred around what happened after the Titanic began to sink. As a steerage passenger you were confined to the lower decks of the ship and there were signs indicating areas they did not have access to. As many of us have seen on the film, the class differences meant attitudes towards lower classes were very different and many third class passengers struggled to get to the upper decks, wearing their

lifebelts, to try and get into one of the lifeboats. They were instructed to put their life belts on by Captain Smith at 12.05am on 15th April 1912. At the same time instruction was sent out for the lifeboats to be ready for launch. The band was ordered to play lively music to help prevent panic among the passengers and they played Ragtime pieces.

As we now know, there were enough life belts for all passengers but only enough lifeboats for 52% of the passengers and crew and that was if they were all filled. Many of the lifeboats leaving the ship were only part filled; one boat with a capacity for 65 only carried 28 passengers and lifeboat 1 left with just 12 people onboard when it could hold 40. Ellen was able to get into lifeboat 16 which, as records show, was launched at 1.30am and there were 30 people on board.

The architect of the ship, Thomas Andrews, had estimated that it would take the ship just one hour to sink after water started to flood the 'water tight' compartments. It was at 2.20am that the Titanic sank after Bruce Ismay, in charge of the White Star Line, had left on collapsible lifeboat C. The Captain had instructed crew to save themselves at 2.17am.

Ellen told the family how she remembered seeing the lights on the Titanic flicker and go out as the ship sank and the swell of the water afterwards. They took a vote on religion to decide how they should pray and in the end they chose the Lords Prayer and they prayed for hours. They looked for survivors while some other lifeboats chose not to, for fear that their lifeboat would be upturned by people desperate to get aboard. Many of those that didn't survive the disaster should never have been travelling on the Titanic for a variety of reasons. Coal strikes had forced some liners not to sail and the passengers were transferred onto the ill fated Titanic, while other passengers had chosen to swap to the Titanic at the prospect of making the Atlantic crossing in such a short time on a magnificent ship.

Ellen and other survivors were taken aboard the Carpathia, which had come to their rescue, between 4.10am and 8.30am and were given warm drinks and basic food. Only 174 3rd class passengers survived, and Ellen is listed as passenger 168. She went on to live until she was 75 and returned to England as a local hero, telling stories of her survival.



## R.M.S. TITANIC

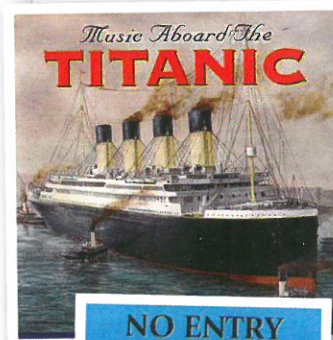
### The First Class Menu PRIVATE

**First Course**  
*Hor's D'Oeurvres*

**Second Course**  
*Consommé Olga or Cream of Barley Soup*

**Third Course**  
*Sauté of Chicken, Lyonnaise*  
or  
*Vegetable Marrow Farci*

**Fourth Course**  
*Roast Duck with Apple Sauce*





## 1870-1904 MEMORABILIA

In Transform Issue 12 page 11  
is a problem to solve if you're clever.  
It would be fun to have a go so here's  
my try to come up with the answer.

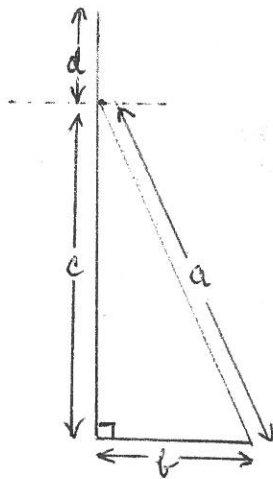
I remembered my maths lessons of long ago  
algebra, geometry and calculus.  
They would help me find the know  
To solve this conundrum pronto!

XOXOXOXOXO

We always had to show how we had worked things out so here is my calculation:

Let  $c+d$  = height of castle wall = 100ft  
then  $d$  = distance ladder dropped when moved  
 $a$  = length of ladder = 100ft  
 $b$  = distance ladder moved from wall = 10ft

To determine value of  $d$ .



$$\begin{aligned} a^2 &= c^2 + b^2 \text{ (Pythagoras)} \\ 10000 &= c^2 + 100 \\ c^2 &= 10000 - 100 \\ &= 9900 \\ c &= \sqrt{9900} \\ &= 99.5 \\ \text{so } d &= 100 - 99.5 \\ &= 0.5 \text{ ft} \\ &= 6 \text{ inches.} \end{aligned}$$

Result: The top of the ladder dropped 6 inches when the base was moved 10ft  
away from the castle wall.

Barbara Wright (n. Ward)  
B.G.S. 1945-53  
e-mail: [bwrig03@live.co.uk](mailto:bwrig03@live.co.uk)



# A PLAY REVIEW BY KELSEY BRANSTON, YEAR 9

## ■ 'RICKY'S REVENGE'

**ON FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY, YEAR 9 PUPILS AND YEAR 10 GCSE DRAMA PUPILS WATCHED**

a performance of a devised play based on Shakespeare's 'Richard III'.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The Runshaw students, who devised the play and have toured it around local schools, used a range of drama skills making the performance even more interesting. These included using their "bodies as props": creating a computer screen using the actors' hands and arms to outline the screen. They also use great physical control when performing some scenes in slow motion. They were all excellent actors with clear voices, believable characters, great choreography and lots of humour. The whole performance was very clever and everyone enjoyed it.

I asked some of my fellow Year 9 pupils what they thought of it and this is what some of them said:

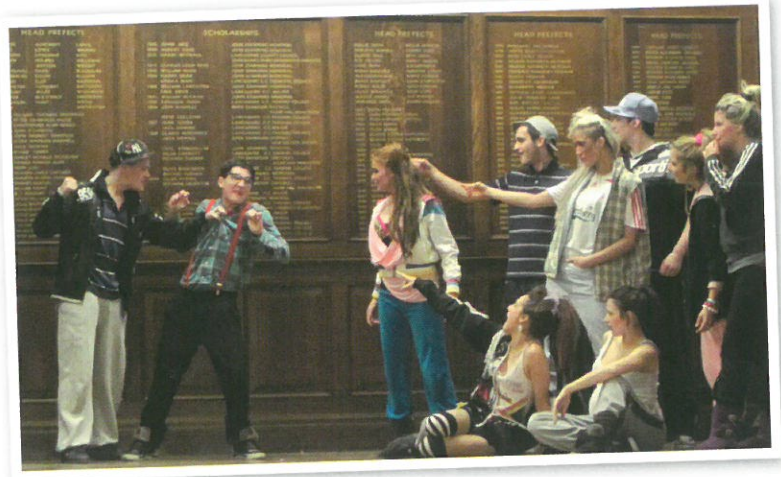
'It was hilarious and modern': Beth Gallagher

'It was very imaginative, interesting and everyone enjoyed it very much': Sian Davies, Natalie Sutcliffe and Annaise Fenton.

'It was cleverly brilliant': George Harrison

And finally, echoing the 'chav-speak' in the play Mark Dempsey said: 'It was well sick, innit!'

Mrs Whittam emailed a big thank you to Andy Newman who was the students' tutor. She received the following reply



which was very positive about our pupils – both past and present. We hope to welcome Runshaw performers back soon.

*"Dear Mrs Whittam*

*Thanks very much for having us. We've had some great performers from Balshaw's who always show a high level of skill and professionalism, so I'm glad to give something back to the school in return. If your pupils can adapt some of the techniques we used then all the better!*

*My performers said that they thought Balshaw's was the best audience.*

*Thanks again,*

*Andy Newman*

*Runshaw College, Performing Arts Tutor"*

## BTEC WORK SKILLS

### ■ IN SEPTEMBER WE LAUNCHED THE BTEC WORK SKILLS WITH A GROUP OF YEAR 10 PUPILS. THIS

has proved to be an excellent option and has got off to a flying start. The group have to undertake voluntary work in order to gain this qualification and to date that has involved delivering our harvest hampers to Wrights Fold, planting vegetables in our raised beds and picking the produce, knitting scarves for the 2011 Christmas Hamper appeal, preparing and setting up for Open Evening and more. The pupils have also had a variety of visitors speaking about their roles in school

and staff who undertake charity work as volunteers.

The course is designed to help them prepare for the world of work, whilst learning about alternatives to paid work. All the pupils are highly motivated. You can see from the pictures how much they are enjoying it.





# MY WIFE, THE PRINCESS, DURRELL & OTHER ANIMALS

## ■ IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE WHO KNOWS VAL AND I, THAT NEVER BEFORE, HAS OUR DIARY CLASHED WITH

that of a member of the Royal family. On the 4th May 2011, quite inadvertently, the Princess Royal, Val and I were at the same place, at the same time. You see all three of us have something in common, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey. The Princess Royal is Patron and we are both members of the Durrell organisation.

Founded by the late Gerald Durrell, naturalist and author over 50 years ago, they are at the forefront of conservation in Jersey and throughout the world. In those years they have saved more than 30 species from extinction.

The animal collection at the wildlife park "the stationary ark" is an integral part of Durrell's conservation work. Gerald Durrell's vision was that zoos should be not only entertaining but centres for research, education and animal conservation and this has been the ethos behind the work at Durrell ever since. The animals in the collection play a number of key roles in conservation ranging from being part of dedicated breeding programmes, to acting as ambassadors for their biodiversity of their home countries.

They are active all over the world, saving tortoises in Baly Bay, biodiversity in Comoros, orang-utans in Sumatra, the mountain chicken (a large frog) in Montserrat, the Madagascan Pochard to name but a few.

They have trained over 3000 graduates from 128 countries, education is the key to the achievements over the years. Without it, there would be no point in attempting to reintroduce endangered species back into their home countries.

So back to the 4th of May, Val and I were staying at the Training Centre at Les Noyers Hostel and Princess Anne was opening the new Visitor's centre at the wildlife park, we don't think she was staying at the hostel, at any rate we did not bump into her that evening in the TV lounge.

On her tour HRH saw for the first time the new Kirindy forest; a new mixed species exhibit, giving visitors a unique insight into the work being undertaken by the Trust in Madagascar's dry forest region. This included the ring tailed lemur family group with their double twins, one pair born at the end of March and the other the end of April. She would also have been introduced to the new bat facility, built from

recycled materials, some of which came from the old visitor centre. 330 HSBC staff gave up 2600 hours to lend a hand !!!

This would all be a far cry from HRH's first visit in 1972 accompanied by Gerald Durrell the royal party came to the enclosure with Frisky, the male mandrill.

At that moment Frisky was at the multicoloured climax to his sexual display. Gerald recorded the encounter:

He was in full bloom the bridge of his nose, the nose itself and the lips were scarlet as any anointment by lipstick. On either side of his nose were bright cornflower blue welts. His face, framed in gingery-green fur and a white beard looked like some fierce juju mask from an ancient tribe, whose culinary activities included gently turning their neighbours into pot roasts. However, if Frisky's front was impressive, when he swung round he displayed a posterior that almost defied description. Thinly haired in greenish and white hair, he looked as though he had sat down on a newly painted and violently patriotic lavatory seat. The outer rim of his posterior was cornflower blue (as were his genitals) and the inner rim was virulent sunset scarlet. As we approached his cage, Frisky grunted and then swung round to display his sunset rear.

"Wonderful animal ma'am" I said to the princess "wouldn't you like to have a behind like that?"

Gerald heard a deep insuck of breath from the entourage behind him and realised with deep gloom that he had said the wrong thing.

The Princess examined Frisky's anatomy closely. "No," she said, decisively. "I don't think I would."

They walked on. This was supposed to have been an opportunity to ask the Princess to become patron of the Trust. But with relentless prodding from his wife Jacquie, Gerald wrote and asked the question, the rest as they say is history.

If you are interested in more information on Durrell the web site is [www.durrell.org](http://www.durrell.org)



T Callaghan



## EXAM SUCCESS AT BALSHAW'S

### ■ IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY HAPPY FORMER

Year 11 pupils around school last August as they received their exam results. It was another record year with more pupils than ever before tasting success.

The number of pupils gaining 5 GCSE at A\* to C including Maths and English was the highest since records began at 68%.

Behind those headline figures there were many individual success stories. One of those was Gina Wren who combined a keen interest in the theatre with her studies to gain 13 A\* GCSE grades. Another was the 4 pupils who travelled to St Mary's every week and gained a Diploma in Engineering. We also should remember all the pupils who worked hard to pass the BTEC first Diploma in Applied Science that was worth 4 GCSEs at C.

Since the results have been published all departments have analysed them in minute detail to identify any areas in which pupils could do even better. We never rest on our laurels at Balshaw's and are working towards even greater exam success next year, however you measure it.

Mr Melling

## A LETTER OF COMMENDATION

### ■ DEAR MISS VENN,

I was interested to read in issue 12 of Transform about the Royal Society's summer exhibition.

Some years ago my husband, an ex-pupil of Balshaw's wrote a paper published by the Royal Society. This was co-written with Professor L.R.G Theloar, department of polymer science at UMIST and Geoff Riding lecturer at University of Manchester's computer department.

A lifelong interest of work in Maths and physics began at Balshaw's. What a long time ago, 1948! Good to know that traditional science is still continuing.

Yours sincerely,

May Riding, nee Barker

Wife of Geoff Riding, deceased

## BALSHAW'S REUNIONS

### ■ THE REUNIONS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH. THE 40'S, 50'S AND 60'S MET IN OCTOBER TO LOOK ROUND THE

new parts of school and exchange news, sadly with reports of various deaths including Pat Leach who was here only on our Spring Fair day. Robert Haydock compiles a newsletter now and you can read this on [roberthaydock@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthaydock@btinternet.com)

A new recruit Dorothy Mapley has written of her memories of PE with Mrs Pickersgill. Mrs Pickersgill was at the reunion to read it.

### A Jolly Good Sport??

I tried to keep myself in trim  
By working out in Balshaw's gym,  
I climbed the bars and leapt the horse,  
But frequently I went off-course.  
In hockey, once, I scored a goal,  
I spied my chance and seized the ball,  
But, having little sporting sense  
Forgot that I was on defence.  
No point in saying you were ill  
In front of Mrs Pickersgill,  
However much you tried to cough  
You never, ever got sent off!  
My prowess on the tennis court  
Looked bad upon my school report,  
I never saw an "EXCELLENT"  
And though the "FAIR" was kindly meant  
There certainly was no "V.G." –  
Just "SATISFACTORY, M.H.P!"

*Dorothy Mapley (nee Browne) Balshaw's 1958-1965*

More of Dorothy's memories of Balshaw's included:

Those immortal words from Mr Winstanley (Maths) "Look at the blackboard – do you want me to go through it?"

Mr Wilkinson (also Maths), on returning to our 4th form classroom (now Year 10) with some less than perfect exam results: "With marks like these, you'll all end up as lavatory attendants"!

Not forgetting Mr Downer (Latin and Greek) "Ante Noctem in the Old Kent Road" and our school motto, twisted around in lighter moments to read: "Not Sybil, but Alice".

Have you any memories of Balshaw's in former years? Why not tell us.





# IN MEMORY OF...

## ■ SADLY BALSHAW'S SAID FAREWELL TO MISS DOHERTY WHO WAS A DEPUTY HEAD

at Balshaw's from the 60's until 1974 when she moved to Runshaw. She died on Boxing Day 2011.

Miss Doherty was still attending the Reunions of pupils who left Balshaw's in the 40's and 50's until a couple of years ago.

Miss Doherty taught English from 1945 and she was a stickler for the correct use of English. She did her degree at Liverpool. Not only did she teach English but because it was during the last years of the war, when the men were away fighting, she also taught Boys games, Topical Subjects and Geography. Miss Doherty liked travelling and in her retirement went on several River Cruises with her god-daughter. She always swotted up from guide books beforehand so she was very knowledgeable about everywhere they visited and could have taken over the tour guide's job.

Barbara Wright remembers Anne telling us at one of our reunions that on her first day at Balshaw's in 1945, on entering the Assistant Mistresses room she was told there were no lockers available but she could keep her books etc. on one of the windowsills!!

Another stalwart of the reunion group who also died this year was Pat Leach. Pat's parents moved from Warrington to Leyland when her father came to work at BTR. Pat's school days began at Fox Lane Infants' School and went on to Leyland Junior Council School (now Woodlea), where Mr Spencer was an inspirational Headmaster and Pat's lifelong love of

wildlife began.

Pat moved to Balshaw's Grammar School in 1945. She was a good all-rounder, enjoying sports, science and arts subjects – possibly in that order. She played hockey and tennis long after her schooldays, and was a keen supporter of Lancashire and England Cricket and Rugby League to the end of her life. Woe betide anybody who interrupted a rugby match!

In the sixth form at Balshaw's Pat became Head Girl. Then, as always, she exemplified the School Motto, "Not for one's self but for others". She went on to Higher Education at Goldsmiths' College in London, where her progress was sadly cut short by the sudden and untimely death of her mother. Pat resolved to leave College to support her father and to help prepare for the removal to their new house in Moss Lane.

Returning to Balshaw's for ten years or so, Pat taught Science on a part-time basis. After leaving the school she maintained her interest in its progress and that of her colleagues and former students by attending reunions and other events.

Later she worked for eighteen years in the Under Sheriff's Office in Preston, where her work interested her very much and where new colleagues came into her life.

Pat was a great letter writer, especially to her Austrian penfriend with whom she spent many holidays. Her love of all things Austrian and Mozart's Operas led her to take a GCE in German in the 1960s.

Photography was another hobby. Often the birthday cards Pat sent (and



she never forgot a birthday!) were made by carefully selecting photos from her collection.

A diligent reader of the newspaper herself, one cutting Pat kept was a meditation by Canon D W Gundry suggesting that the priority is not so much what we have achieved in life, but who we really are and how we stand before God. Quote, "There is always, of course, a tension between self-fulfilment and living unselfishly. We are fortunate if the two coincide." In Pat's case, they surely did.



# WELCOME TO NICOLA ADAM

## ■ AS A SCHOOL WE WELCOME NICOLA ADAM AS THE EDITOR OF THE CHORLEY AND LEYLAND GUARDIAN / LANCASHIRE EVENING

Post Chorley edition.

A former Balshaw's High School and Runshaw College student, Nicola completed an English degree at Bedford College (De Montford University) and later a post-graduate diploma in journalism at UCLan before undertaking professional qualifications to become a senior journalist.

Formerly Deputy News Editor and Features Content Editor of the Lancashire Evening Post, Nicola has worked as a Crime Reporter and Consumer Reporter, as well as a columnist and theatre/ travel critic. After starting out as a trainee reporter on the Preston Reporter weekly newspaper, Nicola has won several awards including North West journalist of the year.

Nicola has worked for the Daily Mail as a reporter and is a published author. She co-wrote a book called Lancashire's Most Notorious Murders with colleague, LEP Deputy Editor Mike Hill.

She said of her new Editorship: "I think it's every journalist's ambition to be an editor and have your own ship to sail and this is a brilliant opportunity."

Born in London and spending her earlier years in Anglesey, Shropshire and Wiltshire, Nicola moved to Lancashire with her family as a teenager and now considers herself a naturalised northerner!

We wrote and congratulated Nicola on her achievement and this is what she said.

"I have some fond memories of Balshaw's particularly

English classes with the famous Mr Klemm and taking part in school productions including Grease the musical". I am sure she would have enjoyed our production last year.

She also said "On the other hand, I was a sports captain and I remember having to do the 1,500m race on sports day because nobody else would!"

"I lacked confidence as a youngster but Balshaw's started me on the road of learning that anything I wanted, I could achieve - if I worked hard enough." This is a good message for all of us.

"I still believe that being a journalist is one of the most interesting jobs in the world and absolutely love what I do. There are perks but mostly the job involves good hard graft."

"I have met some very interesting people in my time, including celebrities, Prime Ministers, victims of crime and ordinary people doing amazing things. If you lose that curiosity there is no point being a journalist."

Her sister Jenny and brother Greg also attended Balshaw's.

We wish her every success and look forward to even more coverage from the Leyland Guardian.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLINE MOLYNEUX

## ■ CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLINE MOLYNEUX WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A LEAD EDUCATOR WITH THE NATIONAL

Space Academy. This is a network of outstanding teachers and space scientists that will use the context of space to teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and Geography to students and teachers throughout Britain.

The Academy will be launched in February. The Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said "Space captures the imagination of people of all ages, and the

National Space Academy will use the UK's world class expertise in space research and technology to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. This will also equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to boost both our leading research base and our economy."

Jo Venn said, "This is an exciting project and we are delighted that once again Caroline is breaking new ground in Science Education."





# YOUTH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## ■ THERE WERE QUEUES AT THE POLLING STATION, WITH PUPILS EAGER TO CAST THEIR VOTE THIS TERM, AS OUR PUPILS ELECTED

their new representatives for South Ribble Youth Council. Our previous representatives Liam Dobinson and Andrew Baron had done a fantastic job but they have now moved on to continue their studies at Runshaw College. It was time to elect two new pupil representatives to ensure Balshaw's pupils have a voice in helping to shape the world around them.

Four pupils stood for election, George Harrison, Sophia Kelly, Matthew Petinaud and Bethany Pidduck. They all waged an admirable election campaign. Their form tutors helping to support them by displaying posters and proudly wearing rosettes proclaiming their allegiance.

There was great excitement as soon as the booths were opened. Staff from the Young Peoples Service declared they had never seen so many pupils wanting to be involved in the election process.

In the end it was a closely run contest with George

Harrison and Matthew Petinaud emerging triumphant as our new pupil representatives.

Well done to them, they will be fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Commiserations to Beth and Sophia.

A huge thank you to the staff from Young Peoples Service for all their help. South Ribble Youth Council meet every Tuesday evening, 6.30pm, at Penwortham Youth Centre. If any young person, over the age of 13, would like to be involved, they will receive a warm welcome. Contact Miss Warburton for further details.



## Friends stick together at Simon Kirkman's wedding

### ■ IT IS GREAT WHEN FRIENDS FROM BALSHAW'S STICK TOGETHER. A RECENT PHOTO WE RECEIVED WAS TAKEN AT SIMON

Kirkman's wedding and shows school friends from 1992 -1997. From left to right:

Matthew Bickerdike, Andy Redmond, Simon Kirkman, Amanda Brown, John Griffiths, Stuart Smith, Paul Smith, Paul Ormerod.



# ROTARY 'YOUTH SPEAKS' PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

## ■ ON TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY THREE DARING (AND VERY NERVOUS) YEAR 8 PUPILS – IZZY HOGGARD, ANYA BOLTON AND ANNA

Doughty – arrived at Leyland Civic Centre to participate in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Public Speaking competition. They were competing against four other schools from the area, all entering teams from Year 9. The three girls spoke on the topic of Olympic Values, a topic close to their own hearts, as they are all Balshaw's Olympic Ambassadors helping to promote Olympic values in and around school. Each girl had to take on a different role, namely Chairperson (Anya), Main Speaker (Anna) and Vote of Thanks (Izzy) and were

required to stand on a stage and present to an audience of about 50 people, including three judges and a timekeeper with some very intimidating red, yellow and green lights. The girls were a credit to the school, they spoke confidently and intelligently and are certainly going to be a force to be reckoned with when next year's competition rolls around. It takes great courage to stand up and speak in public, so congratulations to all three for their efforts.





# A VISIT FROM PHIL JONES!



## ■ ON WEDNESDAY THE 11TH OF JANUARY, MANCHESTER UNITED NO. 4 AND £17 MILLION DEFENDER, ENGLAND'S NUMBER 6 AND

ex-Balshavian Phil Jones visited his old school, and we were lucky enough to get to meet him and follow him throughout his stay.

At 2:13pm Phil and camera crews from both MUTV (Manchester United TV) and UEFA arrived (Phil in a glossy black BMW sports car). He shook hands with the senior teachers and the head boy and girl, and then headed off to the new gym to have an interview with the camera crew whilst year 11 were playing football as part of their GCSE P.E. course.

Phil then had a photo-shoot in the new Gym.

Moving on... Phil then went to Room 5 to meet an "excited" 7c to have a tough "Question and Answer" session whilst being recorded by the film crew! 7c were the only class to get to ask him questions, lucky them! They asked some great questions,

'What was your favourite subject at school?' *'Food Tech or PE'*.

'What's the best thing about being a footballer?' *'Playing the sport I love'*.

'What's your favourite playing position?' *'Centre back'*.

We also found out that Phil supported Blackburn as a boy (his former club), Phil's favourite car is a Nissan GTR and he drives an Audi RS5, and Phil was in Worden house! (can't win at everything!).

At 2:40pm Phil finished the question and answer session but nobody got out of room 5 until 2:48 because there was such a large crowd outside! Luckily for Phil they finally left as they really had to go to their lessons! Phil then went to Miss

Molyneux's room to visit his old tutor, the class were very surprised to see him and the 2 camera crews. Phil didn't come out again until 3:00pm and then it took much persuasion from Miss Venn.

Whilst making his way back to the entrance hall, Phil spotted himself on the sporting news board! He then went to sign lots of autographs and signed a whole range of memorabilia in Miss Venn's office. There were several Manchester United shirts, some Fifa 12 games and also some autographs for staff members. We were lucky enough to get a signed photo too! Mr Jennings and Mr Barrett waved Manchester City shirts at him and declined an offer for an autograph (only joking!).

Finally, at 3:21pm, as he was on a tight schedule from the film crew, Phil finally said goodbye to us all, (mainly in case he got mobbed by pupils when he left). He was also going to visit the market with his mum - and I have heard that other people saw him around Leyland and many got his autograph. It was great for all the teachers to see Phil again, and it was also fantastic for us too. Thanks Phil!



Michael Haydock



# GIRLS' FOOTBALL...

## ■ ON THE 9TH NOVEMBER 2011, BALSHAW'S COMPETED IN THE NPOWER FOOTBALL

League U-13 Girls' Cup. 10 students were selected to play from a series of trials held after school. Seven teams took part in total, with the top 4 teams going through to semis and a final. Balshaw's played and won 6 games out of 6 to secure their place in the semi-final. After a tough semi-final, they progressed to the final and were confident of a win having not lost a game. After a fantastic performance in the final, Balshaw's emerged as winners! Miss Gladki, Head of Girls PE said "the girls all worked extremely hard and it was very satisfying to see such talented girls' football players".

The next stage of the competition was held on Friday 13th January 2012. The squad travelled to Playfootball.net, Bury College to represent both Balshaw's and Preston full of confidence after storming to victory in the first round. It was a superb competition with matches against winning teams from Blackburn, Rochdale and Tranmere to name a few. Out of their 3 matches, the girls won two and lost one. Disappointing you may think, however one onlooker said how unlucky the girls were as they played the most creative football out of all the teams.

Chris McGrail, Assistant Community Officer for Preston



North End, passed on his congratulations to the girls. "I thought the girls were a real credit to both Balshaw's and Preston North End".

With more girls' tournaments being planned, the squad are excited for their future and hope to continue raising the profile of Girls Football both at Balshaw's and in the community.

Well done to Olivia Cooke (Captain), Olivia Wilkes, Neve Nizinkiewicz-Steel, Charis Moon, Niamh Stanfield, Jade Eccleston, Lucy Bailey, Megan Probert, Eve Dean and Mollie Scanlon.

Danielle Gladki

## ASTRONAUTS DESCEND ON LEYLAND!

### ■ ON WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2012, TWO FORMER NASA ASTRONAUTS FLEW INTO LEYLAND - AND TALKED ZERO GRAVITY,

conspiracy theories, and eating shrimp cocktail in space. As part of our "Space Year Celebrations at Balshaw's, Mike McCulley, who clocked up more than 120 hours in space and Jay Honeycutt, former director of the Kennedy Space Centre in America, visited the town Leyland all the way from Florida!

They were grilled by youngsters who were eager to find out how they could make it into orbit.

Mike, who was pilot on the space shuttle Atlantis in the 1989 NASA STS-34 mission, travelled two million miles in total to

spend just under five days in space.

He said: "When I first started out I said I was the luckiest man alive.

There were 35 places on the space

programme when I went into it and over 10,000 applications.

Members of the Year 9 GCSE Astronomy class were first in line for autographs and photos to commemorate the day that Astronauts visited Leyland!





# LONDON TRIP

## ■ ON THE 14TH OCTOBER 2011, MISS VENN, LIZZY AND I EMBARKED ON A TRIP TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY AS REPRESENTATIVES

of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education, that would see us celebrate 200 years of Church Schools, brave the urban jungle that is London, and catch a glimpse of the Queen: a typical Friday, of course.

The day started early, as Lizzy and I met Miss Venn at Leyland station where we would go on to meet the other representatives at Preston station, and lanyards were issued. There was a group of about 20 of us collectively, old and young alike, to make the journey to celebrate 200 years of Church Schools. Schools which promote the values that are ever-present and integrated into everything we do at Balshaw's, from attending Church at Christmas time to assemblies. The journey gave people time to rest and catch up with the other representatives, and once at Euston Station we were whisked off by the familiar-looking cabs of London. We were taken on a tour of a mere fraction of the sights to see in London, a bustling city brimming with life down every street. It seems there is no such thing as empty space in London, everything goes on, everywhere.

Once dropped off nearby Westminster Abbey, founded in 960AD, we continued on foot and gathered again in our group. The plan was to cross the road and have a lunch break before we went in. The fact the Queen- supported by a group of police motorcycles- drove past, was not part of the plan but was a very pleasant surprise - all this and it wasn't even midday yet!

Told only that morning that I was to be the flag-bearer for Blackburn Diocese, I had to go through a different entrance, and so did not see inside the Abbey until I had to walk with the flag. Alone, I ventured into a corridor full of other school pupils from all over Great Britain, all carrying flags made by the various Dioceses, along with a child from a local school accompanying each pupil. When first entering the Abbey, what first struck me was the size of the place. After watching the Royal Wedding, I expected something on a vast scale, but in fact the Abbey was really quite small, with an extremely high roof. After this, the service then began; a service filled with readings, acts, choir singing and appearances from senior members of the Church. Miss Venn managed to get her programme signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury! The most fascinating aspect of Westminster Abbey was the history that lined the walls, leaving room on the walls for not much

else. The list of people commemorated goes on and on, with Winston Churchill, Charles Darwin and Sir Isaac Newton to name but a few.

After the service, our group then visited the Houses of Lords and Parliament. Oddly enough, the entrance isn't where the buildings are. A high security entrance resides not far from the main building, with escalators and long underground corridors

facilitating the wave of MPs that attend various debates at the houses. First was the House of Lords, a complete blanket of gold, gold and more gold. Everything was given the finest attention, and a crown meant only for the Queen sat proudly at the head of the room, looking over leather seats meant only for the Lords. As the public, we were not allowed to sit in any seats at all. A long line of history was evident everywhere. The wives of Henry the Eighth were painted on the wall, as well as events occurring between the Spanish Armada and the British Navy under Queen Elizabeth's rule in 1588. Of course, all in predominantly gold.

The House of Commons was a contrast, but not an acute one. There was a sense of a long line of history as books archiving debates in the House of Commons since the 1800s filled the bookshelves. There were leather seats only for the 650 elected MPs in the country, but no blanket of gold was present, and no throne. But still, an amazing place. Outside were the pigeon-holes of every single MP, including David Cameron's! Next was Westminster Hall, the oldest building on the parliamentary estate, a hall now utilised for events and fundraisers, where the Queen was heading when we saw her earlier that day.

And finally, what would a tour be without a gift shop at the end? Even though some items were incredibly expensive and exclusive, it would have been rude not to buy some sort of souvenir, as most of our group did: Miss Venn bought us both London money boxes! Our walk back to the station saw us pass Downing Street, and the exchange of the Royal Guard,





with the expressionless faces of groups of marching beefeaters parading in perfect synchronisation.

Unfortunately, all days must come to an end, and this one was drawing to a close. At Euston Station, Miss Venn bought us both Burger King and not long after, we embarked on our return journey, which saw us back where we all started in Preston station. Goodbyes were exchanged, and Lizzy, Miss Venn and I returned to Leyland to home, tired after a very busy day.

Needless to say, the events I experienced on that day were

once in a lifetime. Never again in one day will I see the Queen, buy Houses of Parliament Fudge and carry a flag in Westminster Abbey to celebrate 200 years of Church Schools. It was a day enjoyed by all, and I am sure everyone attending remains ever thankful to Blackburn Diocese for giving them the opportunity to be part of it all.

Sandy Kelly Head Boy Lizzy Elleray Head Girl

# CLIMBING KILIMANJARO



■ **IN THE SUMMER OF 2011 I ACCEPTED A CHALLENGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH; TO COMPLETE A sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Standing at a monumental 5895 meters tall, it is the world's largest free standing mountain. The money raised (a final total of £2450) went towards the renovation of the Benjamin William Kappa primary school in Moshi, a small village in Tanzania. This paid for a fully functioning water pump, and a completely new kitchen. Before this, the children were each required to carry 1 gallon of water to school every day, with some walking for up to 10km just to receive an education – this really made me appreciate just how lucky I am!**

The night before our climb, we were briefed by our guide, who told us that 3 people die every month trying to climb the mountain – this wasn't helping our pre-climb nerves!

The climb was the toughest thing I've ever done in my life. It took us 5 gruelling days to get to the top (much faster than Moyles & Co managed it) and just 1 day to get back down. The biggest problems we faced on the mountain were altitude sickness and hallucinations. We all kept seeing things that weren't there; perhaps the weirdest of all was a girl who kept seeing 6ft strawberries following her around!

To say the climb was both the best and the worst

experience of my life is probably right

- I met some amazing people and helped out children who needed it most, but at the same time I've never done something so physically challenging in my whole life. Am I glad I did it? Yes. Would I do it again. Ha, never!

All that is really left to say is another gigantic THANK YOU!!! Without the schools incredibly kind donation I would never have been able to travel out there and help change the lives of the children living in poverty in Tanzania. The school now has a fully functioning water pump, as well as a kitchen in which the staff can cook food hygienically for all the students.

To anybody reading this, I would offer one piece of advice, and that is to volunteer. Whether it is at a local charity, or something on a bigger scale, the difference you can make to another person's life cannot be underestimated, and the experiences you will have along the way can be life changing.

I wish you all the best in the rest of your time at Balshaw's and beyond.

Thanks again,

Tom Rhimes.



# QUIZ NIGHT

## ■ BALSHAW'S QUIZ NIGHTS ARE ALWAYS GREAT. WE HAVE NOW HAD NEARLY 70

of these since I arrived as Headteacher. Our Quiz Master is Matthew Tomlinson and if he is not available, then it is Keith Woodcock, former member of staff and vice Chair of Governors.

Our quizzes include picture rounds, inventions, science, music and linked rounds. Interestingly our January 2012 quiz had a round about prisons in the UK, followed by a round about Charles Dickens whose 200 years Centenary is 2012. Charles Dickens was a philanthropist and a social engineer. He wanted change because he saw all the poverty and poor conditions in life and amongst the people.

His novels and short stories often had a deep message for those who read them. You can find many of his works

and a book 'Charles Dickens the Great Writer', in the Library.

Dickens was born in London in 1812. Dickens' London was a world of poverty, vice and squalor. It is this London seen by the ragged orphan Oliver Twist. There were over 3,000 people packed into fewer than a hundred houses. When on one occasion a house caught fire, 37 men, women and children were found occupying a single room. It was conditions like these, as Dickens recognised, that provided an ideal breeding ground for crime and prostitution. In a city that was overpopulated, poorly housed and full of disease, infant mortality was common as we see in Dickens' novels.

Britain's prisons were among the worst in Europe and London's Newgate was one of the worst in Britain.

All life past by in the characters of Dickens' novels from Sam Well, the cheerful cockney in the Pickwick

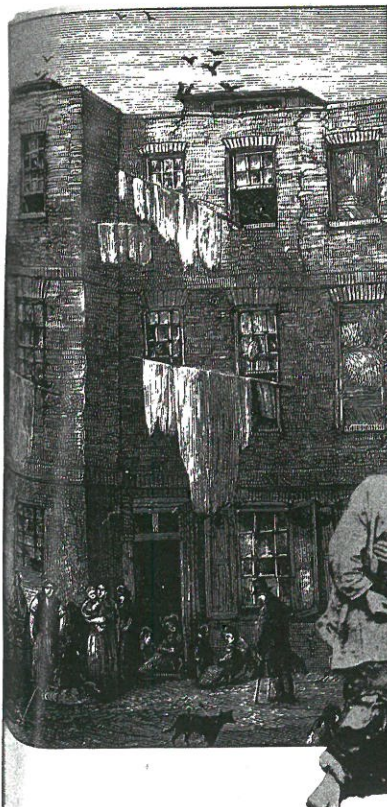
Jasper, who visits the opium dens in The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

London as David Copperfield observed was an amazing place. The sights that had delighted the young Dickens – the street entertainers, musicians, clowns and acrobats as well as showmen with mini theatres like Punch and Judy – were still a feature of Victorian society.

His life changed just as London changed. Reforms and improvements were urged upon a reluctant government by Dickens who became a social engineer. He and other reformers aimed to get rid of slums, get decent sanitation, adequate street lighting and proper policing.

Dickens was the first novelist to chronicle the life of London and this meant that his view of the city became familiar to the whole nation.

Education in Britain has a lot for which to thank Dickens.



**'The Rookeries'**  
(left) Wild Court, Seven Dials – where up to 40 people occupied a single room, and Dickens witnessed 'wild visions of wickedness'.

**Waifs and strays**  
(below) Pathetic, destitute, abandoned children were, Dickens said, 'one of the worst sights in London'.

